



October 10, 2022 /Jewish Year 5783

Great Britain and Israel

A mixed history as Her Majesty transitions

“Your house (royal dynasty) and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever” (2 Samuel 7:16 AMP).

This past month, Queen Elizabeth II who had reigned approximately 70 years passed, leaving her son Prince Charles to assume the monarchy in the United Kingdom. This might be a suitable time to review the relationship that Jews and Israel have had with the British up to this point in history.

The British Empire was instrumental in forging Israel out of the Fertile Crescent region in the Middle East that most notably through the release of the Balfour Declaration in 1917 which indicated a national homeland should be established for the Jewish people within the area of Palestine which was under



Queen Elizabeth II (CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikipedia)

Foreign Office,
November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Balfour declaration (CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikipedia)

Ottoman(Turkish) rule until end of World War I. Though no national borders were defined, nor specific distinctions were made regarding the Jewishness of the future nation, the statement did go a long way to codify the Zionist movement that led to founding of the nation following the Shoah and World War II. With the defeat of Axis powers in '45, Jews who had fought alongside British and other Allies during the war particularly in the African theatre, resisted the British occupation of Palestine from that point until the formation of the modern state in 1948.

Recently, there have been some events conducted by the British that have addressed some regret on the part of the United Kingdom in not being unconditionally supportive of Israel prior to its inception and its formative stages. One incident that could be cited as an example of this circumstance was an incident that happened in 1947 with the refusal to allow Jewish refugees passage into Palestine from Europe's post-war displacement camps, specifically Germany. The British government was also known to determine that the opinion of oil producing Arab nations weighted more heavily than its need to have cozy relations with Israel during certain periods in history (Suez Crisis in the 1950's and the Lebanon War of the 1980's), however the relationship over the past 3 decades have warmed in areas of common interest, regarding military cooperation and even though there is a shrinking Christian community within Britain, that part of the population is increasingly adherent to biblical foundational principles to the importance of blessing Israel and resisting anti-Semitism intentionally. In another major internal transitional moment, Britain selected Liz Truss as Prime Minister, one who is already considering moving her nation's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a decision that would have some weight in the affairs of the world currently and perhaps some prophetic implications that may transpire in our lifetime.

“There shall be no end to the increase of His government and of peace, [He shall rule] on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from that time forward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this” (Isaiah 9:7 AMP).

The extraordinary length of Elizabeth's reign in England hints at another imminent and extensive reign to come – the one of Mashiach(Messiah) and the one thousand years that He will do so from this Mount Zion, God's Holy City. We encourage you believers in the world that mourn the Queen who might be anticipating the official crowning ceremony that will take place for King Charles III next year, might prepare ourselves even more for *that* coronation. Until then, we should pray that Great Britain and other nations that owe their own traditions heavily to foundations in scripture (US and other Commonwealth nations to name a few) position themselves among the sheep as the Lord determines who is on own His side... and on His elect's side.



Reporting for CFI Jerusalem,
Kim S. Brunson