To Whom Does the Holy Land Belong? Pt. 1

Charles Feinberg

I always like to see the wisdom that dictates some of the things that Mrs. MacNeil asks us very casually to do. Like turn around and shake hands with someone around you. It's been known that has been the occasion where husbands have shaken hands with their wives and haven't been speaking to each other for months.

[laughter]

So it's a wonderful reconciling operation. I'm very grateful to see it. We have been indicating that we are going to be speaking on the prophetic word in the evening. In the mornings, on The Song of Solomon. In this day when so much is said concerning love that isn't love at all, it's wonderful to see what the scriptures have to say in such chaste, restrained, decent, dignified, language. If for no other reason we ought to see what the Song of Solomon has to say. It is one of the finest devotional books in the world. Some church fathers have been known to have as many as more than one hundred messages on the first chapter. Think of it on the first chapter The Song of Solomon.

I want you to read for tomorrow, just the first eight chapters and only eight chapters. And for Tuesday the same, for Wednesday the same. It isn't a broken record, but Thursday the same and Friday the same please. The Book of the Song of Solomon in the evenings the prophetic word this evening: To whom does the Holy Land belong? Who owns the Holy Land? Tomorrow evening: When can we expect the rapture? When can we expect the rapture?
During the week, Lord willing, we shall be dealing with a theme of the approach of Armageddon. We're going to be dealing with the end time and the resurrection of a nation. What about Europe and the prophetic words? Some tremendous things going on in Europe that are lost entirely on the unbelieving world and on the uninstructed believer. And then we shall be dealing with the greatest theme of all prophecy. Prophecy revolves around four foci: Israel, the Church, the nations, and the Lord Jesus Christ. On Friday evening Lord willing, we shall be speaking on what I consider the acme of all prophecy, why Christ, why Christ must reign on Earth. So you come praying this evening to: Whom does the Holy Land belong? Let us turn to the first book of the Bible, the Book of Genesis. Will you please turn to the 15th chapter?

We are indeed sorry to see our brother Dave Gentry leave. That isn't quite fair. To let us become acquainted with him and so used to him and then to leave us. But we'll talk to him some time again. We'll have a long time in the millennium and we'll ask him why. And the young gentleman he brought with him, Bill. But we are going to have joy. Joyce. Joyce and Dawn.

Genesis 15 then. Will you look with me at this scripture? Especially verses seven through verse 17. Seven through seventeen. "And He said unto him," This is the Lord speaking unto Abraham. He's our father, father, spiritual father of Jews and Gentiles. Some folk cannot understand how Abraham can be the father of Jews and Gentiles, whereas Jacob is not the father of Gentile believers. Nor is Isaac the father of Gentile believers. There's a reason. There was something about Abraham that was not true about Isaac or Jacob. Abraham was a Gentile before he was a Hebrew. That was not true of Isaac. It was not true of Jacob, but Abraham was first in
uncircumcision and then in circumcision. Romans four, Paul indicates that, therefore, he can justify the Gentile, the uncircumcision, by faith and the circumcision, the Jew, through faith. Same way he was in both categories. You see there were only Gentiles until Abraham became a Hebrew, from Adam on all were Gentiles.

Verse seven, "And He sat unto him, 'I am the Lord who brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give thee this land to inherit it.' And he said, 'Lord God whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?' And He said unto him, 'Take me a heifer of three years old and she-goat of three years old and a ram of three years old and a turtle dove and a young pigeon.' And he took unto Him all these and divided them in the midst and laid each piece one against another. But the birds divided he not. And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses Abraham drove them away. And when the sun," This is very important now friends. "And when the sun was going down a deep sleep." The same word that used earlier in Genesis concerning the sleep that God caused to fall on Adam before God formed Eve, tardema.

As we'd say down south a sure enough sleep, "A deep sleep fell upon Abraham and lo and a horror of great darkness fell upon him. And He said unto Abraham, 'Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a sojourner in a land that is not theirs and shall serve them and they shall afflict them four hundred years. And also that nation whom they shall serve will I judge and afterwards shall they come out with great substance and thou shall go to thy fathers in peace. Thou shall be buried in a good old age.'" Abraham lived actually to be one hundred and seventy five years of age. "But in the fourth generation, they shall come here again," That is back into the land. They did under Joshua, "For the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.' And it came to pass that when
the sun went down and it was dark. Behold a smoking furnace and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces." Representing in this way the marvelous presence of God for our God is a consuming fire scripture indicates to us. Genesis 15 then verses seven through seventeen. To whom does the Holy Land belong?

Beloved, I am nothing less than amazed. Can you think at my age there'd be very few things that would continue to amaze me? But one thing does continue to amaze me how many people can be wrong on this subject and claim to have studied the Bible. That's what concerns me. That's what troubles me. How can people say they have studied the Bible a lifetime and can't tell the problem that is occupying world statesmen more than any other problem in the world? To whom does the Holy Land belong?

I was there when Brezhnev. I was in the Holy Land when Brezhnev was still visiting with our President Nixon. And do you remember the final pronouncement that they had? That they had decided on this particular economic agreement arrangement and that one and the other one commercial matters. And they did express great concern about the problem of the Near East. I happened to be in Jordan at the time and one of them, they are not given on that subject to express a great deal of humor but this dear man said to me. His name is Nassar Quwiari. Notice the first name. He said to me, "So what else is new? Isn't that amazing? How they've done us a GREAT deal of good by saying this area causes concern?"

And it will continue to do so because the scripture tells us in Ezekiel 38 and 39 that the Holy Land is, your, your versions is usually say the center. It is the navel of the Earth. There is no
comparable, as we'll show this coming week this week later on in the week, there is no comparable territory in the world like that of the Holy Land. For a number of reasons. Perhaps some that you've never thought of before. But how is it that, where is it were, it bothers, it concerns, it worries world politician. How is it that we do not know what the actualities in the case are? You get a half a dozen ministers and you have them seated here around the table and ask them to discuss the subject of: To whom does the Holy Land belong? And you certainly believe me you'll certainly be reminded of that great Spanish general who jumped on his horse and rode off in all directions.

I tell my students that even in a circus nobody can ride two horses unless they're going in the same direction. Don't try it. You cannot be here and there and the other place. Now I'm reading from an actual number of Time Magazine. And this is the way it read. Two ladies are writing to the editors. One, evidently a Jewish lady Mrs. Edith Samuel from New York City. The other, evidently an Arab lady Muslim lady Mrs. Mansoor from Houston Texas. Mrs. Samuel from New York City says, "Sir, Gee fellas it's real nice of you to give us back the right to our Jewish city of Jerusalem." There had been a whole article around Christmas on that. "We're glad you're big enough to swallow your doubts and to tell the world you think Jews are fit to govern a city that's had a Jewish majority for the last 100 years. We're trying. We really are." Now pay close attention because I'm going to ask you which one of these ladies is right. I'm not going to ask for show hands but I'm just rhetorically going to ask you who's right. "We're trying. We really are to act with a decency, humanity, compassion, and mercy that our prophets taught us in Jerusalem 2,500 years ago. Thanks for advising the Israelis to take especially good care of the Arabs. It never hurts anyone to hear a good sermon a few thousand times. But we do wish the world
would stop yammering about Jerusalem. If Christianity and Islam also chose it as a holy place it was because of what the Jewish people did there two thousand and more years ago."

Is she right or is this lady right from Houston? "The un- Sir. The unanswered question still remains does a Russian of Jewish faith have more right to live in Jerusalem than a Palestinian whose ancestors have lived in the Holy City for generations but whose home or lands have now been expropriated by the Israeli government? The crux of the problem still remains. The Palestinians now dispossessed their identity aflame without a candle. A people without a country to call their own. Perhaps it's well to ponder Isaiah 61 eight, 'I the Lord loved justice. I hate robbery and wrong." Now my dear friends which one of these ladies is right? At the risk of incurring the wrath of women's lib. I say they are both wrong. Neither one of them knows the first thing about what the actualities of the case are. They don't know the Scripture the only one of the quote of the Scripture was a lady from Houston and my dear friends she so strangled that Scripture that it's shrieking to high Heaven.

My how people can use Scripture in the wrong way. That's ALL the more reason you and I ought to use it in the right way. Now we know there are injustices. That's what I think these two ladies are trying to say and be to be fair to them. They know there are injustices on both sides and there are. And they all are creatures of God. God loves all. Christ didn't die for one segment of the human family. He died for them all. And you know I've been amazed in over 40 years of Christian experience to be among Christian groups where they actually indicated that they were jealous of the Jews. Why?
I remember doing World War 2. I was ministering in Lubbock, Texas and while ministering in the church somebody said, "Would you like to talk to a merchant that I've talked to? A Jewish merchant in town." I said, "Of course I'd love to have the opportunity." I went there. And when this friend took occasional leave I told him I'd like to deal with a man alone. We were talking about the situation in the world and about Israel and course Hitler was going the limit on his rampage. And this dear man was so so depressed so despondent that look what's going on so forth. So I said, "Wait a minute. The story has not yet run its course. That's not the end of it. You remember Pharaoh? What God did to him? You remember Haman and what happened to him? Remember Israel is God's chosen people?" You know what that unsaved Jewish merchant said? "God's chosen people?" He said, "Let the Gentiles be God's chosen people for a while and get it in the neck."

You jealous of them. They're jealous of you. Suppose you went out in the beautiful woods of Oregon or Washington and got some kindling wood. You had it kindle in your hearth and there's a glow there and a brightness. Fire is very very attractive. In fact numbers of people in the history of the world have worshipped fire. The Persians, the American Indians, even the Romans and Greeks had gods of fire on their hearts. And here you are enjoying this log on your hearth. Suddenly you're possessed with a tremendous hate. You hate that log! You're jealous of that log. Why? It's burning to warm you. And why should you be jealous of Israel? Did you read Genesis 12? "That in thy seed shall all the nations of the Earth be blessed." God chose Israel not as an end in themselves. That's what they forgot. God chose them to bless you! Yes. So remember all creatures are the creation of God's wonderful hand and God has a concern for both.
But we want to know now to whom did God give the land. Remember He gave the land so that redemption could be wrought out and God's final purposes and the grand finale could be enacted on the sphere of history. That's where our Christian faith differs from all other religions of the world ethnic and cultic religions. They are limited and bound in imprisoned in nature. They're only trying to see how they can alleviate some of the natural illnesses and some of the natural handicaps and things that hinder us or somehow get above nature and try to reverse some of the hardships of nature. Drought, earthquake, or the rest of it.

The Christian faith, thank God, is not like the pagan religions. No. It is founded and grounded and cemented and rooted in history and geography! Tangible evidence. History. In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son. Geography. And they crucified Him at a place called Calvary. Yes our faith is grounded in facts! Powered facts! Irreversible facts! And as I say reliable narrative. We talk about men being reliable. Almost a joke means a man lied and then he lied again that made him reliable. No God IS trustworthy. God IS trustworthy. The Psalmist said, "I said in my haste all men are liars." I had a Bible professor who said I'll take my time and say the same thing. Psalmist was in haste but he wouldn't be.

Now let's start on the basic premise. Friends. All the Earth belongs to the Lord. I don't think anyone will want to disallow that. You have to. You have to admit that if you admit nothing else. During that week at park of the Pines it was a joy to see a young man who has a PhD and yet is not a believer and a dentist brought him and he was there every night, he wouldn't miss it. Came in with a number of young people. And he was admitting recently. "Yes I claim to be an atheist but I believe God is creator." You have to understand that first and then he was going to go on
from there. God is the maker of this universe. This whole Earth belongs to God. Psalm 24 one, "The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness there of. The world and they that dwell therein." In Exodus 19, five, "God says, 'I bore you on eagle's wings out of Egypt I brought you and brought you into Myself and you are gonna be My own people. A peculiar people.'" Now that doesn't mean strange or odd or square as they say. You know that's not, young people, that's not very kind to call folks that are over thirty squares because if you don't watch out they're going to call you a triangle. You know what a triangle is don't you? It's a square that's only half there.

[laughter]

Yes. So they are God's special, is the meaning of the word, absolute law, bounded off for Him. And the same thing is said in First Peter concerning us that's said about Israel. We in a certain sense from among all nations are particularly, specially, blessedly His. Peculiar comes from that Latin word peculiariurn. It was a man's own knapsack. Some things are so individual we don't want anybody else to use them. Nobody wants to be asked, "May I borrow your toothbrush for a little while?" Course not. That's your peculiariurn. You see and these belong particularly to the Lord. But God says right there right while He's saying that just what I've been saying that He doesn't just have any favorites. God doesn't have any pets let's get over that He does love Israel, but they're not pets. Now here He says, "Now therefore if you will obey My voice indeed and keep My covenant then you shall be a peculiar treasure," that's it, "unto me above all people for all the Earth is mine."
I haven't because I've chosen you for this purpose for redemptive purpose that the Messiah may come through you and the Word of God through you, salvation through you, it doesn't mean that I've thrown over all the rest of the human family. No. All the Earth is mine. Then in Genesis 14 verses 19 and 22. When Abraham comes back from the slaughter of the kings. His nephew Lot living in the world he shared the fate of the world and at the invasion he was carried off to Damascus and it took dear old Abraham that Lot may have thought of as being very straight laced. Dear old Uncle Abe very old fashioned Bible-centered. He took Abraham to bring Lot back. And when Abraham came back he met Melchizedek the priest of the Most High. (Hebrew translation of "The Priest of the Most High) The Possessor, YES. The Owner. If you will, The Proprietor of Heaven and Earth. I tell you when you look out, and enjoy this beautiful ocean and the beautiful sunrise and sunset. And Beloved, you haven't seen anything yet. Romans eight says, "All creation groans because God subjected all of it," and the word is vanity in our authorized version, the Greek mataiótis means a state where it does not fully exhibit what God expected to. You should've seen what it was in Eden. Now God put as it were a lid as you do on a pressure cooker so that when Adam and Eve and their descendants looked around, they weren't the only ones who were waiting for a redemption. It would have made it almost unbearable if all creation was in its original primordial, prim, pristine glory and only man with all the aches and pains.

No. God said all subject all creation so that is man groans and is the Holy Spirit groans in us. Make intercession with words that cannot be uttered. All creation, the Spirit of God, and we groan within ourselves. Waiting for the adoption, meaning the full realization of what we have the down payment of now namely the redemption of our bodies. All wonderful wonderful. God is the Possessor of Heaven and Earth, The Proprietor. No wonder He's made it so beautiful. And
I want to point out this evening hour that the world belongs to God without mortgage. First or second or lean or judgment. It's His outright. And because it is God's outright, I submit to you tonight that God can give the land, any land, to whomever He pleases. And it is a very interesting thing. According to Deuteronomy 32, eight and nine. That when God set the bounds of the nations of the world. Why do the Africans live in that part? And why do the Chinese and Japanese and Koreans live in another part? Now why do the English and the French and the German live in another part? Because when God set forth the bounds of the nations, He did it according to the people of Israel. Deuteronomy 32, verse eight and nine. So He can give it to whomever He wills.

Now did you ever stop to think that the name of the Holy Land that we know so well is Palestine? Did you know that that name is not a Hebrew name at all? That land bears the name of a foreigner. Palestine comes from Philistines. Though it has the name of a foreigner and the devil is a usurper. He wants to do things differently than God does not that the Philistines wanted to say that they had the basic claim to it. Although you have them as an enemy in the historic books of the Old Testament more than any other nation, living there on the western border of the land on the eastern edge of the Mediterranean. It does bear the name of a foreigner.

But tonight I am telling you on the authority of God's word the answer to the question to whom does the Holy Land belong. The answer is Israel. It belongs to them by a threefold, by a threefold claim. The Scripture says a threefold cord is not easily broken. Let's see what these three claims are. First of all, the promise of God. Turn with me to Genesis the 12th chapter. The 12th chapter of Genesis, one of the mountain peak chapters of the Bible. There is a sense in which our own
day and age of the Church is a beautiful implementation of the Abrahamic covenant that stated that way in Galatians three. "The Scripture foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith. Preach! The Scriptures foreseeing that," Scripture personified. "The Scriptures foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith preached the gospel beforehand unto Abraham saying, 'In thy seed shall all the nations of the Earth be blessed.'"

Now look at Genesis 12, verse one. "Now the Lord had said," this is when He was in Ur of the Chaldees. "Now the Lord had said unto Abram," that's before his name was changed, "'Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred and from my father's house onto a land,'" notice how early the word land is l-a-n-d, "'that I will show thee. And I will make of thee great nation. I will bless thee. Make thy name great and thou shall be a blessing and I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee and in thee shall all the families,'" that's all the nations of the Earth, "'be blessed.'"

Now some folk stop right there and say, "That's the end of the Abrahamic covenant." That's one of our worst mistakes in Bible reading and Bible study. We stop too soon. You remember that fellow that got in trouble when he was brought before the judge for stealing chickens claimed to be a lay preacher. He says, "What in the world is the matter with you?" He says, "Well I'm not doing anything but what Paul tells us to do in Ephesians." Well he said, "You're not only a thief, but you're a liar! Paul never told you to steal." He says, "Look at it here. Let him in stole, steal." He stopped too soon you see. Read that again! He said, "Let him let him that stole, steal. No more working with his hands and so on." The judge gave him six months in prison to learn the
two little words no more. Let him that steals let him this stole steal no more. Very important to read the Bible correctly.

Don't stop at the end of the third verse and say, "That is the end of the Abrahamic covenant." Did you notice the Lord appeared verse seven of the same chapter? "And the Lord appeared unto Abram and said, 'Unto thy seed,'" notice that little word, four letters one syllable means your descendants, "unto thy seed will I give," four letters, one syllable, give. Not barter not exchange nuh-uh, not give as a reward, salary, wait no nothing like that no, "seed give this land." Get those three, like a beautiful necklace and three beautiful gems or pearls, right in the middle.