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## I N T R O D U C T I O N

# DONALD TRUMP HAS MADE ISRAEL GREAT

**A**s I sat in the room watching my friend Benjamin Netanyahu and President Donald Trump announce the Peace Plan, dubbed “The Deal of the Century,” I kept thinking about all the president had accomplished in just three years since I put up 220 billboards in Jerusalem declaring “Trump Make Israel Great” when the president first came to Jerusalem. I reached into my pocket and pulled out a pen and held it in my hand. The pen was given to me by the president when he signed the executive order on combating Anti-Semitism on American college campuses on December 11, 2019. President Trump noted at that time, “The vile, hate-filled poison of anti-Semitism must be condemned and confronted everywhere and anywhere it appears.”

My mind went back to the first time I met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He was 28 years old, grieving his beloved brother's death. I also thought of the recent Embassy Gala where I hosted Ivanka Trump, Jared Kushner, Steve Mnuchin, David Friedman, Lindsey Graham, Ted Cruz, and several hundred other household names. I also kept thinking about all the presidents, and secretaries of state, and national security advisors that I had appealed to in hopes of recognizing Jerusalem and to do the things that Trump has done, with every one of them coldly ignoring my appeals.

As founding member of President Trump's Evangelical Initiative, I've had the privilege of working closely with President Trump, Jared Kushner, David Friedman, Jason Greenblatt, and Avi Berkowitz. I can say unequivocally that Donald Trump and his team have made Israel great.

When the President visited Jerusalem on May 22, 2017, I had many diplomats say to me, "Donald Trump is not going to recognize Jerusalem. Why did you put 220 billboards up around the city that read, 'Trump, make Israel Great?'"

I replied, "I know Donald Trump, and he will do more for your nation than any American president ever." This has certainly proven to be true.

Not only has the President recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and also the Golan Heights, he has also stood up to Iran. He stopped the funding for terror through the Taylor Force Act. He

closed the PLO office in Washington, DC and the anti-Semitic consulate in Jerusalem. He moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and built a Sunni alliance that is creating enormous support for Israel and has passed a historic Executive Order on Combating Anti-Semitism. I know, he gave me the pen.

In addition, President Trump has crafted the most brilliant vision for peace of any president in American history that in time could bring an end to the Palestine crisis. For that alone he deserves a Nobel peace prize.

Jared Kushner and the president are builders; they have laid a foundation that everyone can now build upon. There is no doubt that the foundation will last, and will be the basis for a true and lasting peace. Of course, it will take time; but with this plan, time is not an enemy, it's a friend. Every issue has been addressed.

One of the significant factors in the plan is that it is so extensive, it will help normalize relations between Israel and Arab countries more significantly than those which currently exist. It was astonishing to see three Muslim ambassadors in the White House for the unveiling of the plan and Arab leaders did not reject it out of hand or state direct criticisms of it. The Saudi Foreign Ministry said Riyadh "reiterates its support for all efforts aimed at reaching a just and comprehensive resolution to the Palestinian cause" and "appreciates the efforts of President [Donald] Trump's administration to develop a comprehensive peace plan." It also said the Gulf kingdom "encourages the start of direct peace negotiations."

The plan is a realistic solution for the Palestinians to govern themselves, but not have the power to threaten Israel. It addresses limits of certain sovereign powers in the Palestinian areas, i.e. maintaining Israeli security and control of the airspace. The Palestinians would not be allowed to sign treaties. There would be no recognition of a Palestinian state or any movement in the \$50 billion trust fund until corruption and terror have been rooted out, and the Jewish state acknowledged. This also includes the demilitarization of Gaza.

The plan deals with everything. In ten years, it would provide one million jobs for Palestinians, reducing unemployment to 10 percent, and the poverty rate by 50 percent. It's a vision. It reminds me of the "I Have a Dream" speech by Dr. Martin Luther King. I was very close to Shimon Peres, the ninth president of the State of Israel, during the last two years of his life. We met with many world leaders, including George W. Bush, Prince Albert of Monaco, and Pope Francis. Shimon was a dreamer.

To me, this plan is realistic, a wonderful dream like that of Theodor Hertzl. Since 1946, the United Nations has passed almost 700 resolutions and over 100 Security Council resolutions in an attempt to bring peace to the region. All have failed, because they did not understand the core issues that had to be addressed. President Trump's plan does that.

It gives the Palestinians self-determination, but it would not provide them with a government that will compromise Israel's security.

It addresses Israel's geographic challenges, such as the danger of Gaza, and demands complete disarmament of the terror state. Many do not realize that Israel has already given to the Palestinians 88 percent of the territory captured in 1967. The plan does not uproot anyone—not Jewish homes or Palestinians, and provides a brilliant transportation corridor.

Although the plan realistically addresses the refugee problem, it does not begin until the Palestinians prove that terror and Jew-hatred have been rejected. It takes into consideration Israel's valid legal and historical rights and recognizes the Bible and the Bible lands as legal. Neither is mentioned in the plan, but in essence it does allude to them. The commitment is that the Jewish people not be uprooted from their homeland.

Ninety-seven percent of Israelis in the West Bank will, through new infrastructure, be incorporated into contiguous Israeli territory. The recognition of Judea and Samaria is astonishing as is the recognition of the Jordan Valley, an area critical to Israel's security. It commits that Israel would maintain sovereignty over territorial waters and airspace.

The plan designates both East and West Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state. In no way does it divide the Holy City. A Palestinian capital would be in an area east and north of the existing security barrier, including Kafr 'Aqab—the eastern part of Shua'fat and Abu Dis—as the capital of al Quds. It does not even acknowledge that the Palestinians can use the term "East Jerusalem" as its capital.

The U.S. plan consents to an embassy in al Quds for the Palestinians. It also contains a strategy to work closely with Jordan and Egypt. There is a five-year provision to allow the PA to have a small airport and utilize Israel's ports in Haifa and Ashdod, but only with inspections and security by the Israelis. Palestinian refugees would not be permitted to return to the territories, but the plan does provide billions of dollars in compensation for them.

President Trump in his speech on January 28, 2020, spoke of the fact that Israel is a light unto the world. Prime Minister Netanyahu said that the United States would recognize Israeli sovereignty over the territory with no incremental security risks to the State of Israel. He reiterated that the plan would be a firewall against political corruption and terror. It would give the Palestinians time to meet the challenges of statehood. The Peace Plan decrees that the territorial allocation of a new state would remain open and undeveloped for a period of four years.

Israel is my life and has been for more than 40 years. That is how long it has been since I first began working with Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Benjamin Netanyahu. I can say that I wholeheartedly endorse this plan and so will my 70 million Friends of Zion followers. It is brilliant, but I do not believe that the Palestinians will embrace it this year or next year; it may take a decade. It will take time for the current population to move beyond corruption and radical Islam and join the civilized world.

To see the ambassadors of the Emirates, Bahrain, and Oman in



## DONALD TRUMP AND ISRAEL

attendance was astonishing. To realize that finally the White House and the State Department have recognized Judea and Samaria as true Bible Land from Bethel, where Jacob dreamed of a ladder ascending to heaven, to Shiloh, where the Ark of the Covenant held the Ten Commandments for centuries. Unlike all other plans, this one does not trade biblical land for peace. Donald Trump is truly making Israel great!



## CHAPTER 1

# A JOYFUL NOISE

*May we shout for joy when we hear of your victory  
and raise a victory banner in the name of our God.*

(PSALM 20:5 NLT)

On May 14, 2018, a joyful noise was heard in the streets of Jerusalem as Jews from every walk of life celebrated a long-awaited move. On that day, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rebirth of the nation of Israel, President Donald John Trump had kept his campaign pledge to relocate the nation’s embassy from Tel Aviv to the Holy City. The decision was announced by the president in December 2017 and generated a jubilant response from Prime Minister Benjamin “Bibi” Netanyahu and his government.

President Trump was the leader who stood his ground, made good on his campaign promise, and moved the embassy. Why was this move so important? It simply meant that one of the so-called “Superpowers” had acknowledged the Jews’ right to the land of Israel. The Jewish people settled in the area in about 1,500 BCE—some 3,500 years ago. Jerusalem was wrested from them in AD 70 when it was

destroyed by Roman troops. Despite that catastrophic event, Jerusalem was then, and is today, the capital of Israel.

In *Jerusalem, Sacred City of Mankind*, former mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek and author Moshe Pearlman wrote:

The spiritual attachment of the Jews to Jerusalem has remained unbroken; it is a unique attachment. Should one doubt that statement, he would have to look long and hard to find another relationship in history where a people, even in captivity, remained so passionately attached to a city for 3,000 years.<sup>1</sup>

The very name *Jerusalem* evokes a stirring in the heart and soul. It has been called by many names: City of God; City of David; Zion, the City of the Great King; but only one name has resonated through the centuries: Jerusalem!

Following the 1948 Armistice between Israel and Jordan, Jerusalem was a divided city:

Barbed wire and concrete barriers ran down the center of the city, passing close by Jaffa Gate on the western side of the old walled city, and a crossing point was established at Mandelbaum Gate slightly to the north of the old walled city.<sup>2</sup>

In 1967, the Six-Day War dramatically changed that situation. No longer would the Holy City be divided and the Jews banned from

celebrating their Jewish heritage; she had become a reunited city whose inhabitants were again joyfully remembering her past and reveling in her future.

In 1995, the 104<sup>th</sup> United States Congress passed the Jerusalem Embassy Act. It was designed to acknowledge Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and provide for a US Embassy to be established there no later than May 1999. Both Houses of Congress voted overwhelmingly to recognize Jerusalem. However, each year since its passage, presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama each waived the implementation of the Act. Waivers to forestall enactment of the bill were required every six months. The presidential denials were based on petty grievances over which branch of government had the authority to set foreign policy, and on “national security interests.” As a campaign promise, Donald Trump resolutely committed to honor the Embassy Act.

At the opening ceremony on May 14, 2019, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offered this praise:

Thank you. Thank you, President Trump, for having the courage to keep your promises. Thank you, President Trump, and thank you all, for making the alliance between America and Israel stronger than ever. And thank you, a special thank you, to you, Ambassador Friedman. Thank you, David, for everything you do to bring our countries and our peoples closer together.

Today, you have a special privilege. You are privileged to become the first American ambassador to serve your country in Jerusalem, and this is a distinct honor that will be yours forever. Nobody can be first again.

My friends, this is a great day for Israel. It's a great day for America. It's a great day for our fantastic partnership. But I believe it's also a great day for peace.<sup>3</sup>

Days before the embassy dedication, the Friends of Zion Heritage Center in Jerusalem (which this author founded) raised a billboard at the site of the ceremony and had many more congratulatory messages erected across the city. It was also my distinct honor to be chosen to host an official black-tie US Embassy Gala in Jerusalem following the dedication. More than 375 prominent leaders from the United States were in attendance. Among them were Senator Lindsey Graham (South Carolina), Senator Ted Cruz (Texas), former senator Joe Lieberman (Connecticut), Governor Rick Scott (Florida), Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, Ambassador David Friedman, and Jared and Ivanka Trump Kushner. During the event I thanked President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu, the two men whose legacy might very well prove to be that of having orchestrated peace between Israel and five or six of the Sunni Gulf States. Saudi Arabia and the other Middle East states that lie on the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman share Israel's concerns regarding Iranian ambitions to dominate the region.

Those countries have also been uneasy about close ties between Iran and the Palestinian Authority. (This alliance dates back to the late Yasser Arafat and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Arafat was the first foreign leader to visit Iran after the overthrow of the shah. Khomeini had closed the Israeli Embassy in Tehran and bequeathed it to Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization.)

Although not located on either of two major waterways, Egypt's leaders are concerned about the radicalism that governs Iran and its incursion into Turkey. Egyptian president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is also leery of Turkey's support of the Muslim Brotherhood, a radical group with a jihadist approach to Islam.

Israel is the only freely democratic nation among those in the region. She is a staunch US ally and has the military dynamism and capable leadership to help keep Iran in check.

The decision to move the embassy was a prophetic *coup d'état* for President Trump who months earlier was compared by Netanyahu to King Cyrus, a long-ago Persian king. Let me stop here a moment and point out that under the leadership of Cyrus, the Persians exhibited great compassion in allowing the Jews taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar to return to Judah, and to Jerusalem. What prompted the conqueror to allow the conquered to make their way home? None other than Jehovah God! God can move the heart of a king just as surely as He can move the heart of a pauper. As Proverbs 21:1 says: "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will" (ESV).

“Cyrus was upright, a great leader of men, generous and benevolent. The Hellenes, whom he conquered regarded him as ‘Law-giver’ and the Jews as ‘the annointed (sic) of the Lord.’”<sup>4</sup> In biblical history, Cyrus is first mentioned in 2 Chronicles 36:22–23, and again in Ezra 1:1–3. Both passages record that God moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah:

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:

“This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

“The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them.”

(Ezra 1:1–3 NIV)

So, Cyrus was appointed by Jehovah to free the children of Israel from Babylonian captivity and allow them to go back to Jerusalem. There, they would be permitted to rebuild the City of David. Two heathen rulers: one—Nebuchadnezzar—was raised up by God to dispense judgment on His people, while the other—Cyrus—was tasked with providing freedom and restoration.



On November 8, 2016, just hours before the final vote count in the presidential race between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, this writer was having dinner with the Chief Rabbi of Moscow in the business lounge of the David Citadel Hotel in Jerusalem. Nearby sat Dan Shapiro, who was then the US Ambassador to Israel. He revealed to friends at his table that he would soon be traveling to Ramallah to celebrate Hillary Clinton's victory. The Chief Rabbi asked me, "Do you know what all Jews worldwide are reading this week in the *Haftorah* [a short selection from the Prophets]? It is the story of Abraham and the blessing and curses." The Chief Rabbi added, "Donald Trump has chosen to bless Israel and also support life [referring to Trump's stand against abortion]. For that, God will bless him with the presidency; he will be a modern-day Cyrus."

The Chief Rabbi's statement would be repeated by Netanyahu soon after the embassy move:

I want to tell you that the Jewish people have a long memory, so we remember the proclamation of the great king, Cyrus the Great, the Persian king 2,500 years ago. He proclaimed that the Jewish exiles in Babylon could come back and rebuild our Temple in Jerusalem. We remember a hundred years ago, Lord Balfour, who issued the Balfour Proclamation that recognized the rights of the Jewish people in our ancestral homeland. We remember 70 years ago, President Harry S Truman

was the first leader to recognize the Jewish state. And we remember how a few weeks ago, President Donald J. Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Mr. President, this will be remembered by our people through the ages.<sup>5</sup>

In 2018, I had the honor of presenting President Trump with the Friends of Zion award in the Oval Office. I too repeated the words of Prime Minister Netanyahu when I said to him, "You are a modern-day Cyrus."

Looking back, I thought of a headline that graced the cover of *Time* magazine on April 8, 1966. The question had been posed: "Is God dead?" It was certainly feasible to think the answer just might be "Yes," especially after the assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The United States would all too soon be faced with two other murders that would roil the country: civil rights activist the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968; and Attorney General Robert Francis Kennedy (brother of JFK) on June 6, 1968.

These events were precursors to the hippie culture of free love. While this may initially sound innocuous, the ensuing chaos fomented by that movement introduced rebellion, the *Roe v. Wade* court battle legalizing abortion, the drug-abuse lifestyle, and the *Engel v. Vitale* suit that culminated in the removal of prayer from public schools across the nation. The revolution took over arts, the media, universities, even the White House. The Rev. Dr. Billy Graham's wife, Ruth,

was quoted as saying that if God failed to judge America, he would have to repent for raining judgment down on Sodom and Gomorrah.

Rather than supporting Israel's enemies—those who are determined to drive the Jews into the sea—Donald Trump has taken up the banner of support for the United States' closest ally in the Middle East. As we will see in these pages, he has done much to support Israel.

Vice President Mike Pence spoke to a pro-Israel group in July 2019 of the president's policies toward Israel and Iran, and his pledge to keep his campaign promises:

As President Trump has said, this administration will always stand in solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters, and we will always stand strong for the State of Israel. . . . He's a man of action, and he's a man of his word. He says what he means, and he means what he says, and from the very first day of this administration, President Donald Trump has been keeping the promises that he made to the American people.<sup>6</sup>

The vice president reinforced the president's determination to stand with Israel:

Ladies and gentlemen, Israel and the United States will always stand together, because America and Israel are more than friends. We are more than allies. The United States and Israel are family.<sup>7</sup>