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# <u>B0532 – August 14, 2005 – Major Bible Themes</u> <u>Chapter 21 – The Covenants-Part 2</u>

What is a "covenant"? How are "covenants" interpreted? What is a "theological covenant"? Why do we reject the "theological covenants"?

### I. EDENIC AND ADAMIC PROMISES

Many, typically good, theologians claim the first biblical covenant is found in Gen 1:26-31 and 2:16-17 and is known as the Edenic Covenant. However, the Hebrew word for "covenant" (*berith*) is not introduced until Gen 6:18 and there in relation to the Noahic Covenant. Nor does the so-called Edenic Covenant have all four elements of a biblical covenant. It lacks a "founding sacrifice" and a "sign". I think the so-called Edenic Covenant is a promise of God that was fulfilled when Adam and Eve at the fruit, not a covenant.

These same, typically good, theologians claim that the second biblical covenant is found in Gen 3:15-19 and is known as the Adamic Covenant. However, once again, the Hebrew word for "covenant" (*berith*) is not introduced until Gen 6:18. Nor does this so-called Adamic Covenant have all four elements of a biblical covenant. It lacks a "sign".<sup>i</sup> Again, this is a promise that was fulfilled in the Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Now, let's turn to the six Biblical Covenants

# II. 6 BIBLICAL COVENANTS

# A. NOAHIC COVENANT (Gen 9:8-17)

Genesis 9:8-17 Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, <sup>9</sup> "Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. <sup>11</sup> "I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup> God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; <sup>13</sup> I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> "It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, <sup>15</sup> and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh.<sup>16</sup> "When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup> And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."

### 1. **PARTIES (Gen 9:8-17)**

God and "all flesh" (Gen 9:8-17). God and "the earth" (Gen 9:13)

### 2. LEGAL TERMS (Gen 8:21-22)

No more global flood. Never again curse the ground. No further curse on the account of man. The ground was cursed on account of man at the Fall and again at the Flood (Gen 8:21). God would never again destroy all flesh as He had done (Gen 8:21). While the present earth remains their will be a constant, though fluctuating environment that provides stability for man to live and predictability. Man can predict, albeit it not perfectly, the future because of God's promise of a cyclic or rhythmic system of nature.

### 3. NOAH'S FOUNDING SACRIFICE (Gen 8:20-21)

Noah's sacrifice after the Flood is recorded in Gen 8:20-21. Remember, not only did Noah take two of every kind of animal onto the ark he also took seven pairs of every clean animal (Gen 7:2). These seven pairs of clean animals were to be used for the sacrifice which brought Noah and all flesh into covenant relationship with God.

**Genesis 8:20-21** Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. <sup>21</sup> The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said <u>to Himself</u>, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

### 4. SIGN (Gen 9:13-14, 16-17)

The everlasting sign of the Noahic Covenant, which is left as empirical evidence for all mankind to see in history is the "rainbow".

**Genesis 9:13-14** I set My <u>bow</u> in the cloud, and it shall be for a <u>sign</u> of a covenant between Me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> "It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the <u>bow</u> will be seen in the cloud, <sup>15</sup> and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh.

**Genesis 9:16-17** "When the <u>bow</u> is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup> And God said to Noah, "This is the <u>sign</u> of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."

This bow in the earth's atmosphere is a *temporal* reminder to God of His covenant with Noah and all flesh. It is interesting that when we look in the throne room of God we find that around the Father's throne is a circular rainbow, emerald in color, an *eternal* reminder to God the Father of His everlasting covenant with Noah and all flesh (cf Rev 4:3).

**B. ABRAHAMIC COVENANT** (12:1, 7; 13:14-17; 15:7-8, 18-21; 17:8 12:2; 13:15-16; 15:2-5, 18; 17:2; 18:9-15, 18; 21:1-8, 12; 22:15-18; 12:3; 17:4-6; 18:17-19; 22:18)

The Abrahamic Covenant is an unconditional covenant. This means God is ultimately responsible to sovereignly fulfill the terms of the covenant. It's first mention is

**Genesis 12:1-3** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; <sup>2</sup> And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; <sup>3</sup> And I will bless those who bless you,

And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

### **1. PARTIES (Gen 12:2)**

God, Abram, and Abram's descendants (12:2). The promise was then confirmed to Isaac not Ishmael (Gen 17:18-21; 18:9-15) and to Jacob not Esau (Gen 35:10-12; 48:3-4). This answers the question of "Who is a Jew?" A Jew may be defined broadly in the OT as a descendant of Jacob to whom the covenant was made and not to the descendants of Ishmael or Esau which make up the Arab peoples today.

### 2. LEGAL TERMS

Three basic promises were made: 1) Land, 2) Seed, and 3) Worldwide Blessing.

Land (12:1, 7; 13:14-17; 15:7-8, 18-21; 17:8). A promised Real Estate. While God is the ultimate owner of the promised land Israel was given tenant possession over the land. It is their tenant possession forever. The land is theirs by divine right. The borders of the land are outlined in Gen 15:18 and Ezek 47-48. They have never possessed all the promised Land (Amos 9:14-15).

**Amos 9:14-15** "Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit. <sup>15</sup> "I will also plant them on their land, And they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them," Says the LORD your God.

Seed (12:2; 13:15-16; 15:2-5, 18; 17:2; 18:9-15, 18; 21:1-8, 12; 22:15-18). Abraham was promised to be the father of a great nation and that his descendants would be as the sand on the seashore. But ultimately, this promise looked to one seed.

**Genesis 22:17-18** indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed (singular) shall possess the gate of their enemies. <sup>18</sup> "In your seed (singular) all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Originally, Abram would be the source of all blessing but the promise is enunciated here that it will ultimately come through Abram's seed. Later, Paul picks up this passage in Gal 3:16 and applies it to Christ.

Galatians 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.

The promised seed is Messiah Jesus.

The third aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant is Worldwide Blessing (12:3; 17:4-6; 18:17-19; 22:18) that will result because of this one Seed, Jesus Christ. Even though the world hates the Jews and wants to destroy them, Jesus was a Jew and in Him alone is eternal salvation. This is why I always say, if it were not for the Abrahamic Covenant there would be no salvation. In addition, blessing or cursing is on the basis of how the Jews are treated. Curse them and you will be cursed. Bless them and you will be blessed.

### 3. GOD'S FOUNDING SACRIFICE (Gen 15:9-10, 17)

**Genesis 15:9-10** So He said to him, "Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds.

In the ancient world this was the common way a covenant was "cut". Animals would be cut in half and then whoever passed between the pieces was responsible for fulfilling the terms of the covenant.

**Genesis 15:17** It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, *there appeared* a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces.

This "smoking oven" and "flaming torch" is the Shekinah Glory of God (the visible presence of God) passing between the pieces. In Abram's day this was known as a "maledictory oath". The one who passed between the pieces was saying, "Let me be damned if I do not fulfill the terms of the contract". If the terms of the contract were broken then the one who passed between the pieces would then also be cut in half as the pieces through which he had passed.

### 4. SIGN (Gen 17:10-14)

The "sign" of the Abrahamic covenant is male circumcision.

**Genesis 17:10-14** "This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised.<sup>11</sup> "And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.<sup>12</sup> "And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a *servant* who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants.<sup>13</sup> "A *servant* who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.<sup>14</sup> "But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

The "sign" remains in history so that future generations of men can face the empirical evidence of the original covenant.

#### C. MOSAIC COVENANT (Exod 20:1-31:18)

The Mosaic Covenant is a conditional covenant. Thus, it carries the language of "if you…then I". Blessing and cursing were conditioned on obedience or disobedience.

#### **1. PARTIES (Exod 24:3-8)**

The parties to the Mosaic Covenant are God and the families of Israel (Exod 24:3-8).

### 2. LEGAL TERMS (Exod 20:1-31:18)

613 laws that detailed the religious, social, and national life of Israel. Scholars have determined that these terms were set forth in the 'rib' (pronounced 'reev') format; a format used when treaties were made between a suzerain and vassal before witnesses. In this case, the Mosaic Law is a treaty made between God the suzerain and Israel His vassal. The witnesses were the angelic realm.

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20** "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the *curse*. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, <sup>20</sup> by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

You can see from this that even though the land was Israel's by divine right, enjoyment of the land was conditioned upon obedience to God's 613 laws. So, unconditional covenants can have a conditional element. Later prophets such as Isaiah (cf 1:1-3) were not *revolutionaries* bringing in a new order but were *reformers* calling the nation back to the Mosaic Law which they originally promised they would keep.

Exodus 19:8 "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!"

Of course, God knew Israel would not keep His law. This is because they did not have a heart in them that would enable them to do so. Since YHWH's requirements in this covenant were beyond the ability of depraved men to carry out, the Law was designed intentionally by YHWH to force "Israel away from trying to live a holy life in the energy of the flesh and toward a moment-by-moment trust in God's gracious enabling."<sup>ii</sup>

# 3. FOUNDING SACRIFICE (Exod 24:3-8)

**Exodus 24:3-8** <sup>3</sup> Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!" <sup>4</sup> Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>5</sup> He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD. <sup>6</sup> Moses took half of the blood and put *it* in basins, and the *other* half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. <sup>7</sup> Then he took the book of the covenant and read *it* in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!" <sup>8</sup> So Moses took the blood and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

### 4. SIGN (Exod 31:16-17; Ezek 20:12, 20)

The Sabbath was the sign of the Mosaic Covenant.

**Exodus 31:16-17** 'So the sons of Israel shall observe the <u>sabbath</u>, to celebrate the <u>sabbath</u> throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.' <sup>17</sup> "It is a <u>sign</u> between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased *from labor*, and was refreshed."

Ezekiel 20:12 "Also I gave them My <u>sabbaths</u> to be a <u>sign</u> between Me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.
Ezekiel 20:20 'Sanctify My <u>sabbaths</u>; and they shall be a <u>sign</u> between Me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.'

The sign of the Sabbath ceased for believers with the death of Christ on the cross.

**Romans 10:4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

The Mosaic Covenant was therefore a temporal and conditional covenant that could not be kept by sinful Israelites. They did not have the heart to fulfill it because their hearts were sinful. God knew in advance they would not keep the Mosaic Law because they could not. God deliberately used this covenant to turn Israelites from confidence in the flesh to confidence in the coming Messiah. Faith alone in God's promises was the way of salvation and victory for the Old Testament believer (Hab 2:4). The Mosaic Law was not a bad thing. Paul says the Law is good when used properly (Rom. 7:12, 16; 1 Tim. 1:8; Heb. 10:1). That is, when it is seen to be a tutor to lead people to Christ (Gal 3:24). The Mosaic Law should show all men that they cannot live up to God's righteous standards. Therefore, we must resort to faith in God's promised Messiah. When Jesus, Israel's Messiah, died on the cross He put to death the Mosaic Law for believers (Rom 10:4).

# D. LAND/PALESTINIAN COVENANT (Dt 30:1-10)

Palestinian Covenant is really a misnomer because now it communicates that the land was originally owned by the Palestinians and now Israel is trying to take it from them. The land never was the Palestinians. And even if it was I guess America really isn't ours it's the Indians. So, I like to call this the Land Covenant rather than the Palestinian Covenant.

**Deuteronomy 30:1** "So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call *them* to mind in

all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, <sup>2</sup> and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, <sup>3</sup> then the LORD your God will restore vou from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you.<sup>4</sup> "If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. <sup>5</sup> "The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. <sup>6</sup> "Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live. <sup>7</sup> "The LORD your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.<sup>8</sup> "And you shall again obey the LORD, and observe all His commandments which I command you today. <sup>9</sup> "Then the LORD your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground, for the LORD will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers; <sup>10</sup> if you obey the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul.

# 1. PARTIES

God and Israel

# 2. LEGAL TERMS (vv 3-9)

- the LORD your God will restore you from captivity
- the LORD your God will have compassion on you
- the LORD your God will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you
- the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back
- the LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers
- the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants
- the LORD your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you
- you shall again obey the LORD, and observe all His commandments which I command you today

• the LORD your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground

# 3. FOUNDING SACRIFICE?

# 4. SIGN

Israel's perpetual existence? I think of this as more of an amplification of the Abrahamic promises rather than a new, distinct covenant.

# E. DAVIDIC COVENANT

This contract made with David is an amplification of the seed promise made to Abraham. The seed, who is Christ, would come from Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and now through David. The line through which the promised seed would come is narrowed here down to one of the descendants of David.

### 1. PARTIES

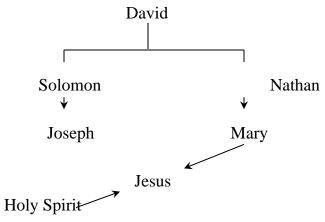
God and David. 1 Chronicles 17:7 "Now, therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David,"

# 2. LEGAL TERMS

**1 Chronicles 17:10-14** Moreover, I tell you that the LORD will build a house for you. <sup>11</sup> "When your days are fulfilled that you must go *to be* with your fathers, that I will set up *one of* your descendants after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>12</sup> "He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. <sup>13</sup> "I will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him, as I took it from him who was before you. <sup>14</sup> "But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever.""

- a. eternal dynasty (1 Chron 17:10b, 14; 2 Sam 7:12, 13, 16)
- b. eternal kingdom (1 Chron 17:11, 14; 2 Sam 7:12, 16)
- c. eternal throne (1 Chron 17:12, 14; 2 Sam 7:13, 16)

This promised seed could only be fulfilled in an eternal person; that person is Jesus Christ. Mary and Joseph were both descendants of David. Joseph was a descendant of David's son Solomon (Matt 1:6) and Mary was a descendant of David's son Nathan (Luke 3:31).



Jesus therefore, has right by lineage to the promised Davidic throne. This is an earthly throne, not a heavenly throne. Jesus ascended and sat on the Father's throne not on David's throne (Acts 15; Rev 3:21). While Jesus will rule as king in the Millennial Kingdom, David will rule as prince.

### **3. FOUNDING SACRIFICE**?

### 4. SIGN

The sign of this covenant is the surviving royal line which culminated in the eternal person, Jesus Christ.

### F. NEW COVENANT (Jer 31:31-34)

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** <sup>31</sup> "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup> "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup> "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

### 1. **PARTIES (31:31)**

God and houses of Israel and Judah (31:31)

### 2. LEGAL TERMS (31:33-34)

- His Law put within them (31:33)
- He will be their God (31:33)
- All will know the Lord (31:34)
- God will forgive their iniquity (31:34)
- Sin He will remember no more (31:34)

There will be no need to teach people about the Lord for all people will know the Lord, from the least to the greatest.

### **3.** FOUNDING SACRIFICE

God's sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

**Luke 22:20** And in the same way *He took* the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

**Hebrews 9:15** <sup>15</sup> For this reason He is the mediator of a <u>new covenant</u>, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first <u>covenant</u>, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

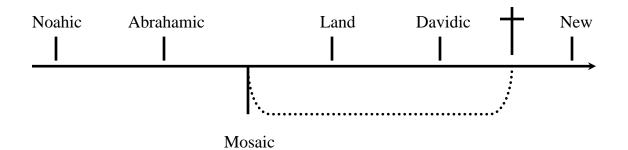
### 4. SIGN

Lord's supper/communion

**1 Corinthians 11:25** "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

#### **III. CONCLUSION**

There are six biblical contracts. The Noahic Covenant made with all flesh promised that God would never destroy the earth again by a flood. The sign is the rainbow. Abrahamic Covenant promised the Land, Seed, and Worldwide Blessing. This covenant is unconditional. The sign of the covenant is male circumcision. These three aspects are amplified under the Land Covenant, the Davidic or Seed Covenant, and the New Covenant. All of which are unconditional covenants. Finally, there is the Mosaic Covenant which is conditional and temporary. This covenant was made with the families of Israel and if they obeyed God then they would enjoy prosperity in the land. It's conditions were unable to be met by sinful men so God made a new covenant which would ensure that His people, Israel and Judah, would carry out His law.



In England, the Guardian wrote that "Israel has no right to exist." The Observer described Israeli settlements in the West Bank as "an affront to civilization."

In Italy, the Vatican's L'Osservatore Romano spoke of Israel's "aggression that's turning into extermination," while the daily La Stampa ran a Page 1 cartoon of a tank emblazoned with the Jewish star pointing its big gun at the infant Jesus, who cries out, "Surely they don't want to kill me again."

Across Europe, the result has been not just verbal violence but physical. A report issued last year by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, titled "Fire and Broken Glass," describes the assaults on Jews and people presumed to be Jewish across Europe. Attackers, shouting racist slogans, throw stones at schoolchildren, at worshipers attending religious services, at rabbis. Jewish homes, schools, and synagogues are firebombed. Windows are smashed, Jewish cemeteries desecrated with anti-Jewish slogans. In just a few weeks in the spring of last year, French synagogues and Jewish schools, students, and homes were attacked and firebombed. A synagogue in Marseilles was burned to the ground. In Paris, Jews were attacked by groups of hooded men. According to police, metropolitan Paris saw something like a dozen anti-Jewish incidents a day in the first several months after Easter.

AND THE VIOLENCE CONTINUES. In Ukraine, skinheads attacked Jewish workers and assaulted the director of a Jewish school. In Holland, demonstrators carrying swastikas and photos of Israel chanted "Sieg heil!" and "Jews into the sea!" In Salonika, the Holocaust Memorial was defaced with pro-Palestinian graffiti. In Slovakia, Jewish cemeteries were firebombed. In Berlin, Jews were assaulted, swastikas daubed on Jewish memorials, and a synagogue spray-painted with the words "six million is not enough."

Throughout the Islamic world, one finds slanderous quotations about Jews as the sons of apes and donkeys. A leading Saudi newspaper has Jews using the blood of Christian and Muslim children to make their hamantascen pastry for Purim and their matzo, the unleavened bread of Passover. In this fundamentalist religious culture, America and Israel are seen as twin Satanic forces, "The Great Satan" and "The Little Satan," as Iran's religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini used to refer to them.

It is difficult for westerners, unmarked by the searing memories of Jewish history, to realize the extent to which the survival of Israel remains an issue for Jews, who cannot dismiss the overheated Arab rhetoric that seeks to justify terrorism against innocent civilians by describing Israel's existence as illegitimate.

The issue is Palestinian refusal to grant Israel the right to exist as a Jewish state. Israel's battle is not the battle of Jew against Muslim. It is a battle against the hatred of the Jews and their connection to the land of Israel. How else to comprehend the Palestinian rejection of Jerusalem as the sacred city of the Jews and the Western Wall as the Second Temple, except as a rejection of the Jewish presence there?<sup>iii</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>i</sup> Unless one says the "sign" is the cherubim with flaming sword. But this is not a "sign" rather it is a judgment. If it was the "sign" it ceased to exist but if this is an unconditional covenant, as its proponents suggest, then the sign must be continually visible until fulfilled, which it was not. <sup>ii</sup> Charles Clough, *Dawn of the Kingdom* (Lubbock Bible Church, 1974), 75.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>iii</sup> JewishWorldReview.com