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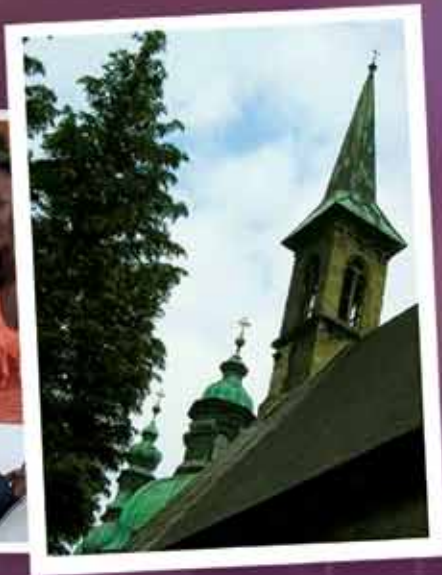
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**ISSUE #2 2011**

# On the Truth We Stand

By Liesl Maas



***“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32***

This is a famous scripture that is quoted everywhere, not only in the Christian world but in the secular world. Movies, music lines, and sitcoms - everybody loves to use

this line, “The Truth Will Set You Free.” These days now more than ever, there is a rising conflict over truth. For example, last year the world embraced Libyan leader Kaddafi, today they are fighting him because he's a thug and dictator. The truth is the Libyan leader has always been a Dictator and a thug. He has not changed only the world's perspective on truth has changed. Truth today has become relative with no foundation built upon principles of right and wrong, but rather truth is now based in our own ideas of what is right and wrong in the moment.

A recent survey states that our generation has the most information available at our fingertips. Despite the wealth of knowledge, the same survey reveals that we are fast becoming a generation with the least knowledge. The Bible says that if we belong to God and are His disciples, then we will know the Truth!

One of the major conflicts of truth within the Church of God today is over the person of Jesus Christ being both a Man and God. This conflict is not a new conflict

of truth, in fact it was one of the first challenges to the early Church in the 1st and 2nd Century and it continues today. This conflict is important for us to know as it is central to our faith, our salvation and our callings as young men and women of God. Jesus' conception was an act of God but Jesus was born fully man. In Matthew 12:32, Jesus gives Himself the title “Son of Man.” If Jesus was not fully man, He could not have suffered for our sins. His flesh and

# TRUTH

## "THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE"

blood provides us with the essential atonement that redeems us. Jesus was fully man, but He was also fully God. When talking to the crowds in John 18:23, Jesus says to them, *"You are from below; I am from above. Your are of this world; I am not of this world."* If Jesus was not fully God then He would not have been a Saviour for us at all, for no man can bridge the gulf between man and God as a result of sin.

Now this Truth may seem foundational but there is a raging battle going on today to try to disclaim who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for us on the cross. Jesus is the centre of our faith, the focus of the Bible and He is the only way to Salvation. No man comes to the father except those who believe and are saved by the blood of Jesus! (John 14:6)

The second conflict of truth surrounding the church today is over the Nation of Israel. This conflict I believe will only grow bigger as many divide their beliefs based on relative truth and not God's Truth from His Word. If you look through the Bible, the Nation of Israel is mentioned from the book of Genesis right through to

Revelations. One cannot ignore the fact that Israel has a purpose in God and that this purpose is still being played out today. So what is the truth about Israel? To find out we have to go back to Genesis.

Genesis 12:1-3 *"The LORD had said to Abram, Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

When God called Abraham into an everlasting covenant, He said to Abraham that through the Nation of Israel all the families of the earth shall be blessed. That is because when God called Abraham apart, He showed His decision to save the world through the people of Israel. God showed us that we need a Savior by giving Moses the Law as a standard by which we should live before God. The great patriarchs of our faith are Jewish and Jesus Himself came to this earth as the great, great grandson of Abraham and of the line of King David. Through the Jewish people,

we have been given everything that we hold dear to us as Christians - most importantly our Messiah Jesus Christ! That is why all the families of the earth have been blessed through the Jewish people and continue to be blessed as salvation reaches the ends of the earth!

In 1948, the Jewish people returned to the land God promised them 4000 years ago when He made His covenant with Abraham. The God we serve does not forsake His covenants or else we ourselves stand on very shaky ground as far as God's salvation Covenant. God still has a purpose for them to redeem them to Himself before Jesus returns again to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Romans 11:25-27 talks about this time. God is asking us to come along side Him in His purposes, to stand with His people Israel, to comfort them and to believe that God will redeem them to Himself one day.

*"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins."* Isaiah 40:1-2

The biggest challenge confronting our generation is the challenge of falling into deception. In World War II, many Christians in the churches in Germany did not recognise that Adolf Hitler was the evil murderer of millions of innocent people that he turned out to be. We may think that is unbelievable but we should not think that those people are any different to each one of us. They began to believe in relative truth as Hitler sought to restore the economy and morality of a demoralized German society.

Today the world is in a similar dilemma as those in pre-WWII times. We watch the economies of the world destabilizing, natural disasters increasing and wars and rumors of wars mounting. At the center of all the conflicts lies the tiny nation of Israel. We as the younger generation need to pray to God for His Holy Spirit to lead us and guide us so that we are not swayed by the world's relative truth but rather stand firmly on God's Truth. The Word of God promises that those who are God's disciples will know His truth. We will be like the five virgins from Matthew 25, ready and waiting when the Bride Groom returns!



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Grafted is dedicated to raising up a younger generation who will understand the unique times we are living in today, step into our individual God given callings and destinies, and stand, support and bless the Nation of Israel. The Lord says to Israel, "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Genesis 12:3



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*Thank You!*

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STOP CUT

# Should the United Nations grant the Palestinians a State this September?

By Kasey Barr

Many of us can make fine theological arguments to support Israel, but it may be difficult to communicate these beliefs to a world where few believe in the Bible. God's word is the highest authority, but sometimes it may be useful to add to your theological argument a case for Israel based on man-made laws and demonstrate that even there, Israel has a firm standing. Below we will look at a current issue, providing some talking points from an international law perspective.

This September, the Palestinian leadership will seek recognition of a Palestinian state from the United Nations General Assembly

(UNGA)– the United Nations is the most recognized international power with members from 192 nations. It is important to note that the Palestinians have committed to reach a **negotiated settlement** with Israel and not to take unilateral actions. In other words, both parties agreed that they will not take steps that have not been agreed upon by both sides. This was part of the Interim Agreements, or Oslo II Accords. **This bid by the Palestinians for statehood leaves Israel completely sidelined.**

It is important to note that the highest authority within the United Nations rests with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). It is composed



of only 5 permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) and 10 rotating member states. The five permanent members have veto power and can strike down any resolution they wish. Only resolutions passed through the UN Security Council are binding, meaning that **General Assembly resolutions are simply recommendations and are not enforceable.**

Therefore, even if the UN General Assembly passes a resolution recognizing a Palestinian state the Security Council must nominate any

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new members to the United Nations. As of today, the US State Department has issued statements that they believe the Palestinian bid is unhelpful and that they must continue to negotiate with Israel. The US, being a member of the UN Security Council, thus has the power to veto this upcoming resolution.

The Palestinian leadership has been divided. In the West Bank the Palestinian Authority (PA) rules and in the Gaza Strip, the terrorist organization Hamas, took power through democratic elections in June 2007. **The official charter of Hamas, as**

**well as its leaders, state that their goal is the destruction of Israel.** The PA broke relations with Hamas and has, at least through public statements, committed to negotiating peace with Israel. The bid for statehood in the United Nations includes both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Because of this, on May 4th, **the Palestinian Authority recently signed a "reconciliation agreement" with Hamas.** This means that a portion

of the Palestinian government is still outwardly, unapologetically committed to the destruction of the state of Israel.

**For the United Nations to recognize a Palestinian State without a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, they will be going against their own principles** of promoting negotiated settlements, recognizing international agreements as binding (Oslo II), and upholding prior resolutions, such as 242, which requires the Palestinians to recognize the State of Israel. These are just a few reasons why the international community should not welcome the UNGA resolution to create a Palestinian State.

## Talking points

- **Palestinians have committed to negotiating with Israelis and not moving forward without consent from both sides.** Oslo II established that *"Neither side shall initiate or take any steps that will change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip pending the outcome of the Permanent Status negotiations."* (Article 31).
- **The US State Department has issued statements that the Palestinian bid for Statehood is unhelpful and that they must continue to negotiate with Israel.** *The United States of America is a permanent member of the UNSC and can veto any UNGA resolution.*
- **The bid for statehood in the United Nations includes both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Because of this, the Palestinian Authority recently signed a "reconciliation agreement" with Hamas.** *Hamas is a recognized terrorist organization committed to the destruction of the State of Israel.*
- **For the International community and the United Nations to recognize a Palestinian State without a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, they will be going against their own principles.** *The United Nations promotes negotiated settlements, recognizes international agreements as binding (Oslo II), and upholding prior resolutions, such as UNSC resolution 242, which requires the Palestinians to recognize the State of Israel – something Hamas refuses to do.*

ENTER THE BATTLE ZONE

# WALK IN HIS WAY

By Stephan Lehnert  
GRAFTED REPRESENTATIVE, GERMANY

*Teach me your way, LORD,  
that I may rely on your  
faithfulness; give me an  
undivided heart, that I  
may fear your name.*

- PSALM 86:11

David's prayer from Psalm 86 is a prayer of praise in the midst of affliction. It is coming right from the bottom of David's heart - spoken to our sovereign and almighty God. David knows that there is only ONE who is mighty to save, above and beyond all circumstances.

David knew what it meant to walk in his own ways. In his prayer he breaks with this self-determined attitude and

a great king turns into a pleading student. Are you willing to give up your status? Also, King David knew about another truth or reality different from his own perceptions – God's truth. God's truth is an invisible reality. King David decided to exchange his truth for the Lord's truth and reality. Are you ready to give up your own truth which is not of the Lord?

David's cry for an undivided heart is an expression of the battle between the seen and unseen world. Is anybody familiar with these struggles? I am. Pushing the "I-like-it" button more than the "God-likes-it" button is not good for



us. Because the one who was and is will come back! When? Nobody knows the exact day or time, but the Bible says that we should be prepared. His coming could be sooner than we imagine!

The Fear of the Lord is the only legitimate fear in this world. He who fears God pays him awe and reverence. The one who pays awe and reverence to the Lord knows about His holiness.



## Prayer points

- 1 Pray Psalm 86:11 for yourself.
- 2 Pray for the gentile nations that they hear and receive the good gift of the Gospel.
- 3 Pray for the body of Christ, that the Church may be a good example and visible sign of the glory of the Lord.
- 4 Pray for Israel. May the people of Israel follow King David's example of prayer and attitude.

King David left his throne and let the Almighty be seated on it. O Lord, I pray for all readers that you are rightly seated in their lives.

We were created to live our lives in freedom. We are not like fish in an aquarium. Our purpose is to swim in the ocean! We were created in the image of God to live and act according to His ways and His truth. Let's take David's prayer and apply it to our own lives!

