Welcome to Jerusalem. Welcome to the eternal undivided capital of the State of Israel and of the Jewish people.

I want to congratulate all of you on celebrating 30 years of standing firmly by Israel’s side. Three decades ago, when some countries decided to move their embassies out of Jerusalem, you decided to come to Jerusalem. At first you came by the hundreds; now you come by the thousands.

Year after year, you come from over a hundred countries to march through the streets of Jerusalem; and in doing so, you remind the people of Israel that we are not alone. You remind us that there are people across the world who recognize that in returning to Zion, the Jewish people have returned home.

This land is our homeland. It’s the same land where the Jewish patriarchs prayed, where our prophets preached, and where our kings ruled. It’s the same land from which 2000 years ago spanned forth a message of universal peace and love that would spread across the world.

There are those who still deny the history of the Jewish people in this land. There are those who still refuse to recognize that Israel is the Jewish State – the nation state of the Jewish people. What these people refuse to say, you declare with pride. You declare it with pride, without hesitation, without reservation. You celebrate the right of the Jewish people to be sovereign in its homeland, to ingather its exiles, and to rebuild Jerusalem.

So on behalf of my country, and on behalf of my people, I say thank you. Thank you for your moral clarity. Thank you for your solidarity. Thank you for supporting the one and only Jewish State. Thank you!

Mr. Netanyahu serves as Prime Minister of the State of Israel. More Feast coverage inside...
The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was founded in 1980 as an act of comfort and solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people in their claim to Jerusalem.

Today, the Christian Embassy stands at the forefront of a growing mainstream movement of Christians worldwide who share a love and concern for Israel and an understanding of the biblical significance of the modern ingathering of Jews to the land of their forefathers.

From our headquarters in Jerusalem and through our branches and representatives in over 80 nations, we seek to challenge the Church to take up its scriptural responsibilities towards the Jewish people, to remind Israel of the wonderful promises made to her in the Bible, and to be a source of practical assistance to all the people of the Land of Israel.

The ICEJ’s United States Branch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with offices in Washington, D.C. and in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. We are a non-denominational faith ministry supported by the voluntary contributions of our members and friends.

We invite you to join with us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide by using the enclosed response card to make your donation to the ongoing work and witness of the ICEJ.

Please mail all donations to:
PO Box 440276
Nashville, TN 37244

Or make your tax-deductible gift online:
www.icejusa.org

Upcoming ICEJ Seminars

**Viera, FL**  
*Discerning the Times*  
Saturday October 23 @ 9.00am  
Prince of Peace Church  
Larry Booth & John Small

**Savoy, IL**  
*For Such a Time as This*  
October 29/30 @ 7pm/9am  
First Baptist Church of Champaign  
Carrie Burns & Susie Sandager

**Atlanta, GA**  
*Islam in America*  
Saturday November 6 @ 9.00am  
Mount Paran Church of God  
Susan Michael

**Melbourne, FL**  
*Discerning the Times*  
Saturday Nov. 13 @ 9.00am  
Church on the Rock  
Larry Booth & John Small

**Waxahachie, TX**  
*Understanding Israel*  
Saturday Nov. 20 @ 9.00am  
Covenant Life Church  
Susan Michael & Michael Hines

**Stoystown, PA**  
*Understanding Israel*  
Saturday Nov. 27 @ 9.00am  
Christian Community Church  
Michael Hines & Daryl Hedding

Upcoming Speaking Events

**Miami, FL**  
Sat. October 30 @ 8.30am/6pm  
Sunday October 31 @ 9am  
King Jesus Ministries  
Malcolm Hedding with Paul Wilbur

**Port Charlotte, FL**  
Wednesday October 27 @ 6.30pm  
Murdock Baptist Church  
Malcolm Hedding

Schedule an ICEJ Speaker or Seminar today!  
For more details call: (615) 895-9830.  
www.icejusa.org/events
Jerusalem first appears on the pages of scripture as a mysterious town that is ruled over by a very unique person called Melchizedek.

He is a Priest/King, without beginning or end, who reigns over a city that is called a place of righteousness and peace. This Melchizedek is honored by Abraham, the great Patriarch of Israel.

So Jerusalem is the City of God and thus, from the very dawn of time, it is elevated to symbolize an eternal and perfect status. By serving Melchizedek, Abraham gives recognition to the ideals that the City sets forth. These are:

1. That humankind is fallen and lost in the valley of darkness and war.

2. That the great need of humanity is to find its way home to the city, the place where God dwells with His people forever.

3. That this way home is only by atonement. The King of the city will give the world bread and wine! That is, He will sacrifice Himself for the fallen world.

4. That Abraham and his people will serve the world with the message of the city.

The Bible says that he went out looking for a city that has foundations whose architect and builder is God (Hebrews 11:10). He found Jerusalem and Melchizedek, Priest of the Most High God!

5. That the right of passage into the City is by righteousness and peace.

That is, God’s righteousness and peace! The two go together and thus there will be no peace in this dark world until the city gives these to the world. Any peace formula until then is destined to fail because it is unsustainable without these two ‘ingredients’ (1 Thessalonians 5:3). Some peace, however imperfect, is better than no peace, because it gives opportunity for the message of the city to be preached! (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

This is why we should hope and pray for the success of even “fleeting peace.” God’s righteousness and peace cannot be attained by human religious endeavor. God has to give these by His grace as Melchizedek did to Abraham (Titus 2:11).

6. That the longing of the redeemed of the earth and all of Heaven is that the city will become a praise in the earth.

These are the ideals that undergird the city of Jerusalem. Sadly, the city sits astride a fallen world. This ‘fallenness’ is characterized by an unrelenting hatred of God and its messenger Abraham. Therefore, the City has been and will be assaulted by all peoples. They will seek to destroy it and remove it from Abraham’s children. Indeed, it has suffered more assaults and destructions than any other city on earth, but it still stands because the God of heaven is her founder. She will yet again endure a global assault and survive (Zechariah 12:1-3).

In this final assault, the nations will be judged and weakened, Melchizedek will reign over the nations, enforce peace with a rod of iron, and they will learn war no more (Isaiah 2:1-4; Isaiah 11:1-5; Revelation 12:5). The city will become a praise in the earth as the nations ascend to it year by year to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles! Following one last battle after a thousand years, it will merge with the New Jerusalem and those who live there will walk in perfect righteousness and peace forever! Behold all things will become new! (Revelation 21:1-5).

However, the city’s journey toward this day of praise and glory is successful and triumphant partly because of the faithful prayers of God’s people who know her and love her. This eternal Jerusalem will forever be a reminder of Abraham the messenger, for on its gates will be inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of Israel and on her foundation stones the names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb, and He – the Lamb – gave bread and wine to the world! (Revelation 21:12-14; Luke 22:17-20).

**By Rev. Malcolm Hedding**

Rev. Malcolm Hedding serves as ICEJ Executive Director and travels extensively teaching on Israel in churches across the world.
The Christian Embassy’s annual celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem broke new ground this year, as the gathering under the theme “Jerusalem, a Praise in the Earth” was broadcast live and by Web streaming each day to tens of thousands of homes worldwide.

The Feast opened with a flurry of dynamic worship and a colorful parade of flags from the scores of nations represented at this year’s gathering. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu extended a warm welcome to the thousands of Feast pilgrims from some 80 countries that had ascended to Jerusalem for the week-long festivities.

“Year after year you come from over a hundred countries to march through the streets of Jerusalem; and in doing so you remind the people of Israel that we are not alone,” Netanyahu said in a video greeting (reproduced on page 1).

As Netanyahu addressed the Opening Night gathering, it was being beamed live around the world by the Norwegian Christian television channel Visjon Norge, and streamed via the ICEJ websites in Jerusalem and in the United States. By the end of the Feast, over 150,000 unique viewers had watched the evening celebrations online, along with tens of thousands more on television.

Israel’s Minister of Tourism Stas Misezhnikov also was on hand to welcome the Christian pilgrims and to thank the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem and its Executive Director, Rev. Malcolm Hedding, “for his inspiring leadership and the tireless work of the Embassy’s staff in organizing this year’s beautiful Feast of Tabernacles celebration.”

The ICEJ next hosted an Open House reception at its world headquarters to mark its 30th birthday, with Israeli cabinet minister Benny Begin attending as a special guest of honor.

“Your help, your assistance, your support is invaluable to us all through these years, and especially now,” said Begin. “So as we stand here together today, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the activities of the International Christian Embassy here in Jerusalem, on behalf of the government of Israel, I thank you for a wonderful service directly to us.”

His father, the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin, had provided key backing when the Christian Embassy was founded during the very first public Christian celebration of the Feast in September 1980. At that time, the last remaining thirteen national embassies had just left the city for Tel Aviv in protest of the Knesset’s passage of the “Jerusalem Law.” In response, some 1,000 pilgrims from 40 nations decided to open a Christian Embassy in Jerusalem as an act of comfort and solidarity with the 3000-year old Jewish claim and connection to the city.

Given that the issue of Jerusalem has again come to the fore, this year’s Feast was also dedicated to reaffirming global Christian support for a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty, a message that was reinforced at several events during the festivities. This included the ever-popular Jerusalem March, when several thousand Feast pilgrims...
paraded through the streets of the capital city waving flags and wearing our trademark “Jerusalem United” T-shirts.

After the march, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat came to assure a packed Feast audience that his city would remain united, despite the efforts of the international community to re-divide it.

“Ideologically, Jerusalem is the heart of the world. You cannot divide a heart. You cannot divide a heart. It will never work,” Barkat insisted.

Other highlights of the Feast included the bestowing of the annual Nehemiah Award to Dr. Pat Robertson, founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network, for his lifelong achievements in Christian Zionist endeavors.

“It’s kind of like heaven because you hear all of these languages, and you see all these people from different countries”, said CBN President Michael Little who was on hand to receive Dr. Robertson’s award. “They’re all talking about Jesus. They’re talking about their relationship with other Christians. They’re talking about God.”

On the final evening, the gathering moved to the Ein Gedi oasis along the Dead Sea for a powerful time of ministry by well-known evangelist Reinhard Bonnke.

“I don’t know how anyone can be born-again and not be pro-Israel,” Bonnke observed, before delivering a rousing commission to the nations to go back to their homelands and “preach the Gospel.”

Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors
ICEJ Project Update

Over recent months, the ICEJ has been sponsoring a special project to acquire, renovate and expand an assisted-living facility in Haifa for impoverished Holocaust survivors, which will now be able to accommodate up to 80 residents.

German Christians affiliated with the ICEJ have been the primary source of funds for this unique project, which is considered by many as a model for Israel in dealing with the growing national problem of poor and needy survivors of the Shoah. An estimated 210,000 Holocaust survivors currently live in Israel and up to one-third of these are in dire financial straits, often due to exorbitant medical costs.

The new facility will now be able to house up to 80 survivors, providing all their lodging, food and medical care for free, with doctors and nurses from area hospitals volunteering to cover their health needs around-the-clock. The kitchen and dining area also will be able to feed other Holocaust survivors who live in the area on a daily basis.

More than 2,000 applicants, mostly survivors of Nazi death camps in Poland and Germany, signed up on the waiting list for a place to stay in the new facility.

At a special dedication ceremony for the enlarged facility in September, the ICEJ contributed an additional $300,000 to purchase a second building with three floors on the same street, which will be able to house another 50 survivors from the current waiting list. Funds are now needed to renovate and furnish the newest apartment building and to help with daily operating expenses.

“Through this special project, we are seeking to honor those who have been subjected to unspeakable horrors and evil,” said ICEJ Executive Director Rev. Malcolm Hedding.

“We can never fully know or understand what they have been through but we can give them hope, love, care and most of all dignity. They give meaning to why a Jewish State is needed and thus they teach us and most of all inspire us by their lives.”

Support ICEJ Aid Projects in Israel
www.icejusa.org/aid
‘Jacob I Loved’

The false logic of opposing Israel out of sympathy for Palestinian suffering

By David Parsons

There is a growing movement among evangelical Christians today to actively stand against Israel out of sympathy for Palestinian suffering. This trend is not new, but it has gained more notice lately through the new documentary film “With God on Our Side” and other initiatives.

It also manifested at the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Minneapolis in July. Pro-Israel Christians and Jews attended the gathering to oppose the adoption of a deeply flawed report submitted by a special Middle East study committee which laid the blame for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict squarely on Israel and endorsed the boycott, divestment and sanctions strategy.

The two sides were encouraged to meet and managed to hammer out a compromise version that was less strident than the original report. Several pro-Israel advocates came out of that encounter insisting that the phenomenon of Evangelical support for the Palestinians was here to stay.

Dexter Van Zile, a Christian media analyst for CAMERA, told The Jewish Telegraphic Agency afterwards that it was necessary to recognize the depth among some Christians of sympathy for the Palestinians. “One of the things I have learned in the past few years is that there really is a genuine concern on the part of the [pro-Palestinian] activists. People who ignore that concern and dismiss it aren’t going to get anywhere,” he said.

Some of these Christians are moved by the plight of the shrinking numbers of Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land, and are prone to arguments that Israeli oppression and occupation are to blame for their exodus. Those sympathies often lead to broader backing of the Palestinian cause.

Other Evangelicals mistakenly think that by joining the Israel bashing, they somehow ingratiate themselves with Arab audiences and open them up more to the Gospel. Thus, we have even witnessed well-known evangelists appearing on stages with Hizbullah.

To address these concerns, it would be easy to point out that radical Islam is in fact the chief cause of Christian Arab flight throughout the Middle East, or that much of Palestinian suffering is a self-inflicted wound.

But Christians also need to realize that we do not have to take one side and reject the other. The truth is that we can and should love Israel and the Arabs too! Yet to do so requires a better understanding of the biblical paradox of God’s universal love versus His right of sovereign election.

Many pro-Palestinian Christians contend that with the coming of Jesus, the unique role served by Israel in God’s redemptive plan was “fulfilled,” and the Church is now called to preach a message of universal love and acceptance. That is, the days of divine particularity are over.
Now it is true that God is no respecter of persons. The Apostle Peter proclaimed that “God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.” (Acts 10:34-35) Jesus also explained that his Father “sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matthew 5:45; see also John 3:16; Romans 10:13; 2 Peter 3:9)

And yet the New Testament also affirms the concept of divine election. In Romans 9:13, the Apostle Paul cites Malachi 1: “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.” He explains this was God’s sovereign choice from the womb, before either twin brother had done anything good or evil, “that the purpose of God according to election might stand…” (v. 11)

This is an example of a biblical paradox, whereby two eternal truths that appear irreconcilable run parallel to each other, never seeming to meet. Another good example is the difference between free choice and predestination. Both are true and the ‘art’ of the Christian walk is to learn to live within these paradoxical truths and never cling to one to the exclusion of the other. Otherwise you lapse into heresy.

In Romans 9-11, the Apostle Paul goes as far as he can in expounding on the enduring election over natural Israel, but without excluding God’s universal love for all humanity. He flirts with the edge for a reason; to lay out the case for Gentiles to respect Israel’s continued chosen-ness, even to the point of warning that failure to do so could mean being “cut off” from the household of faith.

That is the unique challenge of the Israeli-Arab conflict for Christians; we don’t have to revile one side to support the other. Both are “beloved of the Father!”

May God give us grace and strength in these days.

David Parsons serves as ICEJ Media Director in Jerusalem and Contributing Christian Editor of The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition in which this article was first published.

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THE BATTLE FOR TRUTH
Extracts from the keynote address at the Feast of Tabernacles Israeli Guest Night Celebration

Delivered by Susan Michael
ICEJ USA DIRECTOR

“Hitler understood the role of propaganda in preparing the way for the extermination of the Jewish people. We need to understand the role of the propaganda campaign currently being waged against Israel. And we need to take it seriously…

“The enemies of Israel have found a politically correct way to defeat Israel, by pressuring her sanctioning her and calling for her end. Every defensive military action she takes is being called a war crime. Israel’s right to exist is now being openly questioned… She is not just blamed for the lack of Palestinian Statehood, but for the lack of world peace.

“Isaiah 62:6-7 says: ‘I have set watchmen on your walls O Jerusalem… give Him no rest till He establishes, and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth…”

“We know that the battle is the Lord’s. And we will pray as though it is all up to Him… But we also need to roll up our sleeves, and see this for the battle that it is. It is a battle for truth.

“For this reason, the International Christian Embassy is launching the Israel Defense Network, through which we will equip Christians around the world with the resources and the information they need to better defend Israel and to answer her critics. This battle for the truth is in every country, in every city, in many Universities, and is even in the Christian world…

“We can all learn to take a bolder and more vocal stand for Israel at a time she needs it.

“But let’s be clear about one thing. This is not just about Israel. And this is not just about the Jewish people. Israel, you are not alone. The battle for truth is our battle too. We are with you!”

Now it is true that God is no respecter of persons. The Apostle Peter proclaimed that “God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.” (Acts 10:34-35) Jesus also explained that his Father “sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matthew 5:45; see also John 3:16; Romans 10:13; 2 Peter 3:9)

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