

B"H

DeProgram Program

From the Mind of Sha'i ben-Tekoa

Transcript

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Shalom laYehudim, Shalom laBnai Noach, Shalom laGoyim. It's the evening of the 6th day, *tes vav beMenachem Av, tav-shin-ayin-heb, Parashas Vaeskhanan*, the evening of the 5th day, Thursday, 30 July 2015, webcasting from little Israel, home of the most provincial Jews in Jewish history.

So after a day of pushing and shoving at Bet El and Sa-Nur, I think, between mostly young people and soldiers and police and a handful of arrests and bruises, the bulldozers came yesterday and knocked down those two small garden apartment type buildings at Beit El for 24 families, as simultaneously the prime minister signed off on building 300 new apartments, dozens in Bet El, Gilo and other established communities. This is, is it not, reminiscent of the Keystone Kops?

I know the people in Bet El, though, and truth be told, I am not surprised that one claim I have not seen contested is that when construction began, in fact the proper permits had not been given. They were only just recently given. And it does not surprise yours truly that the Bet El movers and shakers, like other Israelis, bulldozed themselves forward in the process, thumbing their noses at authority which led to this fiasco. In other words, I do not subscribe to the view that in this case the court is 100% the bad guy and wrong, and Bet El and the contractors as pure as the driven snow. Both sides in this country need work.

The Edmund Levy Report, he of blessed memory, the late High Court judge, said, and yesterday Ministress of Justice Ayelet Shaked said in the same spirit, that the clash in Bet El calls for having a different court judge such cases and not the High Court, as such real estate disputes are adjudicated in lower courts all over the country.

Indeed, the problem with Israel's monochromatic liberal and leftist High Court is their provincial misreading of their jobs. They think they are elected to be the Sanhedrin, the wise ones of the people, but this clashes with the notion of a judge in a secular democratic society which they aspire to. Our judges think they are there to pronounce the highest wisdom and morality to the people, when that is not the role of a Supreme Court judge in a democracy. In a democracy, it is the people who decide via their representatives and government social and foreign policy -- like how to deal with Judea and Samaria, that's foreign policy -- not the Court. It is unheard of, for example, in the history of the U.S. Supreme Court, that the panel ever sat in judgment on army tactics on the ground in battle. Never happened.

The previous chief justice here Aharon Barak said everything is justiciable, when that simply cannot be true. The role of a judge is like that of a referee in a football game or on a basketball court. His job is not to direct the course of the game in favor of one side or the other but to see that the players play by the rules.

I agree with Ayelet Shaked and Edmund Levy that another court should deal with such cases because I think the question of settlements is a foreign policy issue for the people to decide via their elected government. It is not for the Court to make such decisions about how to handle this territory

Which brings up the chronic deficit in Israel since 1967 which is the refusal by Israel as a collective to decide what to do with this land and refusal above all to plant its flag and declare that the spoils of war in 1967 are Israel's as of moral and legal right.

And no government in the world has the right to tell us that we cannot live in peace in our communities built on this barren land, displacing no one, which also happen to be located on one historic site after another mentioned in our Bible like Bet El, like Shilo, like Eli.

Who has the right to tell us that Judea and Samaria are off-limits to Jewish life and communities? Judea and Samaria have become the last specks of inhabited dry land on the planet where it is not only permitted but praiseworthy to declare Judea and Samaria off-limits to Jews. No Jews allowed.

After the WWII, one of its odd results was a wave of antisemitism in the States written about by Laura Z. Hobson in her novel made into a movie *Gentlemen's Agreement* starring the then unknown Gregory Peck. In that period in history, real estate advertisements would advertise homes for a sale in such-and-such a town or township, and at the bottom in small print it would say, "A restricted community" which was code for "No Jews allowed."

And here in the year 2015, Auschwitz plus 70, the international consensus is that Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria are "illegal in international law," which when you think about it simply idiotic. History is the record of constant wars between peoples which commonly end with a redrawing of the borders between them.

For example, after the American Mexico War 1846-48, the victorious United States bit off and kept maybe half of Mexico as it was at that time. That is why the

American West to this day is one Spanish place name after another. The professors of Political Science at USC in LA or UC Berkeley on San Francisco Bay may gnash their teeth every Tuesday and Thursday over Israel's "illegal occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory," but if so, they are the world's biggest hypocrites for living on -- and making a nice living on -- occupied Mexican territory. If they were honest, they should get the hell out of California. Indeed, what was taken from Mexico was millions of square miles.

After World War II, the Czechs and the Poles and the Germans had new boundaries drawn and, whaddaya know, the Germans lost some 44,000 square miles.

The Russians as well redrew their Western boundary and gobbled up what used to be Polish territory.

But for the Jews to keep the measly 2,000 square of miles of Judea and Samaria? Oh no. That would be proof that they are racist, imperialist, fascist aggressors against the Balestinian people -- a people perfectly absent from the struggle until the 1970s.

The U.S. kept half of Mexico; every other victor has kept the spoils, but not Israel. Israel uniquely must return every square meter it took from the Arabs in 1967. That is why yesterday when the prime minister announced 300 new apartments, the EU yowled at this policy that shows Israel not wanting the two-state solution!

In other words, Israel is alone in thinking it has the right to any of the land it took in 1967.

No, says the EU. No, says the UN. His Muslim Magnificence Barack Hussein Obama says no. Israel must retreat to the 1967 lines or there will be no peace.

The goyim have been telling us for thousands of years where we can and cannot live in this life and they are still at it. It is like an addiction they can't shake. They have declared Judea and Samaria off-limits to Jews. No Jews allowed. All of this land is recognized by the international brotherhood of nations, via their one-world government as "the occupied Palestinian Territory." In other words, if Israel thinks it can bargain back some of the land taken in 1967, Israel is mistaken. It is now the international consensus that the "West Bank" in Ancient Palestinian territory and there is nothing to bargain over.

In 1967, by contrast, the international media in a very different climate vis-à-vis Israel celebrated little Israel's amazing victory and its entry into what later would be known as the "West Bank." Israel was celebrated for its victory over its Arab neighbors. Israel's spectacular military prowess over those six days was like a cliffhanger, a Hollywood movie in which the hero and heroine are snatched from the jaws of death at the lost moment.

The world was in awe no less of the behavior of Israelis post-war. How decent they were to people who just the day before were shrieking "Slaughter the Jews!" In a word, Israel's victory was celebrated; Israel's presence on this land was celebrated.

Today, though, that Six-Day War has been reconfigured. Now we know what was not known then. It was an act of racist, fascist, imperialist aggression against the Balestinians.

I am dumbstruck sometimes by some of the talkbacks on the Israeli sites by obvious, clinically anti-Jew nutjobs and how they programmatically, stereotypically accuse Israel of just walking into Palestine and stealing people's land. It is this political cartoon-like shallowness that calls to mind the very first comment on the first very verse in the Torah by the greatest Torah commentator Rashi who lived in France in the 11th century. He asks why the Torah, which is primarily a book of laws for the Jews, opens with the creation of the Universe. And he says there will come a time when the nations will accuse the Jews of having stolen the land from the Canaanites and Philistines and the other nations, and the answer to that is that G-d created the land and in his orchestration of history He decides who gets to live on it.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

So this Bet El news story, these hundreds of protestors and hundreds of police and soldiers scuffling and wrestling but thank G-d not much more than that, and again the situation understandably has come to this.

Because Israel has never unequivocally declared rightful, legal possession of what for 19 years had been in Jordanian hands without a peep out of the goyim demanding that Jordan create a state for the Balestinians whose ancient homeland the Hashemite kingdom was in illegal occupation of. We never heard words like that in those days.

That, by the way, is another reason to nail down the rightness of Israel's possession-ownership of Judea and Samaria. For 19 years nobody said a word about any "Palestinians" pining for a state. And if no such demand was made then, and by that king in Amman, direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and no one complained about Jordan's occupation, the demand today that Israel has no right to his land is nonsensical.

I once asked an Israeli lawyer as to the foundation of the legal system in this country and he shrugged and giggled and admitted it's a mish-mosh of still extant, if you can believe it, Turkish laws and Jordanian laws and British laws and Jewish laws and military laws.

The people of Israel since 1967 have run from the necessity and rightness of declaring full Israeli sovereignty in Judea and Samaria, which is exactly what the League of Nations envisioned. At the founding of the League, there was no country, no jurisdiction called Palestine. For the previous four centuries, the Muslim Turks had no map of Falastin. There was no Sultan of Falastin, no Emir of Falastin. The League created Palestine via its Mandate and explicitly in black and white said it was to be a Jewish homeland. Not a word about any Balestinians. At the time there were no people called Palestinians.

And the sky will not fall if Israel declares Judea and Samaria today rightfully in international law and common sense morality Israeli territory. And as for the non-Jews

living on it, Israel will study the various systems employed by other nations such as the United States whose possessions of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and Guam and other locales where the residents do not have the same rights as Americans living in the 50 established states. A status will be devised to respect these non-Jews as individuals, but they will be denied the right to vote in Israel's Knesset. And if they don't like that, they are free to leave. There are 56 officially Muslim states, 21 officially Arab states, and there will be one officially Jewish state in which the non-Jews in Judea and Samaria will not have the same rights as Jews.

Will the world accept this demarche? When has it ever? With the exceptions of the spectacular Six-Day War or the operation at Entebbe, when has the world ever responded favorably to Israel? The answer is never and so the world will be angry at Israel for such a declaration. So what else is new?

I mentioned before the stereotypical talkbacks in which the writer is clearly delusional in his vision of Jews as these malevolent creatures. Well, this was also on display in this week's Amnesty International report card on the behavior of our sons fighting and dying last summer to protect their families and friends from a rain of rockets out of Gaza. Yesterday, Amnesty, which originally was a serious organization – it no longer is, it is obsessed with Jews -- published its "study" of IDF operations last summer and accused the IDF of – surprise surprise -- war crimes, of "displaying a shocking disregard for civilian lives" following the ghoulish capture of the corpse of Hadar Goldin, *b"y*. The author of the report, one Philip Luther -- sounding like his namesake in one of proto-Hitlerian tirades against the Jews -- said that the IDF "carried out disproportionate or otherwise indiscriminate attacks which they have completely failed to investigate independently."

Think of what is being said here via the word "indiscriminately." I remember an op-ed by that Polish antiJew Zbigniew Brzezinski during, I think, the second intifada using the same word to describe IDF soldiers defending themselves from a mob outside of Ramallah.

This is an antisemitic delusion. When has an Israeli soldier, commonly in the company of other soldiers and officers, ever just started spraying a gathering of Arabs with automatic weapons fire "indiscriminately"? Soldiers do draw a bead on specific enemies throwing bricks at them or shooting at them, but "indiscriminately" shooting Arabs who pose no threat to them? This is an antisemitic caricature.

Here is this guy named Luther declaring Israeli soldiers guilty of a "shocking disregard for civilian lives."

I guess Mr. Luther never heard of the "knock on the roof" technique and sending cell phone messages to the thousands of Arabians in Gaza to clear out before an attack, something no other army in history has ever done.

This report contains such language as, "After Lt. Hadar Goldin was captured, Israeli forces appear to have thrown out the rule book, employed a gloves-off policy with devastating consequences for civilians...motivated by a desire to punish the population of Rafah as revenge for his capture."

How does Mr. Luther know what was in the hearts and minds of IDF officers at the time to declare that they had a desire to punish the population and exact revenge? Jews don't believe in revenge.

This is simply pathetic in its lack of any balance. Like a referee in a football match who sees only infractions when committed by one side and never the other. Kind of an hysterical blindness here.

Here is Luther pointing the finger of guilt at Israel for not taking precautions to protect civilian lives in Rafah, at the same he is completely oblivious, living in a state of oblivion, to the fact that Israel was trying to suppress an enemy firing rockets at random at Israeli civilians! Every rocket ever fired out Gaza into Israel, and there have been tens of thousands of them, has been an attempt to murder Jewish civilians at random. And as the IDF spokesman pointed out, this Amnesty International Report barely if ever mentions the Arab aggression which was wholly directed at Jewish civilians.

The hypocrisy here is cosmic and as such is bound up with hints of an age-old, anti-Jew, hallucinatory way of being in the world.

Israel remains the target of a timeless, ageless antiJew antagonism disguised in our time as "Palestinian free-fighting."

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Well, this will be an abbreviated webcast because I had the special pleasure today of attending a wedding of a friend's son held in Hevron at the Cave of the Machpelah, the family plot of the Jewish people.

It is always a special experience to pray there, always a bit dizzying, sort of like standing on the edge of the Grand Canyon at the Mile High Drop point where you look down at the Colorado River way below, more than a mile down. It is sort of like that praying at the Machpelah where you feel you are standing on top of almost 4,000 years of history.

So that wedding in the city of the Patriarchs was a pleasurable chore today and also pleasant was the news this week of the *brit milah*/circumcision of David Hatueli's fifth son.

You may remember David 11 years ago this week when his pregnant wife Tali and four daughters were tooling along in the family car in Gaza when slaughtered by Arabs; if I remember, raked by machine-gun fire from the side of the road.

Afterwards David remarried, and thank G-d celebrated yesterday the bris of his fifth son with his second wife.

Life goes on. Jewish life goes on.

Leila tov veshabbat shalom mi Eretz Yisrael

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

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