

Andrew Tucker on the World Prayer Network – August 31, 2022

BOOK: *The Hague Statement of jurists on the Israel Palestine Conflict*, by The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation - <https://www.thinc.info/the-hague-statement-of-jurists-on-the-israel-palestine-conflict-3/>

www.thinc.info

Israel has been placed internationally as if it were the worst war criminal in the world.

This whole conflict is not really about law, and won't be resolved by any international law or legal tribunals; law has become a weapon in the hands of the enemies of the God of Israel – we're talking about spiritual warfare.

In Revelation: River of Life, and the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations.

3 sons of Noah >> 70 nations

Israel >> miracle nation

- Birth of Isaac
- Covenant of the Law
- Davidic Covenant

The Land – not a transfer of title, but more like a trust

- For a task
- A light to the nations
- Representation of God

He established them so the Law can go forth

Church – heavenly kingdom

Ezekiel 36:37-38

Physical Restoration of Israel, followed by Spiritual Restoration

Zionism was a secular movement

Zachariah 12 & 14

Ezekiel 38 (Gog and Magog)

The spirit of the End Times, the spirit of the anti-Christ.

Signs of the Times

- 1) Restoration of Israel – sign of the times
 - a. The fig tree, will grow its leaves and bear fruit again
 - b. The fig tree that Jesus cursed
- 2) Lawlessness/chaos/confusion around the world
 - a. Fear
 - i. Lost perspective of God's Law
 - b. 2 Timothy 3
 - c. 2 Thessalonians 2

Living in a Time of Lawlessness –

But also have more laws than ever/suffocating from laws

Complex, complicated

Trying to organize our lives and think law is the way to solve all problems

But the problems will be solved when hearts change, not law

Lawlessness is not about a lack of human laws in society, but a lack of God's Law

International Law – Law of/for/made by nations

European idea, 19th Century

Western, Enlightenment concept

Nations agreeing with each other about how they will relate to each other

When international law first started, it was mainly about nations respecting the sovereignty of each other

U.N. Charter Section 2 – Sovereign Equality of States

These concepts changed in WWI – moved from “empires” to “nation-states”

100 years ago – less than 50 members of the U.N.

Today – almost 200 members of the U.N.

Problem today is that many nations in U.N. do not share Western values, and are particularly opposed to Judeo-Christian values.

Sadly, some of these nations were former Christian countries

International Law = not by definition a good thing

Only works if the intention of those who use it are good

WWII – International Law has now been hijacked by the enemies of freedom

U.N. was set up in 1945, after WWII, with the idea to ensure world peace and security... but we've ended up with the opposite – there is nothing the U.N. can do to ensure peace and security.

Deepest problem with U.N.: member states – each member state has one vote

Resolutions against Israel

Since 1960s / 1970s

“Israel On Trial”

Law has been misused over the last 50 years to delegitimize the state of Israel

“Lawfare” - use of laws to undermine and ultimately destroy

Islamic and Arab worlds allied with South America and Soviet Union to form majority of member states to attack and destroy Israel

Always a majority of member states willing to condemn the Jewish people

How do they condemn Israel?

- Concept of statehood
 - o international lawyers questioning the sovereignty of states
 - o wanting NGOs, rebel groups, people groups instead
- Concept of territorial sovereignty
 - o States do not own territory
 - The idea of sovereignty in international law is not quite the same as the idea of land ownership as we know it in private law
 - It's not just owning territory that makes you a state, but controlling and governing it as well

- The control and sovereignty over territory is evidence of statehood
 - In order to be a state, you must have a government, people, and territory, and exercise authority over that territory

Big Question: what is the territory of the state of Israel, and who decides?

Key: what happened after WWI when the League of Nations approved the mandate for Palestine (building on the Balfour declaration which had been issued by Britain in 1917)

Woodrow Wilson – the concept of self-determination of peoples is paramount

Turkish empires collapsed – what to do with former Ottoman and German territories?

Mandate: recognition by the world community that peoples of the land should become independent

Three Middle Eastern Mandates:

1. Mesopotamia >> Iraq
2. Syria and Lebanon >> Modern Republics of Syria and Lebanon
3. Palestine >> Homeland for the Jewish People
 - Unique because it recognized particular people as being uniquely connected to the land
 - Most unique document in international law
 - More like a treaty
 - Written in 1922
 - Promises the native people to reestablish their homeland
 - Foundation stone for Israel's territorial sovereignty when Israel was created in 1948

In 1948, the Arabs attacked

Israel entered into armistice agreement with Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia
This is what created "West Bank" division

Principle of "Uti Possidetis Urus"

No international lawyer can say, "This is the absolute truth."

- No ultimate arbiter of international law
- International Court of Justice cannot rule regarding Israel's territorial sovereignty
 - Unless Israel consents
- International Criminal Court also cannot rule regarding Israel's territorial sovereignty
 - Because Israel is not party to the Criminal Court statute

A lot of courts, tribunals, organizations would like to make a ruling, but cannot.

Ex.: Resolution 2334 – Obama's last resolution before Trump became President
Basically saying that all settlements are illegal, and Jerusalem belongs to the Palestinians.

However:

- Security Council resolutions:
 - Non-binding / no legal power
 - Merely a political statement
 - Security council has no power to make these decisions
- General Assembly resolutions:
 - Non-binding / no legal power
 - Merely a deeply political statement

Israel has to stand on its own understanding of its own legal position
Unfortunately, Israel does not always well understand or defend its own legal position

Netanyahu promised to annex settlements, but failed to do so

Book written by Kushner regarding Trump Peace Plan

Support Israel – international law will not solve problem – but must stand for justice

Based on mandate, Israel has strong legal right over Judea and Samaria, including Jerusalem (strongest case).

West Bank – Oslo Accords – BIG MISTAKE

- Binding treaties
- Nature of rights
 - Not sovereignty rights
 - PLO not a state
 - Palestinian authorities no sovereignty, not a state
- Areas A+B
 - 30% of West Bank
- Area C – contentious
 - under Israeli control
 - Palestinians claim it belongs to them
 - EU agrees with Palestinians
 - BUT Palestinians cannot have sovereignty until they become a state
 - Palestine does not meet criteria of statehood

So, legally = unclear

“the law of belligerent occupation” (settlements are illegal)

Geneva Convention – Article 49.6

“occupying powers cannot transfer their own population into occupied territory”

International law does not provide a clear, definitive answer on most of these issues

“We don’t do it because there’s a legal victory to be won; there is a legal fight to be done, but ultimately it is a spiritual issue. It’s a battle for the hearts and minds of people, and goes deeper than law.”

Stand against ‘lawfare’.

Israel key to world peace.