**UAE-Israel Make Peace**

 **A New Paradigm**

President Donald Trump announced to the world that the nations of Israel and the United Arab Emirates were going to initiate full diplomatic recognition of one another and formalize it in Washington D.C. with his administration being the host. In the short term, both nations were motivated by a common understanding that Iranian ambitions and activities within the Persian Gulf region represent a military and tactical threat to them. In the long term, both nations foresee a relationship that would “bolster the diversification of both economies via high tech, agriculture, irrigation medicine and health” cooperative efforts (***theettingerreport.com***).

Politically, this was seen as a milestone that PM Netanyahu could claim credit for, since Israel has not been able or willing to move forward on establishing sovereignty of the Jordan Valley and the Israeli inhabited portions of Judea and Samaria.

 Though probably not connected, the UAE is claiming that making the deal itself suspended or delayed the intent of Israel to do so, positioning herself as having more leverage within any favorable conditions that can be created for the Palestinian population, that resides in that region and even in Gaza region adjacent to Israel. This agreement surpasses the relationships that even Egypt and Jordan have with Israel, which are actually agreements to cease hostilities and to cooperate on regional security matters related to all three nations battle against radical Islamic terrorist activity. The pending agreement may also pave the way for Israel to have a similar agreement with Bahrain, Oman and other moderate Sunni nations with common economic interests. There are also common concerns about a menacing Iranian regime led by mullahs who have an expansive terroristic and militaristic agenda that are affecting the internal affairs of Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and other neighbors of Israel. What is also an interesting trait of the UAE, is that unlike many of its Arab counterparts, it actually finances counterterrorism beyond its own borders, and not terrorist insurrections meant to destabilize nation-states.

**International Feedback**

Nations around the Middle east and the rest of the world have varied opinions about this deal. For the most part, the E. U., Saudi Arabia and Russia are supportive of overtures by these nations to come to terms. Turkey, Iran, Venezuela and others are usually associated with a narrative more favorable to the Palestinians, in that an agreement with the “Zionist entity” is tantamount to betrayal of the two-state solution. It is also seen as contrition on the right of return for Palestinian refugees, surrender of Islamic claims to Jerusalem and other “Arab” lands within Israel and other non-negotiable issues that have pre-empted peace proceedings since the Partition plan of 1947.

You can get quite a bit of information about an agreement by observing who is for it, tolerant of it or opposed to it. It might bode well for the nations of the earth to try to determine whether the Creator has an opinion one way or the other about it, or was easily able to anticipate what has transpired these past two weeks.

**Alliance Foretold?**

There is a passage in God’s word Ezekiel 38:13 that states**:**

*“Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish (southern Spain), with all its young lions (villages) will say to you, ‘Have you come to take spoil? Have you assembled your hordes [of fighting men] to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take great spoil?’”*

Most biblical scholars believe this alludes to a reaction that certain people-groups (nations) will have to a future conflict initiated against Israel by an adversary from the North of her. These same scholars trace the lineage of the nations indicated, to the Sunni-dominated peninsula near the Strait of Hormuz now reflected by Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait and, of course the UAE. There is a tone of disapproval of this invasion and within the context of the new agreement, this type of dialogue coming from Arab leaders about, for example, an invasion of Israel, is now foreseeable. Even for those wary of entangling alliances with “idolaters”, the Word of God is clear about seeking peace:

**[Psalm 147:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20147%3A14&version=AMP)**

 ***“He makes peace in your borders; He satisfies you with the finest of the wheat.”***

**Romans 12:18 “*If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.”***

[**Matthew 5:9**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%205%3A9&version=AMP)

***“Blessed [spiritually calm with life-joy in God’s favor] are the makers and maintainers of peace, for they will [express His character and] be called the sons of God.***

Those of us who relate to and trust in God’s Word are aware that only the Prince of Peace will bring the nations to a permanent and lasting peace. This does not give us the right to be passive about investing in peace with our personal neighbors, nor does it absolve us from having a vested interest in the nations, and specifically neighbors of Israel, coming to a place of civility and tolerance about the operation and existence of another nation. Our prayer should be that the fruit that comes from the new relationship between the United Arab Emirates and Israel will encourage others that are at odds with either or both parties, to follow their example for the benefit of their own nation and people and that the God of the Universe would receive the credit for it.

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