

The Holy Land



Brief

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May 15, 2006

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Prelude

This paper, which I am calling the **Holy Land brief**, is a document that directly affects **everyone** and supports an argument. It is designed for Agnostics, Animists, Atheists, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and every other religion on the planet Earth. It may no doubt raise offense to all people, but the arranger (i.e., the writer) is an equal opportunity offender. And, the words herein are based on events, evidence, facts, history, experience and the work of many.

The arguments contained within are supported by legal authority and precedents, and previous court decisions. In the Holy Land brief, scripture is also used. The arguments are only indirectly related to the 'conflict' – as Akiva Orr, an Israeli historian summed up best: "Palestine was Arab; foreigners came and took the land; the rest is 'detail' " Those details will *not* be re-examined herein.

Briefs are most commonly used as a central part of an appeal process. With this Holy Land brief, the arranger is appealing to all peoples, but specifically the Christian community, to 'wake up' to the *physical* realities with their interplay on *spiritual* facts. Please wait until you have read through to the end before you render your decision.

There is one major difference between the judgment that God exacts through the *physical* universe and the judgment that He exacts through the *spiritual*. In His judgment of the *physical* order, there is no appeal and no mercy, but in the judgment of the *spiritual* order there is.

We live in a cosmos, not in chaos. If we choose disorder, disorder is what we will have. If we choose to hurt others and tear at them, we enter into a *spiritual* darkness in which we no longer see good as good, but as evil. In the spiritual darkness we have chosen to enter, we are poisoned with aversion from good. We are filled with bitterness and frustration. If we encounter *honesty* in our place of work, we do not admire it, instead we fear it. If we meet *integrity*, we feel threatened by it. That is our Judgment.

The Lord takes us seriously. He lets us have our own way, so we get what we choose; we go to our own place. The Judgment is not so much something that God decrees, as it is the Lord who allows our free-will to run its course -- unless He intervenes to save us from ourselves. This is what He does again and again. If we begin to fall to our ruin, the Lord sees us. He takes pity on us and reaches out and grasps us in mid-air (so to speak) and changes the course we have chosen by our folly and our sin. The mercy of God is His endless miracle of saving sinners who are bent on destroying themselves.

Each person who receives God's love is supposed to reciprocate. That is God's plan. When you begin to coach and encourage others, your own skills continue to mature and grow. In fact, you can only receive in accordance with what you give.

Sometimes it is the encouragement and coaching of others that propel us forward. It is this positive influence from other people that drives us to go *beyond* what we, ourselves, think we are capable of.

The writer of Hebrews makes it very clear that we have an obligation to teach others. He was not talking to the religious leaders; *he was talking to all believers*.

God is not looking for perfection. He just wants you to be out there practicing and doing the best you can – to practice doing right. The influential and powerful few are deceiving

themselves (and others) into a path that God does **not** desire. We will all pay for these mistakes – both in the *physical* and the *spiritual* worlds.

This Holy Land brief is an intended course of action. It is not tactics, as the maneuvers to achieve a goal are useless unless people believe in the strategy. The arranger has created tactics for the Christian church, which are available to those who desire.

It is the arranger's hope that this Holy Land brief will reach the many, and ultimately be transcribed into Arabic, Hebrew and the five official languages of the United Nations (Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish; English is the fifth).

Introduction

Certain assumptions are being made to obtain the desired result.

The Past Is the Past

However horrific and tragic, nothing can be done to change the past. It has already occurred. Ego, hate, prejudice and revenge must all be put aside.

The Past Does Not Represent the Future

In a legal case, the past usually assigns blame. Herein, we review the past with an effort to learn from it, so as not to repeat past mistakes again.

The Future Is About Solutions

Death has already occurred for some. Life must continue forward for the remainder. The kind of life people really desire and their fulfillment while on this Earth is the key.

It Doesn't Matter

The bigger picture must come into play. The small stuff should not be sweated. We are all just grains of sand on a beach that co-exist with one another.

Examples of the *physical* world mentioned previously are:

Education – Money -- Sex

Examples of the *spiritual* world mentioned previously are:

Free Will – Heart -- Soul

You probably can already see that these two worlds overlap. The Holy Land Brief is meant as an educating document, focusing on *simplicity*. Mankind has not learned much since the time of the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) around 1900-1600 B.C., for if mankind had learned, we would not be in this situation.

Respect for people's faith brings tolerance; obstruction brings violence and terrorism. Extremists of any faith should experience LOVE (Lean On Violent Extremists). They are the ones who are making the battles within the *physical* and *spiritual* worlds – not the rest of us. Life all around us proves this.

In a legal courtroom, both sides would ultimately like to win. The reality is that most cases settle, meaning that a resolution has been made. Neither party usually gets everything they want, but both are ultimately able to move forward with their lives.

To better point out this 'middle ground', just look at some accepted daily words.

Adult – Child

Dead – Alive

Go – Stop

Black – White

Empty – Full

Hot – Cold

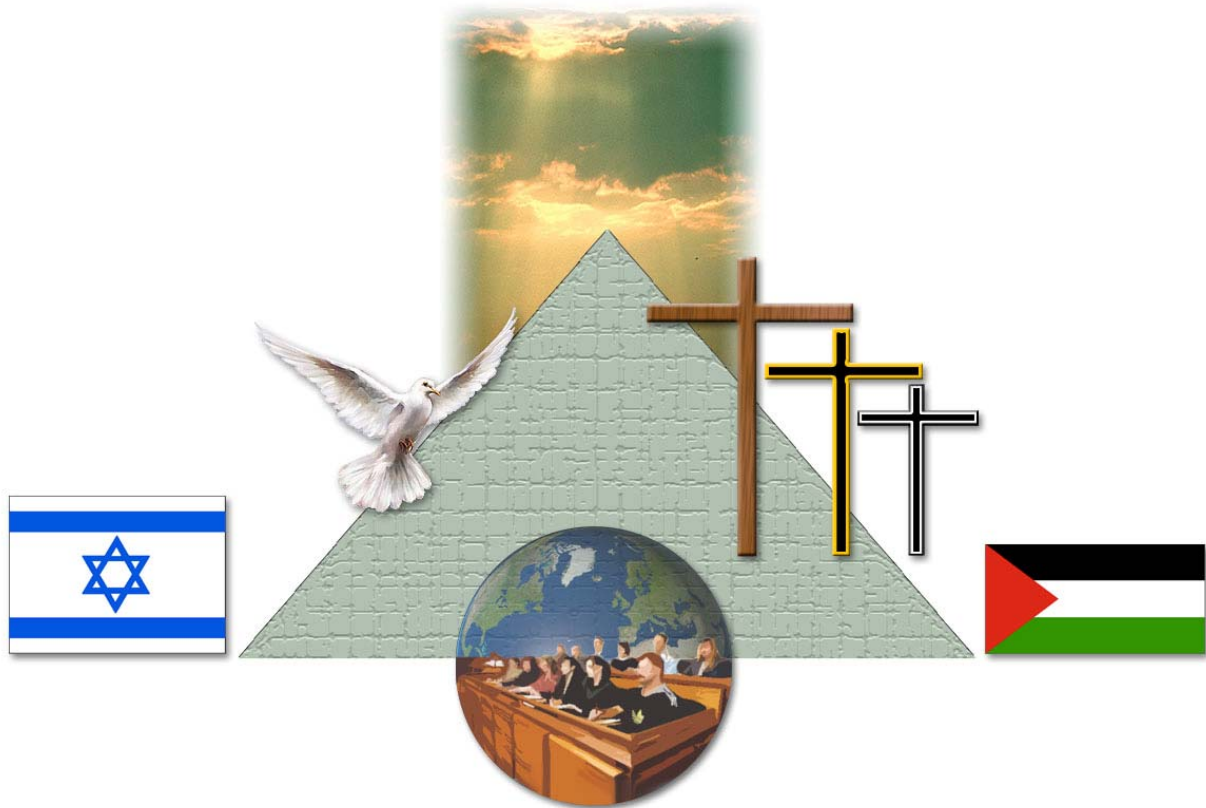
Clean – Dirty

Fat – Skinny

Ignorant – Knowledgeable

As you can see, there are usually degrees in between these two opposites. This is the 'middle ground.' The middle ground is what the Holy Land Brief desires to reveal and ultimately achieve.

Let's examine the participants in this case.



However, unlike a regular courtroom case, with the Holy Land brief we are crossing into very, very dangerous territory:

Politics – Religion – Money

These are three areas that most people do not discuss amongst strangers, much less all three subjects together. But the rules of the "game" of the *physical* world demand it. The game of Scrabble is much like politics and religion. The game of Monopoly is all about money.

In the *physical* world, might is right, and that is determined by money.

In politics and religion, you hear a lot of people saying a lot of things, but what results do they achieve? Sure, there is value in what politics and religion do, and we need both institutions. But those institutions have 'puzzled' mankind with their rhetoric. We need clear objectives with

stated results – and the conviction to see them through to fruition. Here is an example of a typical prayer from an Anglican (Episcopal) reverend around Christmas time:

“Yet we should not forget Bethlehem and its entire people
Christians, Jews and Muslims, who live in the daily reality
of fear and division, and we should pray for them and for
their leaders continually that all may be led into the way of peace.

That’s nice for the *spiritual* world. But in the *physical* world, Israel has encircled the city with three fortress-like gates with a ‘wall’ that suffocates entry and exit to the birthplace of Jesus Christ, which suffocates tourism as an economic resource in Bethlehem. What is the Christian community doing about that? The situation in Bethlehem is even worse than in Jerusalem.

An old, wise Jewish man provides a good example:

He had been going to the Wailing Wall to pray, twice a day,
every day for a long, long time. A journalist heard about this and
after watching him pray for 45 minutes at the Wailing Wall,
approached him for an interview.

“I’m Robin Smith from WTRW News. Sir, how long have you been
coming to the Wall and praying?”

“For about 60 years.”

“60 years! That’s amazing! What do you pray for?”

“I pray for peace between the Christians, Jews and the Muslims.
I pray for all the hatred to stop and I pray for all our children to grow
up in safety and friendship.”

“Amazing. Sir, how do you feel after doing this for 60 years?”

“Like I’m talking to a block wall”

The Western, or Wailing, Wall is part of the edifice surrounding the al-Aqsa Mosque area. Jews believe that this wall is a remnant of the second Jewish temple; archeologists tend to believe that it is part of a retaining wall built under Muslim rule. Whatever its origin, it is undeniably the greatest place of worship for Jews who come to Jerusalem to pray. And it should continue to remain so.

What is the difference between Christianity and religion? Read **Luke 10:30-37** for the answer.

Statement

Who doesn’t want to be counted among the brave, courageous and fearless who right wrongs and come through difficulties of life unscathed when faced with injustices? But the truth of the matter is we all cannot do so, and neither can this arranger.

What each of us can do is be part of that middle ground – contribute in tactical ways that each of us, with our respective strengths, can perform. The only thing that robs us of the courage we need to face the facts of life positively is **fear**.

When a reporter asked Thomas Edison how it felt to have failed 25,000 times in his effort to create a simple storage battery, his reply was, "I don't know why you are calling it a failure. Today, I know 25,000 ways not to make a battery. What do you know?"

Edison's inexhaustible energy and genius, which he purportedly defined as "1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration," eventually produced more than 1,300 inventions.

The fear of failure is probably one of the greatest fears people have. But whatever our fears, it pays to face them and take a positive stand against them. To draw a line of distinction between the truth and the lie – between reality and the imaginary, between fact and fear. We may need help in overcoming some fears.

Faith is the opposite of fear. It's faith that keeps us from fear. Faith in God is the best cure for fear of any kind. If you were to speak with a suicide bomber, they would tell you faith and fear cannot occupy your mind and heart at the same time. It's just impossible!

The natural law of physics, which seeks to explain the *physical* world, states:

Two bodies cannot occupy the same place at the same time.

The same holds true in the *spiritual*. When we have faith, we cannot fear.

Sure, some kinds of fear are healthy and should be respected: fire, lightening and anything that can cause accidents and do us or others damage and harm.

Protective instincts within each of us allow us to react quickly and instinctively to danger. The healthiest fear of all is a healthy respect for God. "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom".

Fearing evil however is the wrong kind of fear. To fear evil and the powers behind it is like worshipping evil – we shouldn't do it. We don't have to worry or fear the power of evil because God's power is much, much greater than any evil, including Satan himself. But you must know and understand the difference.

Little Things Make Big Differences

The rise and fall of many matters in human society is attributed to the positive and negative work of the few – not the many.

Witness the rise of the American resistance to British rule during the American Revolution. One dedicated man – Paul Revere – who upon hearing that the British were coming, went door to door alerting people and gave the people enough head start to prepare themselves to fight the British and win.

The peace process between Arabs and Israelis generally (Israelis and Palestinians specifically) has come to a standstill because of the positions of the few extremists and hardliners – **not** the many who want peace. It is the work of the few that spoils things for the many. The world should **not** cease to cooperate with nations that strive towards a peace progress during difficult times.

Simple, common sense solutions as outlined herein provide hope that these problems in our society can actually be addressed effectively and either reduced or eradicated.

Of all world adherents, Christianity is 33%, Islam is 21% and Judaism is one quarter of one percent (.25%). In the end, it will be the many, based on their actions or inactions that influence the few.

The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken. Deuteronomy 18:15

Summary of Argument

The Legal Status of Jerusalem

Neither Israel or Palestine, or both together, have the basic right under international law to dispose of Jerusalem. Instead, the 1947 United Nations Partition Resolution called for the creation of an international trusteeship for the City of Jerusalem that would be administered as a 'separate body' apart from both the Jewish state and the Arab state. To date, this has not happened. The Palestinians will settle for East Jerusalem that has been occupied and illegally annexed by Israel since 1967. The Palestinian people have made a significant concession for the benefit of all people.

The Holy City is home to the three monotheistic faiths:

Christianity – Judaism – Islam

And for the last 2,000 years, has been perhaps the world's most sought after real estate.

As a result, this 'separate body' solution must proceed forward immediately with a negotiated, approved, ratified and implemented absolute, iron-clad guarantee that is acceptable to both the Palestinians and the Israelis. According to the U.S. State Department, there has never been a successful transitional arrangement unless the parties have an understanding as to the ultimate final settlement.

Yet that is exactly what the much touted June 24, 2002, Middle East Peace 'vision,' not a plan, just a vision or road map, is-- an avenue that, if followed, will result in a destination that will be completely different upon arrival than expected. The road along the way will be full of potholes, the vehicle will (and has already) broken down, run out of fuel and its occupants left tired, hungry and without housing or water. Good intentions, vague promises, and nothing will materialize.

Respect for international law must be adhered to for an ultimate final conclusion.

The position of the United States is clear:

"We cannot accept unilateral actions by any party to decide the final status of the city." The United States government considers East Jerusalem to be "occupied territory and hence subject to the provisions of international law governing the rights and obligations of an occupying Power."

Both the United States and Israel are bound by the terms of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 that expanded upon and improved (but did not replace) the 1907 Hague Regulations on Land Warfare.

The entire international community (except for Israel) agrees that the Fourth Geneva Convention applies to protect the Palestinian people and the Palestinian lands. The Palestinian

National Council, the legislative body of the PLO, has ratified this, and it is binding as a matter of international law.

Security Council Resolution 298 (1971) reaffirms the treaties and the position on Jerusalem and is deemed to be the 'supreme Law of the Land' by Article VI of the United States Constitution.

Security Council Resolution 1322 (2000) in a vote of 14 to 0: "Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power..."

"Occupying power" has a definite meaning in international law. Israel only 'occupies' the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the entire city of Jerusalem. Israel is what international lawyers call a 'belligerent occupant'. As such, Israel has **no** sovereignty over the West Bank, Gaza Strip or the entire city of Jerusalem.

Under international law and practice, a people living on their own land are the essence of sovereignty. It is the Palestinian people who are sovereign in occupied Palestine. This has been the case since 1967.

Security Council Resolution 1397 (2002) affirms:

"A vision of a region where two States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognized borders."

The United States, contrary to public knowledge, is under the *legal obligation* to support the vigorous application of international laws of belligerent occupation. According to the Hague Regulations and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, "as long as the territory as a whole is in the power and under the control of the occupant and as long as the latter has the ability to make his will felt everywhere in the territory within a reasonable time, military occupation exists from a legal point of view."

The best definition of political control or power comes from the classic book, *Politics Among Nations*:

"Political power is a psychological relation between those who exercise it and those over whom it is exercised. It gives the former control over certain actions of the latter through the influence which the former exert of the latter's minds. That influence derives from three sources: i) the expectation of benefits, ii) the fear of disadvantages, and iii) the respect or love for men or institutions. It may be exerted through orders, threats, persuasion, the authority or charisma of a man or office, or a combination of any of these."

Violations of the Fourth Geneva convention are war crimes, and there are more serious war crimes labeled 'grave breaches' of the Fourth Geneva convention. There are 149 substantiated articles that protect the rights of Palestinians living in occupied Palestine.

A "crime against humanity" was defined by what Hitler and the Nazis did to the Jewish people. The concept goes back to the Nuremberg Charter of 1945 and was drafted by the United States government. This is what the UN Human Rights Commission, setup pursuant to the requirement of the UN Charter, has determined that Israel is doing to the Palestinian people:

crimes against humanity like what Hitler and the Nazis did to the Jews. The crime of genocide is defined by the 1948 treaty that ultimately became the Genocide Convention.

There can simply be no interim peace agreement until the final resolution of Jerusalem has been put to rest. The publicly stated position and requirements of Jerusalem, on behalf of Israel, the United States, the Palestine National Council and the Vatican, have been made many times.

What no one wants to talk about is the hand of peace and friendship cleverly and elegantly disguised by some of the best lawyers in the world that leaves the hand of peace and friendship in a trap and legal chains forever. The 'separate body' solution is the only fair and balanced way to resolve this problem for success.

The Political Problem of Jerusalem

The United States government has never recognized Israel's annexation of West Jerusalem as valid or lawful. That is why the U.S. embassy remains in Tel Aviv today against the desires of the pro-Israeli lobby.

If the embassy was moved 'before' a comprehensive peace settlement solution on Jerusalem is made, this formal recognition would be a legal, political and diplomatic *disaster*. An awesome 'clash of civilization' between the United States and the Muslim world would occur as forecast by Harvard's Samuel Huntington in *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*. It seems that extremists on both sides are really pushing this.

Congress passed the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 that says the US Embassy in Israel should be established in Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999. However, section 7 of the statute permits the U.S. President to waive this fiscal sanction every six months on the grounds that 'such suspension is necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States'. So far, Presidents Clinton and Bush Jr. have consistently done this.

Not satisfied with the progress, the Israeli lobby proceeded to procure the passage of an even more strictly tailored piece of legislation in 2002 that requires the U.S. President to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel on official U.S. Government documents, once again on pain of fiscal sanctions.

This created additional uproar throughout the Muslim world – this 'paper recognition'. This perceived deterioration of U.S. foreign policy interests in the Middle East cost the life of a U.S. diplomat – all because of this 'paper recognition' that was not even put into practice.

President George W. Bush, Jr. has stated he will ignore this requirement on the grounds that it is unconstitutional – infringing upon the President's constitutional power to perform such acts of diplomatic recognition.

The separation barrier being erected by Israel, also known as the 'fence', 'security fence' and known to Palestinians as the 'Apartheid Wall', is 425 miles long annexing 8 percent of the West Bank including major Jewish-only settlement blocs to the Israeli side of the June 1967 border. It is a *political*, not a *security* barrier. It encircles Jerusalem, and according to Israeli Labor party member Haim Ramon, is designed to make that city, holy to three religions, more Jewish. It also prevents 250,000 Christian and Muslim Palestinians from reaching their jobs, schools, families and places of worship.

The battle for Jerusalem is seriously being fought in Washington, D.C., as well as on the streets of Israel, Palestine and elsewhere. Only true leadership, character and integrity, and a will for peace, can overcome the bribery and blackmail that intimidates members of Congress and other government officials.

The Religious Problem of Jerusalem

Faith and science almost diametrically oppose one another in Jerusalem, as a city that is constantly being questioned, dug up, made up and hotly disputed.

Jerusalem existed at least as far back as the Bronze Age (4,000 BC) and the first settlements based on archeological evidence establish the Canaanites, along with the Amorites and Jebusites, as first inhabitants. Subsequently, Jerusalem was ruled by:

- Egyptians
- Philistines
- Israelites
- Persians
- Romans
- Byzantines
- Arabs
- Crusaders
- Mamluks
- Ottoman Turks

Each conqueror attempted to reshape the city to reflect their own religious and cultural identities -- claiming, destroying and rededicating structures of the previous culture. Religious and political buildings served as symbols of 'power and domination.'

When the Jebusites, a subgroup of Canaanites, ruled the city, they called it Jabus. The center of their city was called Zion, the Jebusite word for 'hill'. Almost 2,000 years later, when King David ruled the city, he usurped the name Zion. There is a dispute among scholars whether David conquered the whole city or just the Jebusite city center.

Prior to Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent of the Ottoman Turks, the Ottoman Empire under his father Sultan Selim I took over Palestine from the Egyptian Mamelukes in 1517. Suleiman was so taken with the city of Jerusalem and its plight that he ordered the construction of a magnificent fortress-like wall that still stands around the Old City. This construction took place in the 16th century (1535-1538), and the "Wall" has of 11 gates, 7 which are operational.

Jerusalem today can be divided roughly as:

- Old City (walled)
- East Jerusalem (predominately Arabs)
- West Jerusalem (predominately Jewish)
- Surrounding villages and refugee camps, and
- Illegal Jewish settlements on occupied land after the 1967 war

Most Christians are Arab Palestinians who belong to a number of denominations.

Jesus was a Jew who lived his life in the Roman province of Palestine. He was a Palestinian peasant, yet Christianity is based upon the teachings of Jesus. Christian beliefs can be seen through the Apostles' Creed, which was written to distinguish Christianity from other religions and show basic Christian doctrine in a concise manner.

Armenians, who embraced Christianity as their national religion in 301, constitute the oldest Christian nation in the world. Although Christianity was born in Palestine, it was not until Emperor Constantine I converted around 330 that it became the country's official religion. Prior to this, Christianity was practiced in secret. During Constantine's reign, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the Church of the Ascension in Jerusalem were also constructed. Jerusalem became the spiritual capital of the Byzantine world.

Islam's holiest and oldest site in all of historic Palestine, the Dome of the Rock Mosque and al-Aqsa Mosque, is located in the Old City and is the third holiest shrine after those in Mecca and Medina. The Dome of the Rock was built in 691 on the site where the Prophet Muhammad began his nocturnal journey to heaven. It is this area that extremist Israelis want to destroy to 'rebuild' a temple that they claim once stood there. It has caused much bloodshed over the years and remains a major problem between the Israelis, Palestinians and the Muslim world at large.

Islam has 5 Articles of Faith and 5 Pillars of Faith that are the main doctrines of Islam that each Muslim must perform. There also exists a sixth religious duty associated with the five pillars which is **Jihad**, or **Holy War**. This duty requires that '*if the situation warrants*', men are required to go to war to defend or spread Islam. If they are killed, they are guaranteed eternal life in Paradise.

Notice the most important four words – 'if the situation warrants'. All religious people take their faith very seriously. If you want peace – make sure the situation *doesn't* warrant it.

In Judaism, God's will for human behavior was revealed to Moses and the Israelites at Mount Sinai. The basic beliefs of Judaism are in the form of a creed that has 13 line items. Three branches of Judaism exist:

Conservative – Orthodox – Reform

The framework for the beliefs and lifestyles of Jewish people are that the world was created by a single, all-knowing divinity, and that all things within that world were designed to have meaning and purpose as part of a divine order. The Torah, or commandments, which regulate how humans are to live their lives, were a gift from God so that they might live according to His will.

Note that during the Arab-Islamic rule (638-660), Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem after a 500 year ban stipulated by the Romans and maintained by the Christian rulers.

On September 28, 2000, General Ariel Sharon, with 1,000 armed Israeli troops, surrounded at Haram Al-Sharif in Jerusalem, which is where the Dome of the Rock and al Aqsa Mosque are located. General Sharon, with the full approval of Prime Minister Ehud Barak, began to deliberately desecrate and cause provocation at this holiest religious site. If that wasn't enough, the very next day, several unarmed Palestinians on Haram Al-Sharif were killed, setting off what came to be known as the 'Al Aqsa Intifada' in support of the Al Aqsa Mosque.

On October 7, 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1322 (2000). The vote was 14 to 0 (the United States abstained). This resolution became binding international law. Paragraph 1 states:

“Deplores the provocation carried out at Al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem on 28 September 2000 and the subsequent violence there....”

Nothing could be more crystal clear. There is **no** factual dispute. Even the United States didn't vote against this, and they could have – deliberately letting it pass permanently into international law as a 'determination of responsibility'.

This is **not** Judaism or the Commandments as outlined in the Torah. These actions go deeper and will be brought to light later.

The Solution for Jerusalem

Today, it would not be necessary to establish a separate United Nations trusteeship for the City of Jerusalem alone under Chapter XII of the UN Charter. Rather, all that would be necessary is the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the City of Jerusalem and the substitution of a United Nations peacekeeping force in its place. This would satisfy the 1947 United Nations Partition Plan for the Mandate of Palestine pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 181(II) of 1947.

The UN force would maintain security within the city of Jerusalem, while the provision of basic services to all inhabitants would be enhanced. This simple substitution of 'security' forces would allow both Israel and Palestine to continue making whatever claims to sovereignty they want with Jerusalem.

Israel can continue to maintain that Jerusalem is the sovereign territory of Israel, its united capital and shall remain so one and undivided – forever. The Israeli Knesset can remain where it is, designated as a capital district, and the Israeli flag can be flown anywhere throughout the city of Jerusalem.

Palestine can likewise maintain that Jerusalem is its sovereign territory and capital and would be entitled to a parliament building and capital district within East Jerusalem. The Palestinian flag could also be flown anywhere within its territorial confines.

Both parties would be entitled to maintain ceremonial honor guards, but *no* armed troops from either would be permitted within Jerusalem.

Residents of Jerusalem would be citizens of either or both, depending upon the respective nationality laws of each. Residents would be issued a United Nations identity card that would give them – and only them – the right to reside within the city. Mutual rights of access for their respective citizens would be finalized under the auspices of the United Nations.

Both Israel and Palestine would have to provide assurances to the United Nations Security Council that religious pilgrimages (Christians, Jews and Muslims) would be allowed through their respective territories to visit and worship at the holy sites with Jerusalem. A UN transit visa issued by the UN peacekeeping force would suffice – exercised in a manner of security interests for both.

Neither Israel nor Palestine would have to surrender whatever claims, rights or titles they might assert with Jerusalem. Jerusalem would be a free, open and undivided city for pilgrimage and worship by people of the three monotheistic faiths from around the world.

Jerusalem would remain subject to this UN regime for the indefinite future, and if this solution was implemented, it would be perfectly appropriate under international law for the United States government to move its Israeli embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. If accredited to both Israel and Palestine, the same can be done with other states in the international community. The presence of these embassies would provide legitimate recognition for Israel and Palestine.

The precedent for this solution resides with the Vatican City State, the District of Columbia, the United Nations headquarters in New York City and more. If peace is truly the objective, creative lawyers can devise artful arrangements for Jerusalem that allow both peoples to claim victory.

When it comes to Jerusalem, the desire for power must be set aside for the will of peace. God – not countries – is the only true power in Jerusalem, and He is not exclusive to Judaism.

Argument

Defining Terrorism

Like terrorism, the crime of aggression is *undefined* by the International Criminal Court (ICC) due to disputes among state parties about how to define it.

Many ICC parties favor a definition of aggression set out in 1974 in General Assembly Resolution 3314, passed in the wake of Vietnam:

“Aggression is the use of armed force by a state against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations, as set out in this definition.”

Any ‘preemptive war’ runs directly counter to the United Nations Charter’s prohibition on the use of armed force except in self defense or when authorized by the Security Council.

More than 50 years ago, Associate U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, one of the prosecutors at the Nuremberg Tribunal, wrote:

“No political or economic situation can justify the crime of aggression.” He added: “If certain acts in violation of treaties are crimes, they are crimes whether the United States does them or whether Germany does them, and we are not prepared to lay down a rule of criminal conduct against others which we would not be willing to have invoked against us.”

Under well established principles of international law, the core crimes prosecuted in the ICC – genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression – are crimes of *universal jurisdiction*.

There clearly must be a balance to the commitment of democracy with the fight against terrorism. But first 'terrorism' must be specifically defined so that all peoples and parties can be under the same rules of law.

Terrorism presently is a concept entirely devoid of an accepted international legal meaning. The standard cliché is "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter" and indicates why the international community hasn't agreed upon a legal or political meaning for the term. Most people think they know terrorism when they see it and 9-11 and suicide bombers on civilians are good pictures. But there is more to terrorism than these events.

The highly inflammatory term 'terrorism' has been used by governments such as the United States, Great Britain, the former Soviet Union and now Russia, India, Israel, apartheid South Africa and others to characterize acts of violence ranging from human and material destructiveness to wars of national liberation.

The overwhelming majority of 'terrorist' acts -- whether in number or in terms of sheer human and material destructiveness -- have always been committed by strong states against weak states as well as governments against their own people.

Terrorism cannot serve, however, as a basis for conducting a coherent and consistent global foreign policy that replaces the word 'communism' as a way of legitimizing U.S. military action.

In the war on 'terror', America states it is on the side of diversity and freedom. In reality, America's foreign policy goals for decades have been open markets and cheap labor. Local cultures and economies have been trampled on by corporate invasions.

American leadership has simply ignored human rights concerns -- until they coincide with the geopolitical aims of the in-power administration. The US attempts to impose monolithic hegemony on the rest of the world -- just like Al Qaeda. The only difference is that the US hegemony is *capitalist* instead of *socialist*.

The United States is surely the lesser of two evils -- but confronted with either version of imperialism offers indigenous cultures little chance of survival.

Criminal prosecution for violating the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions of 1949 has already been upheld for the use of military force unilaterally as outlined in:

- The Caroline Case, Canada, Britain, United States (1837)
- Corfu Channel Case, United Kingdom v. Albania (1949)
- Nicaragua v. United States of America (1986)

Three resolutions stand for the general proposition prohibition for any reason whatsoever that member states of the UN General Assembly have on non-consensual military intervention by one state into the territorial domain of another state:

- Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty (1965)
- Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (1970); and
- Definition of Aggression (1974)

Israel holds the record for violations of human rights and United Nations resolutions. In staying firm with the contentions of the Holy Land brief, both Israel and the United States should be *granted immunity* predicated on International Law within the aims of 'democracy and human rights' if both allocute.

So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. John 8:7

New World Order

The New World Order is an outline for the destruction of the environment, an increase in racism and ethnic strife, more social apartheid and the undermining of women's rights. All this adds up to a globalization of poverty.

Abraham Lincoln said it best:

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. Corporations have been enthroned, an era of corruption will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people, until the wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic destroyed.

Under the New World Order, discredited political leaders (who are lackeys of powerful business interests) are replaced by new political puppets. Republicans or Democrats – *it doesn't matter*. This 'regular regime rotation' in a 'two-party' system is plagued by corruption and conflict-of-interest. All the while, however, it continues to provide the illusion that Jeffersonian democracy continues to prevail.

He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough. Proverbs 28:19

Nuclear Arsenal

Israel has quietly supplanted Britain as the world's 5th largest nuclear power, and currently rivals France and China in the size and sophistication of its nuclear arsenal. Unfortunately, the Israeli nuclear program that began in the late 1940s near Beersheba in the Negev Desert is largely responsible for the major regional development of other countries' desire for a nuclear arsenal, which poses an acute threat to peace and stability in the Middle East. Israel should simply disclose its nuclear program as must other United Nations members.

From the very beginning, the United States was heavily involved in the Israeli nuclear program. From the small research reactor in 1955 under the "Atoms for Peace Program" up through today, U.S. advanced technology transfers to Israel have continued unabated. Simply put, the United States uses Israel as its proxy to help it maintain domination in the Middle East and for other services; Israel in turn uses the United States to help it pursue a 'redeeming the land' conquest from non-Jewish inhabitants in the occupied territories.

The explosive revelations of Mordechai Vanunu, a nuclear technician working in the Dimona plutonium reprocessing plant (atomic reactor), changed everything overnight. This **one man** believed it was his duty to humanity to expose Israel's nuclear program to the world and stop a "second Holocaust". He smuggled dozens of photos and valuable scientific data out of Israel and in 1986 his story was published in the London Sunday Times.

Vanunu has paid for his humanity. With a campaign of disinformation and vilification in the Israeli press, Vanunu was convicted of 'treason' by a secret security court and sentenced to 18 years in prison – 11 of those years in solitary confinement in a 6 x 9 foot cell.

Presently, the 51-year-old Jewish convert to Christianity lives in the Episcopal church hostel in Jerusalem on handouts from his fans. He is not allowed to travel based on 'security' concerns by Israel's justice ministry though he has been free from jail since 2004.

*I will declare your name to my brothers; in the
congregation I will praise you Psalm 22:22*

Unleashing Evil

The U.S. leadership, which is shaped by dangerous extremists who seek to use Israel as an offensive tool to destabilize the whole Middle East area, view Israel as an asset. The goal of the combined United States / Israel alliance is to get the Jerusalem conflict off the international agenda for their own financial gains. Situations such as Dafur, Iraq and others help to achieve this objective. No one would deny there are other world issues that need to be addressed and given attention.

The immediate goal of anyone concerned about the future of the world should be to take a moral and political stand against the situation of permanent war between Arab, Jewish and Muslim people and states. It is this primary issue – if solved – that can lead to a reversal of the globalization of poverty with a more peaceful and rewarding existence in the physical and spiritual worlds on this planet.

*They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control
over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are
swayed by all kinds of evil desires, 2 Timothy 3:6*

Understanding Political Islam

There are three (3) general trends that are important to grasp.

1. Al Qaeda-style terror-warriors are the smallest, but most dangerous group, providing strong American led military responses.
2. The middle group, in terms of size and impact, comprises Iran and allied, predominantly Shiite, Arab movements in Iraq, Bahrain and Lebanon. They focus on self-empowerment and resisting the hegemonic aims of the United States and Israel.
3. The third and largest group is made up of predominantly Sunni mainstream Islamists, Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, and the Turkish Justice and Development Party – who increasingly engage in electoral democratic politics at local and national levels.

They are all spurred by local anger with different goals and tactics. All three Islamist strands have responded to their shared sense of grievance against three primary targets:

1. Autocratic Arab regimes that run security states usually dominated by a handful of members of a single family.
2. Israel and its negative impact on Arab societies through direct occupations or indirect political influence on U.S. policy in the region.

3. U.S. and other Western powers whose military and political interference in the Middle East continues to anger and harm the majority of people in this region.

Should mainstream and peaceful political Islamism be killed and buried, the subsequent landscape could look different than that envisioned by the U.S. and Israel. Five forces that have until now generally been kept separate could well see a coming together:

- Arab national sentiment
- Anti-occupation military resistance
- Iranian-Persian nationalism
- Regional Shiite empowerment among Arabs and Iranians
- Sunni Islamic religious militancy

The current 'control and power' players, the United States and Israel, either cannot foresee this based on past history of Middle East parties never agreeing and speaking in the form of one voice, or do see it and desire it to occur.

Political Islam will become disillusioned and probably give up on politics. Those who preach robust defiance of the West or assaulting it with suicide bombs are likely to gain adherents – which only intensifies the cycle of violence, defiance, occupation and resistance that now defines and plaques much of the Middle East.

*No one has ever gone into heaven except the one
who came from heaven—the Son of Man. John 3:13*

Investing in the Middle East

The Middle East is a very volatile region, and investors are not likely to risk making huge investments in unstable climates unless they are somehow enticed to invest. This could happen by either offering investors some tax incentives or by providing a tax-friendly environment. Some years ago, the Palestinian Legislative Council enacted one of the world's most attractive investment codes for foreign investors.

Some smart investors see many windows of opportunity where they could secure a good return on their investment while benefiting the country. Economic sustainability would turn beggars into choosers of a dignified life where they can be immune to political arm twisting and collective punishment. The path to follow is simple: choosers of hope and dignity over beggars for bread.

Israel has occupied East Jerusalem for 39 years, and it can be safely argued that this occupation is responsible for many economic, political and social problems. However, the government of Israel does *not* prohibit real estate investments by individuals or international companies. There is nothing illegal about foreign investments in East Jerusalem especially when such investors are interested in profit making and not involved in the conflict and politics. Over 250,000 Palestinian inhabitants of the city require quality housing and modern commercial and entertainment centers that suit their needs and lifestyles.

The Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDECO), one of the oldest and major companies in Palestine (1914), has a unique link to Jerusalem. The Israeli Electric Corporation seized and ruled the company's concession rights to generate electricity since 1967. Israel applied a lot of pressure on JDECO to stop the development of power-generating sources and purchase

electricity from the Israeli Electric Corporation. This burden consumes 85% of its monthly income, in addition to the closures, curfews, invasions and 'Wall' the company had to overcome to keep going and maintain efficient business operations.

For investments to succeed in the Middle East, there must be free and open markets for businesses to grow and satisfy customers. Competition is a good thing and with the heavy aid of the United States and an almost 60-year advantage, Israel should not be afraid to compete for business legitimately.

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Proverbs 4:18

Conclusion

Working together is no longer just an option for the participants in the Middle East. It is a **must** for the entire world. Consider the Jericho Wildlife Monitoring Station (JWMS) as an example.

Located in one of the oldest cities in the world (home to human beings for over 10,000 years) and known for its historical, ecological and environmental importance, Jericho, Palestine is considered one of the most importance places for monitoring bird migration in the world. This is due to its geographical location on the western boundaries of the Asian continent directly on the southeastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea and on the eastern boundaries of Africa. This geographical location places Palestine at the juncture of the European, Asian and African continents.

The JWMS encompasses an area of around 150 dunums (38 acres) surrounded by agricultural fields to the west and a natural landscape to the east that reaches to the banks of the Jordan River.

What if a duck contracts the avian flu? Would Israel still not cooperate with the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Health if the minister was from Hamas? Will Hamas continue not to recognize Israel if Israel has a scientific cure that assists the Palestinian people?

There are of course a million other matters that require almost day-to-day coordination and cooperation between officials from both Israel and Palestine. But what would we, in the United States, think of 'bird flu' in our backyards simply because these two countries cannot get their act together?

On July 9, 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague declared the 'Wall' illegal:

The main premise of the court ruling was that the construction of the wall and "its associated regime" are contrary to international law and that Israel is under "obligation" to cease works on the construction of the wall and to "dismantle forthwith the structure therein situated," and to repeal or render ineffective forthwith all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto.

Everyone can understand legitimate security concerns. But discrimination and additional barriers to peace just make matters worse.

Zionism Should Not be Equated with Judaism or Christianity

Zionism itself represents a political movement concerned principally with the establishment of a democratic state in Palestine to be controlled by and for Jews. It began in the late 19th Century and attained its stated objective with the creation in 1948 of the state of Israel by the United Nations. Subsequently Israel doubled the amount of territory it controlled by means of its illegal occupation of the West Bank in the 1967 and 1973 wars.

Zionism is **not** a part of the Jewish religion. Most Zionists are Jews, but not all Jews are Zionists. Any criticism of Zionism is **not** condemning Judaism or “anti-semitism”.

There is also “Christian Zionism”, whose adherents include the followers of Jerry Falwell. Christian Zionism misconstrues the Jewish occupation of Palestine as partly fulfilling biblical prophecy in a process leading to Armageddon and the Rapture (in which, they believe all Christian Zionists will be taken up to heaven leaving the rest of us to die on a scorched Earth). In other words, the Second Coming of Christ.

Everyone understands the desire for their own land and state – freedom.

However, there is a terribly deceptive, bloody war against humanity occurring right now and evil is taking hold under the *manipulation* of Zionism that will only chain **all** people into poverty and slavery.

Totally depraved, ***all religions are being infiltrated under fraud and deceit*** and being used to perform the dirty work to advance the establishment of an ‘anti-Christ’ kingdom in Palestine. This deception, perpetrated by the United States and Israel, is similar to how Jacob deceived Esau in Genesis 27. Deception is allowed by God on earth.

The intense expectations of the Messiah in Christianity, Judaism and Islam form the necessary backdrop for understanding the success of this deception. The establishment of an anti-Christ kingdom will nullify the commandments from God – and it is the Old Testament that is sacred to all three religions.

Humans, consisting of life and spiritual energy, are to be a gift to Satan. Extremists do not have any aversion to killing any individual, massacring thousands and hundreds of thousands, and even committing genocide of an entire race. In their beliefs, killing is liberating the “holy spark.”

God put the holy spark inside each individual to mature, develop and grow. The arranger’s holy spark manifested itself with the Holy Land brief. Even Pope John Paul II said there was no greater sign of love than martyrdom during 2,000 years of Christianity to strengthen the faith of believers. But killing is **not** liberating the “holy spark.” Killing is Satanism, pure and simple.

Jesus, Himself, gave the following prophetic direct reference to St. John the Divine:

*“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write,
‘These things says the First and the Last, who was
dead, and came to life: “I know your works, tribulation,
and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy
of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a
synagogue of Satan.” Revelation 2:8-9*

Jesus knew that in Smyrna an anti-Christ is going to be born full of blasphemies who will establish a movement that does not consist of real Jews but fake Satanic Jews, pretending or posturing to be Jews and thus infiltrate the Jewish synagogues and lead the real Jews astray and into the path of Satan.

What is the Objective and Stated Desired Result?

Complete control of the wealth of the planet, destruction of Jewish ethics to be replaced by a religion based on the exact opposite of God's intentions (high-class Satanism). Sin and guilt are no more. The prayer is "Praised be He who permits the forbidden."

Perceptions of Good and Evil

In Jesus' day, there was little tolerance for those deemed 'evil'. The impatient Zealots wished to expel the Romans and end their occupation of Palestine. The Pharisees could not understand how Jesus could accept known 'sinners' into his intimate circle.

Religious groups, such as the Essenes, completely distanced themselves from what they considered sinful society by living in the wilderness. Because Jesus and his followers did not promote violence, associated with everyone including 'sinners', and lived out their values in the midst of the world instead of withdrawing from it, Jesus proposed something more than tolerance or condemnation.

Jesus put himself in the midst of the battles between perceived 'good' and 'evil', and his teachings constantly reminded listeners that it was *not* their duty to serve as judge.

Pretenders to the Kingdom

In the years before and during Jesus' youth, Palestine was troubled by violent upheavals and by numerous people who claimed they were kings. After the death of Herod the Great, his son Archelaus became the leader of Judea and sent the cavalry to slaughter about 3,000 men he feared might begin an uprising at the Jerusalem Temple.

Later, when Archelaus was away in Rome, numerous individuals – including a slave of his deceased father Herod – proclaimed themselves to be the rightful kings of Judea. The historian Josephus in *Antiquities 16* claimed that, in such times as these, bandits and desperate people were willing to follow just about anyone. Such conditions make it more understandable that some detractors of Jesus believed he was falsely portraying himself as a king while convincing people to follow him.

An Ethic of Love

Jesus preached a radical ethic of love that extended beyond family and clan to include people considered undesirable and even his enemies. His teachings emphasized the need for an unlimited capacity for forgiveness. They stressed that those who have committed the act of wrongdoing should seek out the victim and make amends, and that the victims should win over their enemies nonviolently through wit, savvy, resistance and love.

Gandhi and Jesus

Mahatma Gandhi, Indian leader of the nonviolent movement to free India from British rule had, according to his biographer Louis Fisher, only one picture on the wall of this tiny ashram home – that of Jesus. Below the picture were the words:

“He is our Peace” Ephesians 2:14

Gandhi never converted to Christianity, however, because he believed that the religion had shifted from one that intended to be of and for the disenfranchised to the ‘religion of Kings’. Gandhi looked to Jesus as one who taught people to ‘win over’ their enemies through love instead of shaming and killing their opponents.

Why Was Jesus Killed?

Jesus’ passion for the kingdom of God led directly to his execution, says biblical scholar Marcus Borg of Oregon State University. “And it’s enormously helpful to remember that the historical question is not: ‘Why did Jesus die?’ but instead,

‘Why was Jesus killed?’

It makes no sense, by the way, to say that he was killed for the sins of the world. The authorities didn’t have that in mind. Historically, the answer is pretty clear.

The authorities arrested and executed Jesus because he was a radical critic of the domination system and an advocate of God’s justice. And he attracted a following. So the authorities snuffed him out.”

Jesus was executed as a criminal for sedition – a violation of ‘national security’ by preaching that God’s Kingdom was an alternative to Caesar’s.

The Unique Death of Jesus

Christianity is the only major religion whose two major figures, Jesus and Paul the Apostle, were executed by the established authorities of their day.

All other major religious founders:

Siddhartha Gautama	(Buddhism)
Abraham and Moses	(Judaism)
Mohammed	(Islam)
Kong fu zi	(Confucianism)
Lao zi	(Taoism)

died of natural causes.

After Jesus’ death, the early church looked for ways to explain the significance of Jesus’ life and death. Origen, a third-century church leader, utilized:

*“For the Son of Man came not to be served
but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for
many.” Mark 10:45*

to claim that the sins of Adam and Eve gave Satan power over the world.

Origen believed that Satan held the world captive, like a kidnapper who requires 'ransom' in order to give release. Origen also thought that God arranged the death of his son as payment to the devil for captive humanity's release.

Early Christians believed that Satan lost this deal since God resurrected his son after the death on the cross. Many Eastern Christians still hold this *theory* of atonement today.

The Temple Curtain

At the moment of Jesus' crucifixion, the Gospel According to Matthew records that that Temple curtain was torn into two – *Matthew 27:51*. This curtain, the Jews believed, was the veil that separated God's actually dwelling place, the 'Holy of Holies', from other areas of the Temple.

The Temple had an outer court, open to all; a middle court with separate areas for men and women, both guarded by a stone wall with warnings that non-Jews should not enter lest they die; and an inner court open only to priests, with an altar for burnt offerings and a two-room temple building.

The first room contained the seven-armed lamp stand, the table for the bread of presence, and the altar of incense. It was the second room that was divided from all else by the veil. Only once per year did the High Priest enter that room to atone for the Jewish people.

When considered in this context, the tearing of the Temple veil at Jesus' crucifixion signifies that God's presence was made available to all.

Jesus' original message of salvation was not intended for Gentiles or Samaritans, but for the 'lost sheep of the house of Israel' – *Matthew 10:5-6*.

Yearning for Peace

Many Jews during Jesus' day longed for an individual leader who would bring peace, based in part on the prophet Isaiah's reference to a messianic 'prince of peace' – *Isaiah 9:6*.

After the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple by the Romans in 70 AC and the turmoil that followed, the foremost rabbi of that period, Johanan ben Zakkai, announced that the salvation previously sought through the offering of sacrifice at the Temple was now available to *anyone* who made peace.

Jesus taught something quite similar. Rather than achieve peace through a particular leader, Jesus believed it was the responsibility of a whole community.

The question isn't:

'What Would Jesus Do'

but rather,

'What Will the Christian Community Do'?

Jesus Christ, the Divine Shepherd, should bring most of the Christians, Jews and Muslims together and make them ONE FOLD. This is one more reason for Jews, Christians and Muslims to love and help each other.

The Arranger

William Shibly Akel, the arranger, is the son of Shibly Abraham Akel who served in U.S. Army Intelligence and whose own father, Abraham Shibly Akel, served in the U.S. Army in World War One and became a citizen of the United States in 1919.

The arranger is a former U.S. Marine, musical composer and co-founder of two information technology businesses, one in 'security' established before the events of 9-11. He lives in Encino, California, a predominantly Jewish community and has visited Israel, Palestine and Jerusalem. The arranger believes that music is a prayer directed towards the human spirit and God. Music provides a heavenly serenity that the world lacks and should have. Music crosses all boundaries and breaks all barriers regardless of gender, race, nationality, religion or age.

The arranger's family (Ibrahim) was one of 7 Orthodox Christian clans of Rashed al Haddadin to have crossed the Jordan River to Ramallah, Palestine in search of a better life in the early 1520's during the Ottoman rule. For the next 400 years, Ramallah was the exclusive domain of al-Haddad and his descendants. Ramallah is an Aramaic and Arabic word meaning "God's Hill".

One uncle of the arranger was a Crown Mandate (i.e., Attorney General) for the state of Palestine and was directly involved with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181(II) of 1947 that called for the partition of the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine into an Arab state and a Jewish state with an International Trusteeship for the City of Jerusalem. He also served as a trusted advisor to King Abdullah I and King Hussein I of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Another uncle of the arranger became an Episcopal Bishop that served in the Middle East. He studied Theology for 4 years under Mahatma Gandhi in India and is memorialized at St. George's Cathedral – the mother church of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.