

# God's Everlasting Covenant

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## Is This Following G-d?

During Golda Meir's administration she sent Secretary of State Henry Kissinger a letter. In the letter she made the comment: "*Since you are Jewish, you should treat us better.*" Kissinger wrote back saying, "*First I am an American, second I am Secretary of State, and third I am a Jew.*" Golda replied, "*In Israel we read from right to left.*"

The reality is the exchange between them reflects a long standing sad state of affairs among Jews, especially in America. Most tend not to think of ourselves as Jews first. We rank our Jewishness behind nationality, title and in many cases family position.

Surveys have shown anywhere from 60 – 75% of Jews in the US feel no connection with Israel. Many of these same Jews attend synagogue, wear a tallit, sing the Shema and observe numerous outward motions of being a Jew, yet we seem to have forgotten G-d made us His Chosen by establishing His covenant with us and giving us His Holy Land, which includes His Holy City, Jerusalem.

In Genesis 17 : 7-8 [G-d speaking to Abraham] "*I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendents after you for the generations to come to be your G-d and the G-d of your descendents after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendents after you, and I will be their G-d.*"

If we are attending G-d's places of worship, singing the Shema, keeping G-d's festivals, honoring G-d's Sabbath, and fasting on Yom Kippur, how can we do all these things and not have any connection with G-d's Holy Land of Israel? What are the words of our holiest prayer, the Shema? Hear O' Israel the L-rd our G-d, the L-rd is One."

An indication of how far we have strayed is exemplified by the fact that 77% of America's Jews voted for Barack Obama -- a man who was quoted in a NY Times interview saying "*Hamas has legitimate claims with Israel.*" Are Jews aware that Hamas's charter says it will never accept Israel's right to exist, and the only acceptable method of dealing with Israel is

through jihad? Have Jews taken note of the fact they voted for a candidate who received close to 90% of America's Muslim vote?

What is happening among us today? Why are so many so willing to deny so much about who we are? We have been blessed with a special role in human history. We, not any others, were chosen to bring humanity the Law, and the Commandments which the Judeo-Christian world lives by. G-d is still not finished with us and Israel.

No other people in human history were dispersed throughout the nations for 2,000 years only to return to their original homeland and become a nation again. The scope of such a miracle surpasses events of biblical times. Many believe this has triggered the countdown of the coming Messiah.

It's understandable in today's world, with all that's going on, and the need to stay focused on our responsibilities as bread winners, parents and various other endeavors, much gets put on the back burner, or doesn't get done at all. However, if you are a Jew, do you think the Bible is just some book written strictly for entertainment purposes by a bunch of smelly guys with beards and sandals a long time ago because they had nothing better to do? G-d chose specific people to reveal himself through. His message is timeless, and for reasons only He knows, He chose one people to be His, and one land to be His. We are those people and the land He chose is Eretz Yisrael. His story and His Word comes to us through one book - The Bible. G-d makes our status clear in Exodus 22 : 31- *"you are to be my holy people."* The physical manifestation of our spiritual home is not of our own choosing. G-d made the choice for us. His choice is Israel. [Genesis 17 : 7-8]

Let me ask a question-

Do the Muslims [especially the fundamentalists] place their nationality, career, or family position ahead of being Muslim? No. Being a Muslim is first and foremost. As Jews it is critical for the continued existence of Israel and for the survival of our people that we not be afraid or embarrassed to live our lives as G-d intended. Nor should we support attempts to assimilate with those who wish to see our demise.

This does not require hatred of others, just the willingness to stand up for ourselves. How are we to gain the respect of others if too many of us are unwilling to respect ourselves by denying who we are, or being apologists, or saying we all pray to the same god?

If being a Jew has any real meaning to us, our spiritual home Israel should also mean something to us. Instead of ignoring Israel and placing being Jewish third or fourth on the list of how we identify ourselves, it should be first. Especially during these times when anti-

Semitism is at record highs because Israel finally chose to take action against unabated terrorism and strike back at an enemy committed to its annihilation.

Since the US and Israel have new leadership there will be renewed efforts to address the conflict. Once again Israel will be pressured into dividing the land G-d gave His Chosen and ordained as His Holy Land. Yet we know this is not what G-d wants. Look at Exodus 23: 31~33- *“.....I will hand over to you the people who live in the land and you will drive them out before you. Do not make a covenant with them or with their gods. Do not let them live in your land, or they will cause you to sin against me, because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you.”*

And should dividing the land be imposed upon Israel G-d provides a clear warning about what will happen. Joel 3 : 2 says- *“I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.”*

These very words come from G-d Almighty and are written in His Holy Book.

If we are unwilling to identify ourselves as Jews, and not interested in G-d's Holy Land, and not following G-d's word, the question begs- is this following G-d?

We cannot worship both the world and G-d. If we worship the world and ignore G-d, one thing we can be sure of- He will not ignore us. At a time of His choosing He will surely remind us, .....and it will not be a welcome reminder.