



Ted Pike's
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THOMAS' REMARKS ARE BIBLICALLY SOUND

By Rev. Ted Pike
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Amid the uproar over White House reporter Helen Thomas' remarks that the Israelis should "get the hell out of there" and return to the nations is a much obfuscated fact: In her salty way, she is only repeating how God feels about Israel's biblically unlawful return to Palestine over the past 110 years.

The Old Testament emphasizes in dozens of the clearest passages that *never* will God allow an unjust rebellious nation of Jews to occupy His Holy Land [see footnote].

He wouldn't let even the spiritual colossus Moses in because of one infraction. He wouldn't let the ten doubting spies and an entire generation of Hebrews in because of unbelief.

Instead, God made it clear that *only* a believing remnant, trusting God and exemplifying righteousness, justice, and mercy (including to the "strangers in the land"), would have sanction to enter and occupy. This happened only two times in Old Testament history: under Joshua and, later, Ezra and Nehemiah, bringing back an obedient remnant from Babylonian captivity.

On the other hand, God repeatedly warns that if the Jews do occupy Palestine and yet turn from obedience He will scatter them to the nations. They cannot return until they embody the same righteousness as they did under Joshua and Ezra.

This is kindergarten Biblical ethics. The Christian and secular media would discover this very quickly if they would stop throwing dust in the air over Helen Thomas and actually read God's requirements, listed in passages at the end of this article.

Scripture is also emphatic that at the second coming of Christ a beleaguered Jewish remnant, survivors of the collapse of the present counterfeit, anti-Christ state of Israel, *will* trust in their rejected Messiah, Jesus. At that time, *and only after such repentance*, will Christ authorize their return to occupy the land under Christ's benevolent rulership for 1,000 years.

Who then owns the land and has rights of occupation today? Righteous Jews who honor Israel's true Messiah, Jesus, will always own the land of Israel and have rights of occupation. But, until national Jewish obedience occurs again, God made two things very clear after exile of the Jews to Babylon in the sixth century B.C.

- Jews must dwell among the nations, seeking the peace and prosperity of their neighbors (Jer. 29:4).
- Surrounding Gentiles would have the right to temporarily dwell in and cultivate the land. Since they were not recipients of such transcendent truth and light as Israel, God will not hold them to the same high moral standard. But, if they became overtly wicked, He would also expel them.

God says His holy land has always been sanctified for His glory, "vomiting out" the ancient Canaanites, the Jews, and anyone else who profanes it (Lev. 18:25). God gave the Samaritans in Jeremiah's time temporary rights to occupy in lieu of Jewish obedience. That sanction continues with the Palestinians or any other Gentiles who do not overtly defile God's law.

But God says emphatically that such endorsement can never be granted to a nation of Christ-rejecting, Pharisee-venerating, left-wing Jews such as flooded into Palestine over a century ago.

Why such strife in Palestine since Jewry returned? It's because very great discord erupts when God's law is flouted. If you touch two battery cables together, a shower of sparks explodes. The laws of nature are violated. A proliferation of persistent, unparalleled strife has accompanied Jewry's lawless return to Palestine. The law of God has been desecrated.

Israel's defiance of God's law, including violent expulsion of 800,000 Palestinians from their God-endorsed tenancy in the land to languish in concentration camps in Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza, is spiritual wickedness of the first magnitude. And the evangelical church over the past century has become a partaker of that iniquity and delusion by bidding Godspeed to it.

But, you may ask: Wasn't Jewish return necessary in order to provide safe haven for persecuted world Jewry? Hasn't Israel vindicated itself by providing such refuge?

Prime Minister Netanyahu answered that recently. He said there is no place on earth as dangerous for Jews as Israel.

The Bible says the same: "There is no peace for the wicked."

Footnote: Scriptures forbidding Jewish occupation of the Holy Land in unbelief include: Lev. 18:28, 26:27-46; Num. 14:23; Deut. 4:26-27, 6:18, 7:12, 29:28; 28:21, 25, 37, 41, 56-64, Deut. 30; Ezek. 13:9; Jer. 7:15, 29:13-14

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