

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 is the evening of the 2nd day, *kaf-tes beIyyar*, *Parashas Naso*, *tav-shin-ayin-vav*, the evening of the 1st day, Sunday, 5 June 2016, webcasting from ground zero of Planet Earth's leading religious idea: monotheism.

Abraham was probably not the first to preach monotheism. The Egyptians' Aton was seen as the one god.

What was unique to Abraham was the idea of ethical monotheism, which the Egyptians did not conceive of. They were also obsessed with death and the next life, not at all interested in caring for this world and making it better, *tikkun olam*, completing the work of creation, like the circumcision that completes the process of birth for a Jew.

The religion of the Jews teaches the One God, the Creator, Who Creates all that is, concluding with His greatest creation, Man, whom He plants in the Garden of Eden and sets before him the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Man comes to consciousness via his first lesson which is that there are such things as Good and Evil and G-d wants him to choose the former over the latter.

In this, he is the G-d of Justice, which ancient Egyptians and Greeks and Romans had no notion of – a G-d who cares about good and evil and prefers one over the other? And cares about individual man's moral life?

Abraham's revolutionary vision of G-d also discovered that He was not pleased with the practice of human sacrifice, which was common for the pre-Jerusalem Jebusites and other Canaanites, the Aztecs and surely other pre-Columbian cultures.

No, Abraham's G-d did not want man to sacrifice other men to Him. He is a G-d of mercy, a far cry from the Greek notion of gods.

And how do we know all this? Because this is the story of Abraham's binding of his son Isaac for a practice that G-d stops. And where did that take place? Where the Jews' temples stood.

But since the 8th century, most of it has been buried beneath the Muslim Dome of the Rock. It is called that because there is a great slab of a rock there that likely reminded the invading Muslims in the year 638 of the great rock in their hometown of Mecca that had been a pilgrimage site for Arabs from time immemorial -- before Islam -- that Muhammad overran and destroyed.

Today, that is the Kaaba, philologically related to the word "cube," a four-story high structure covered by an immense blanket of black velvet that stands in the middle of the open-air, coliseum-type Grand Mosque in Mecca. It is believed to contain a meteorite that pagan Arabians worshipped before the age of Muhammad. Islam teaches that there were 365 idols placed on this object that Muhammad destroyed, all of them, after he had the idea that the Jews were so much more advanced than his own people, maybe their anti-idolatry philosophy was the right one.

I like to think the 365 idols stood for 365 different days, meaning, there was no consistency to life. Every day was ruled by a different and capricious pagan god.

Anyway, Muhammad destroyed all these idols and in further learning from the Jews, he taught the Muslims to pray in the direction of Jerusalem, just like the Jews. He seems to have thought that his victories, his growing strength as a killer, would persuade them that he was their savior, the next and final prophet, the continuation of Judaism, only the Jews knew who he was and rejected him, which surely hurt his feelings. And so, after a year, he changed his mind and told his followers to pray in the direction of Mecca and it has been that way ever since.

Nonetheless, the conquering Muslims, six years after Muhammad's death, decided to build the Dome of the Rock on the site of the ruined Jewish temples as a monument to their own triumph, their dispossession of the Jews' holy site. Now it belonged to them, which is what Allah wanted.

And that is why today in Jerusalem, 1,378 years later, there was a massive Israeli police presence to protect the 30,000 Jews come to celebrate the miracle of the return to the Temple Mount in 1967. And the police made it known that they wanted the celebrations to end on time, that is, before sundown when the Muslims would begin their Ramadan, their daily half-fasts for like forty days, the very concept of which, a half-fast, these desert brigands stole from the Jews, our notion of the sun-up to sundown fast; we have four of them.

And thanks to an antiJew of Jewish extraction, the apotheosis of the New Jew, the new Israeli, the sabra, Moshe Dayan, the post-religious Zionist, the Muslims are

the religious masters of the Mount to this day. 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day, I think, Muslims can ascend the Mount and pray or picnic or play soccer, while Jews are limited to a few hours and not every day, I think. But most important, the Jews are forbidden to pray when they ascend and are watched over by Israeli police who will arrest you if they see your lips moving. No kidding.

So here is the paradox: on Jerusalem Day, celebrating the return to sovereignty in Jerusalem for the first time in 1967 since the year 63 BCE, we remain barred from our holiest site and in a way that makes sense. Moshe Dayan, so fearless in battle he was spooky, and a notorious, unJewish skirt-chaser and of course wholly not religious, was “right” in 1967 in his universe to order that the Israeli flag placed atop the Dome of the Rock by jubilant Israeli soldiers be taken down and the Waqf informed that they would remain the owners of the Temple Mount as they had been under Jordanian rule. It would remain an exclusively Muslim religious site. Israel would be the sovereign over the whole city and provide security for the Temple Mount, but it would remain a Muslim, not a Jewish, religious place.

Truth be told, in years to come, Jews did ascend the Mount individually and pray with no disturbance. Initially, in the years after the Six-Day War, the Arabs were as meek as mice. This business of not praying for Jews is a late development; I don’t think until the second intifada.

Anyway, Dayan’s decision made perfect sense in his universe of post-religious, native Jews who did not live Jewish, that is, religious lives. Their movement, the leading movement in secular Zionism, and even their rivals in the Revisionists, were post-religious. None foresaw building a Jewish, that is, a religious state. Theirs was a nationalist movement modeled on the nationalist movements in 19th century Europe. Jabotinsky knew well about the process of unification in Italy and in Germany, one in 1870, the other in 1871.

Theodor Herzl was raised in this era as a so-called Reform Jew, the second generation of that movement, which was all about stripping oneself of distinctively Jewish beliefs and behaviors. It happened, not coincidentally, in the wake of the 18th century Enlightenment which is a euphemism for the loss of faith in Christianity in Europe. And if the Christians became debunkers, why not the Jews too?

And so Moshe Dayan, born in 1915, remembered as the first baby born in the first socialist kibbutz (though some dispute that) went on to become the Judah Maccabee of Israel Re-born, or, in the mold of King David the fight-killer and adulterer -- only unlike David who believed in the One G-d, Dayan was raised to ridicule religion and thus ordered that the Israeli flag be taken down. He was making a statement about “his” Israel. Sort of, “Religion is stupid and we are not going to fight over it. If it means so much to the Muslims, let them have it.” That was his philosophy.

It was the same spirit that moved a successor -- another great warrior raised in an atheist commune, Ehud Barak, also Chief of Staff and Defense Minister -- to allow, when prime minister in 1999, the looting by the Muslims of the Temple Mount; the carting off of truckloads, thousands of tons of dirt containing who knows how many Jewish archaeological artifacts. Barak did nothing about this.

How ironic and what a coincidence. Dayan was famous for his thievery, for stealing archaeological finds found in the soil of Israel, which is against the law, when he himself mocked the very idea of being a Jew.

And here was Ehud Barak allowing the Muslims to throw Jewish archaeological treasures onto a garbage heap.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

So today was Jerusalem Day with parades, dancing and song, and as of early evening, no news of disturbances, as the Muslims head into their Ramadan month of fasting.

The prime minister has been firm in denying Jewish rights to pray on the Temple Mount because I think he knows the truth that beneath his own bluffing about statehood for the Ancient Ones, the nuclear core of this conflict is religion, i.e. the Temple Mount.

As I wrote in my book, the invention of the "Palestinians" was only partially an enemy operation. It never would have succeeded without Israeli cooperation, for the ruling class here, in the decades between the Six-Day War and the fall of the Mapai party in 1977 after almost 30 years of one-party rule, wanted there to be a parallel nationality to the Israeli nationality -- which is different than the Jewish nationality, which is a religious identity. As Tsipi and Dr. Joseph have said, we can't solve a religious conflict. So let's call it a political clash which is amenable to compromise and a solution.

But I think Bibi knows the score. He knows his history. His father was a historian. In 1929, it was lying about Al-Aqsa Mosque by the Mufti that lit the fuse and led the three days of Jew-killing, 137 murdered. Sharon's walk by that same mosque in 2000 ignited the second Intifada named for Al-Aqsa. If you want the entire Muslim world massing troops on Israel's borders, do something stupid on the Temple Mount, and Bibi knows that.

So, I'm for denying all Jewish rights to visit the Temple Mount accompanied by the annexation of Judea and Samaria precisely because the Muslims are incapable of allowing us to visit our holiest place in peace. There has to be a price for their behavior. And I would use the power of the Temple Mount in our favor.

Anyway, the prime minister had a victory on Friday when after weeks of trepidation here in Israel that those dozens of antiJew states would gather in Paris and give us a deadline to hand back the land they think we stole from the Balestinians, the upshot of that meeting on Friday that turned out to be 29 states was, in Yiddish, *goornisht*/nothing. Nothing but a milquetoast statement was issued in support of the one and only Two-State

Solution and shmeared with nonsense about the need to “rebuild trust” between the parties.

To trust these people who continue to name streets and schools after Jew-killers?

The statement that all those 29 countries signed off on called for the end of the Israeli occupation and the implementation of the Arab Peace Initiative. It included praise for the Quartet’s key role, blah-blah and blah-blah. The usual pabulum, with the subterranean antisemitism of course cloaked under one euphemism after another.

As in so many UN resolution, both sides were indirectly referred to but only one implicitly indicated. On the one the hand, the text spoke of the “alarm at ongoing settlement activity” – and who could that be? – but “continued acts of violence” said nothing of its perpetrators. It could refer to “both sides.” In other words, no specific reference to Arab misdeeds.

UN resolutions for years played the same game. They contacting statements about a clash between Israel and some Arab terror cult that would mention Israel by name but never the other side. Sort of like a phantom enemy.

And that was the technique in Friday’s statement too. The nations that assembled signed off on language expressing their “alarm that actions on the ground, in particular continued acts of violence and ongoing settlement activity are dangerously imperiling the prospects for a two-state solution.” Again, settlement activity versus “continued acts of violence” by an unknown party.

But other than that, it was a big nothing, this gabfest. The prime minister took credit for the feebleness of the document, versus a potentially more threatening one. But according to Dr. Martin Indyk, PhD, it was Secretary of State John Kerry who was responsible for persuading the French to produce such a non-threatening text. In Indyk’s quoted words, “Kerry saved Israel’s backside in Paris. Perhaps someone in Israel’s government should thank him instead of claiming credit.”

What a creep this guy is.

If this declaration calling for a serious international peace conference at the end year, this time with Israel and the Ancient Ones participating, has any redeeming value, maybe it is its brevity that helps isolate the principle “crime” of Israel in the minds of mankind at this time. And that is apparent in the word “occupation,” which is like a zip file in a computer: open it and you can find lots of things. The word “occupation” sends the message that the land in question is legally the possession of the Arabs who today call themselves “Palestinians,” when there is no legal groundwork for such a legal claim. No one before 1967 said this land belonged to a group of Arabs calling themselves Balestinians. The use of “occupation” is thus plainly and grievously in error to the detriment of the Jewish people. Like the decide charge, the Jews today are guilty of stealing land that belongs to another nation. The word “occupation” implies this guilt.

Once again, the ironies and paradoxes of the secular Zionist movement: Israelis like Netanyahu, who wrote a book called *A Place Among the Nations*, are as responsible as any antisemitic goy for this false accusation by refusing to challenge and defeat the slanderous charge. You combat the charge of theft with a claim of ownership: the right of Jews to live in Judea and Samaria. That was surely part of the League of Nations Mandate, which did allow for the amputating of Eretz Israel east of the Jordan, with the implication that the rest west of the Jordan would become the Jewish homeland called for by the Palestine Mandate. That text was a mandate to create a Palestine that did not exist under the Turks and make of it a Jewish homeland. And if Judea was not foreseen as part of the new Jewish Palestine, no part of the territory would be.

Israel has to, but never ever does, make the case that Judea and Samaria are legally ours and the charge of occupation is as empty as the deicide charge. It is just this generation's excuse for hating Jews.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Yes, Israelis, that is the ruling elite here, are oblivious to the role they play in fueling the poison of anti-Israel, BDS and other anti-Israel BS around the world.

On Israeli TV on Saturday, the ex-Likudnik who created his own party, Moshe Kahlon, now Finance Minister, said, "At the end of the process, there will be two states for two peoples" and on this basis he asked "Boojie" Herzog to bring his party into the coalition.

That is Bibi's official position too and he has been pushing it lately by saying he is ready for an upgraded Saudi peace plan.

As usual, I see the benefit in this policy but only in the short term, not in the long. Bibi is surely marking time, running out the clock, feeding crumbs to the enemy, selling the deception that he too is ready for a "Palestinian" state.

But the downside is the reinforcing of the myth of "Palestinians" with rights to a state in Judea and Samaria -- of all places -- and that only fuels the fire burning in the black hearts of world antiJewry for admitting that Israel is in "occupation" of land that does not belong to it and is ready to part with.

On the other hand, in running out of the clock, there is great logic in light of the lead headline on Friday in Makor Rishon: Trump's lawyer and good friend Orthodox Jew David Friedman says Trump "could be the first president who declares the settlements legal."

Which is not true. Reagan said it, but that's forgotten history. Trump himself has recently shocked people in Israel by saying that we should be building in the settlements, and I say that may be thanks to David Friedman whose bio exposes him as 100% behind renewing Jewish life in Judea and Samaria.

Now, that would be a major course correction for the US, Israel and world, when the settlements are seen worldwide as the cancerous cause of all the trouble. In this interview with him on Friday, Friedman e said, “I spoke with [Trump] on the subject and he was quite clear. He is not prepared to call Judea and Samaria “conquered/occupied territories. From whom were they conquered? The other side [meaning Jordan] doesn’t want them at all.” He is right about that. They gave up their claim in 1988. “There is no reason to change the status quo after 50 years when on the Palestinian side we have seen no change at all.”

He also quoted Trump saying that the first step toward peace must be the end of incitement in the PA media. Trump, he said, has seen a recent video showing little children in Gaza being taught how to stab Jews to death.

So maybe this factor is allowing Bibi to take these seeming baby steps toward an agreement with the Ancient Ones when he knows that they cannot produce what Israel demands of them.

And today, reacting, I think, to this Makor Rishon piece, Mahmoud Abbas was adamant that there can be no peace with even one settlement left standing and a 100% return to the ’67 lines, and without Jerusalem which nobody, not even Yossi Beilin, would agree to.

In the meantime, in addition to the good news out of Paris that that klavern of antiJew countries produced only pabulum, on Friday JPost reported that the BDS movement in Spain where a growing number of cities have formally supported boycotting all Israeli goods, there is a counter-movement of opponents, Spaniards fighting for Israel. For example, in the city of Langreo, population 43,000, which is in Asturias in the north, the City Council recently passed a resolution “boycotting Israel and anyone any person or company that supports the Jewish state.”

In response, this NGO called ACOM – we were not told what this acronym stands for – filed a lawsuit against the City Council and won in court. It claimed the legislation “brings on discrimination and is tantamount to inciting hate crimes.”

And not surprisingly, we found out, this City Council is run by the Izquierda Unida, meaning the United Left party, plus the official Communist Party and an extreme left party called Podemos, meaning “we can.”

The report also said Podemos has been under scrutiny by the media for being funded by – take a guess -- Iran and Venezuela. In fact, Podemos has used its funding to take control of some 40 localities including Spain’s three largest cities, Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia.

So it is good news that there is a pro-Israel group in Spain but bad news, if this is an accurate report, that Podemos is that strong, which makes some sense. Spain suffers from an intolerably high unemployment rate, which makes the country ripe for radical right and radical left skullduggery, not to mention its centuries of Roman Catholicism.

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On the other hand, it was reported on Friday that foreign investment in Israel has reached an all-time high, which makes of the BDS movement, so far, a flop.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *