How Do You Negotiate with God???

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Origin of a Myth

God, …. God of the Jews, ... according to the Torah, the Pentateuch (the First Five Books of the Old Testament, the Jewish Bible, in Greek - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy), made a Covenant with Ibrahim, Abraham, and all the different versions of ever transforming name of the Patriarch, in which, God of the Jews, playing a Real Estate Agent, promised Abraham the Land of Palestine, Canaan, for himself and his progeny of the Israelites, with no maps attached as to specific boundaries or marked co-ordinates. This open-ended promise, according to some historians, rather theologians' estimates, took place, with no witnesses present long before recorded history, around 3,600 years ago, i.e. 16th Centuries before the Year of Our Lord. That is at least a whole millennium, a whole thousand years; ten centuries before the start of recorded history, i.e. a millennium before Homer's Iliad & Odyssey and many centuries before scientific critical scrutiny could establish historical facts on the force of archeological findings and artifacts.

Until now, all that is well and fine; no harm is done. This could qualify as another one of myriad mythical fables, much like the many that the Iliad & Odyssey are rife with, that thrills and amuses a passive reader, past and present with the suspense that extraordinary melodramas, rather that nicely woven tales invoke with unbridled speculative renderings.

Rendering a Myth, a State Policy, a State Plan

However, with 500,000 new militant immigrant Orthodox Jewish settlers flocking into populated Palestinian territories, armed to the teeth, grabbing Palestinian lands at will; terrorizing the local population as inspired by a deep sense of urgency and pent-up anger, the amusement and fun here stop. A tiny living example of a small village a few kilometers south of my hometown Nablus, one of so many is very telling, Bourin, a small village of a few thousand Palestinian villagers, saw
expropriation of 12,000 Dunums (Dunum 1 = 1,000 m^2) of their fertile land for the construction and expansion of a Jewish settlement; more than 10,000 hundreds of years old olive trees uprooted; incessant unprovoked raids by Jewish settlers to force villagers out by acts of vandalism that saw the poisoning of the village's water wells; the execution of villagers' livestock; the burning of homes; assaulting villagers and causing the death, outright, of some villagers. This example is replayed frequently with nearly all the Arab villages adjacent to the more than 120 Jewish settlements and some of the larger 100 Jewish Outposts in the West Bank.

The source of the pent-up anger of the 500,000 Zealot Jewish settlers – many are recent Jewish immigrants from the U.S., Europe and countries of the ex-Soviet Union that are mushrooming by the day with the erection at will of new scores of Jewish Outposts in the Occupied Territories - is a blind obsession that the Palestinians who lived all their lives on those lands for many hundreds of years, are an obstacle, a wedge frustrating observant religious Jews from early fulfillment of Yahweh's, the God of the Jews' Covenant with the Patriarch. That pent-up vengeful anger of sinfully failing to deliver on God’s binding Covenant explains that sense of urgency to clear, Ethno-Cleanse, of the Biblical land, Judea and Samaria, the West Bank, the Goyim, the alien non-chosen others, from the land promised to Abraham, to the Jews alone.

Reinforced by a systematic policy of colonization by the State, and the extolling, rather the instigation by the high Jewish clergy, high Rabbis, individuals and organizations, of the virtues of the early Cleansing of the non-Jews from the promised territories as a divine prerequisite, renders the Goyim Palestinians a dehumanized lot weighing heavily on the sinful conscience of a devout Orthodox Jewish settler. Dehumanization of the indigenous Palestinians as the lesser other Goyim desensitizes a settler’s mind with denials that prompt perpetration of gruesome and despicable acts of violence, oppression, deprivation and dispossession against the Goyim Palestinians to force the early Judaization of the promised land through the early uprooting and mass exodus of the indigenous Palestinian population.

**How can one then, with all the above, argue with God??**

That in essence what lies at the heart of the fallacies and the utter futility of attempting to reconcile the requisites of generally observed International Law in its very well spelled out precepts, and the elusive,
abstract Divine Laws restricted to the exegesis and interpretations of Yahweh's minority of chosen devout Orthodox Jews?

History is rife with episodes of isolated events when some fanatic inhabitants of the small planet Earth took the law into their hands ravaging the Earth on claims of exclusivity and supremacy to the exclusion of the natural rights of other inhabitants, often bringing the elusive divine mandates into the act. It happened one millennium ago with the Crusaders ravaging the Earth on a Divine mandate to salvage the Sepulcher of Christ from the custody of the non-Latin Catholic Christian infidels. The deep scars of savagery and wanton destruction visited by the Crusaders still color the perceptions and distort the objective judgment of the great many on both sides of the divide: Western and Arab worlds. However, one had thought that all that was of the far away past before the world converged into a global setting by virtue of scientific advances and the liberalizing age of enlightenment. Humanity at large decided, consensually, with the advent of modern age, that International Law is the ultimate reference for establishing territorial claims and rights and the sole basis for the resolving of territorial claims. God of the Jews; .... God of the Christians; .... God of the Muslims; Zoroaster of the Parsis; Buda and all the other Gods did not any more figure in deciding and settling territorial claims and territorial rights. Gods, permanently and indefinitely, quit the business of Real Estate Brokerage.

Not with Zionism and hypocritical Western powers nourishing and fostering its colonialist and exclusivist doctrine that one awesome manifestation of which are the current living examples of Zealot Orthodox Jewish Settlers playing havoc with International and natural Laws and undermining the Peace with their racist and incessant acts of gruesome violation of human rights. With the rise of Zionism invoking Divine claims culminating recently with the settlers' movement that the march of history into a world civil society experienced a devastating huge reverse and reversion to the Law of the Jungle.

Not until the Zionists came up with the notion of Return to Zion that God, as the Real Estate Broker, was brought into the act, as a sweetener to entice, in their Congress of 1897 in Basel, Switzerland, the World Jews to rally to the plan of the creation of a nation for the Jews in populated Palestine.
The current Israeli Government and a significant number of Israeli Parliamentarians are either actual Jewish Settlers or are ardent supporters of the Jewish Settlements' Movement in the Occupied Territories. As ardent extreme Orthodox Jews they believe that their acts of land expropriation, eviction and terrorizing of the local Palestinian populations to make room for the colonialist settlers, are ordained as acts in fulfillment of a Biblical prophecy if left unfulfilled would be tantamount to continue committing an act of perfidious sinful sacrilege.

**Western Evangelists as Ardent Zionists**

Supporting these flocks of extremist Orthodox Jews are the all powerful Western Evangelist Christian Right, mostly American, who wish, in the ever gripping notion of the Apocalypse, to see the Jews rush to the Return to Zion and the early reconstruction of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem as the prelude to expedite the early appearance on Earth of the Messiah. Given their heavy political weight and definite influence over the process of decision making in the political circles, the Western Evangelical Christian Right further neutralized and compromised the Rule of International Law and caused a blind Western bias to the Zionist doctrine under the rubric of the cultural affinity and religious fraternity of a shared Judeo-Christian Civilization. Harvard Professor Samuel Huntington's theses of the "Inevitable Clash of Civilizations" further enlisted a new dimension, the allegedly rational and intellectual framework, to an otherwise contentious mythical rendering that does not stand the rigors of scientific and critical historical scrutiny.

The Netanyahu Government is adamantly rejecting the freeze of the building of Jewish Settlements in Judea and Samaria, the biblical terms reserved for the Occupied West Bank, on the grounds of the Biblical rights of the Jews to all the Land of Palestine, land of Canaan that once promised to the Patriarch.

How then one can bring Israel to conform to more than 70 U.N. Resolutions that Israel is in gross violation of, including the Geneva Conventions and the rulings of the International Court of Justice in the Hague, as the premise, a basis for negotiations if God of the Jews, the Real Estate Agent, is brought to the act?
The Dilemma of Zionists as the Bible Is Unearthed

Now with the Israeli Jews are far gone clinging to biblical divine premises of rightful acts of racism, aggression, ethnic cleansing, disposessions, apartheid and marauding - all in gross violation of the Rules of International Law - the Zionists' dilemma is far compounded as the Bible (the Old Testament) gets debunked, unearthed by Biblical scholars of recognized world authority, that ironically many are Israeli Biblical scholars, as a collection of mostly unfounded mythical fabrications.

This whole tragedy of UNPRECEDENTED proportion that is continuing to unfold before our eyes with complete complicity, silence and indifference of the so-called leaders of the free world of the non-sectarian Laic Western civilizations, leaves the Zionists totally disarmed theologically and historically. This, as Israeli writer, Israel Shamir, succinctly sums it in a lengthy article on August, 2009, entitled "Walking About Jerusalem":

"Practically all modern archaeologists – including mainstream Israeli Jewish ones – doubt that there ever was a Temple or a Kingdom of Solomon; but leading doubters, nay, deniers, are not "Muslim writers" who tend to affirm this part of Biblical narrative for reasons of faith (Solomon is mentioned favorably in the Koran), lay scientists, British and American, beginning with Copenhagen University Professor Thomas L. Thompson, "one of the world's leading Biblical archaeologists," who wrote: "There is no evidence of a capital in Jerusalem; nor do we have evidence for any temple at Jerusalem in this early period." Other leading scholars of similar views are Niels Peter Lemche, Keith Whitelam, and Philip Davies, hardly Muslim names."

The two pillars that the Zionists and uncontrolled hordes of Jewish Settles built the validity of their Biblical claims upon are crushing down before critical scientific, theological and historical scrutiny and findings. According to leading Israeli archeology, biblical and history scholars, authorities in their specialized branches of biblical knowledge, none of these pillars have any scientific proofs to support them.
The pillars, biblical foundations, that the Zionists lay their claim upon as the basis for the Return to Zion and their ever-insatiable appetite for the continuing savage systematic uprooting of the indigenous Palestinian population, predicate on the following:

1. The Validity of the Biblical Texts as unadulterated and non-doctored Divine Revelation; and

2. The Existence of the Jewish Diaspora

1. The Bible Unearthed; Debunking the Bible:

The debunking of the Bible (the Old Testament) by well recognized Biblical scholars, mostly Israeli Biblical Authorities, is based on both: archeological findings and on scientific and historical textual scrutiny.

As to archeological findings, Ze’ev Hertzog, an authority on Biblical archeology at Tel Aviv University, finally threw the towel on November, 2000, in a dramatic declaration after many decades of archeological excavations, that he found nothing to support Biblical stories, historical events, towns or localities as often vividly described in the Old Testament. Hertzog argued in an essay that the United Monarchy of David and Solomon – described in the Bible as the height of military, political and economic power of the people of Israel – "was at most a small tribal kingdom."

He further asserted in his essay that "Excavations also indicate that the ancient Israelites were never in Egypt, did not wander the desert, did not conquer land in military campaigns and did not pass it on to the 12 tribes of Israel."

Herzog, who has conducted excavations to try to confirm the Bible stories wrote in the essay: "The findings he writes about have been known for decades."
As to scientific and historical Textual scrutiny of the Old Testament and its repeated reconstruct over the centuries, Professor Israel Finkelstein, Professor at Tel Aviv University, considered a world authority on the Bible, and Professor Neil Asher Silberman, from Boston, authored a book in 2001 entitled: "The Bible Unearthed, Archeology's new Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origins of Its Sacred Texts." Both authors reached same conclusion as Ze'ev Herzog of the same university before them. As scholars of the Texts of the Old Testament, they narrate the successive compilation of the Torah – the first five books of the Old Testament earlier thought revealed to Moses - and the other 33 books of the Old Testament, including the continuous re-editing and changing of the texts. In particular the Torah, the first Five Books of the Old Testament, originally alleged written or received by Moses, both scholars argue, based on scientific textual scrutiny, that the Torah was compiled, rather written many centuries after Moses' death, three to four centuries later.

In the introduction to their book, Finkelstein & Silberman write:

"But that is not to say that archeology has proved the biblical narrative true in all of its details. Far from it: it is now evident that many events of biblical history did not take place in either the particular era or the manner described. Some of the most famous events in the Bible clearly never happened at all."

Both authors further write in the said introduction:

"For centuries, Bible readers took it for granted that the scriptures were both divine revelation and accurate history, conveyed directly from God to a wide variety of Israelite sages, prophets, and priests. Established religious authorities, both Jewish and Christian, naturally assumed that the Five Books of Moses were set down in writing by Moses himself – just before his death on Mount Nebo as narrated in the book of Deuteronomy. The books of Joshua, Judges, and Samuel were all regarded as sacred records preserved by the venerable prophet Samuel at Shiloh, and the books of Kings were seen as the product of the prophet Jeremiah's pen. Likewise, King David was believed to be the author of Psalms, and King Solomon,
of Proverbs and the Song of Solomon. Yet, by the dawn of the modern era, in the seventeenth century, scholars who devoted themselves to the detailed literary and linguistic study of the Bible found that it was not quite so simple. The power of logic and reason applied to the text of the holy scriptures gave rise to some very troubling questions about the Bible's historical reliability."

Finkelstein and Silberman further add:

"…These factors convinced some seventeenth scholars that the Bible's first five books, at least, had been shaped, expanded, and embellished by later, anonymous editors and revisers over the centuries."

Both authors continue:

"By the late eighteenth century and even more so in the nineteenth, many critical biblical scholars had begun to doubt that Moses had any hand in the writing of the Bible whatsoever; they had come to believe that the Bible was the work of later writers exclusively. These scholars pointed to what appeared to be different versions of the same stories within the books of the Pentateuch, suggesting that the biblical text was the product of several recognizable hands."

I would end by the following quoting by Finkelstein and Silberman:

"In other words, scholars gradually came to the conclusion that the first five books of the Bible as we now know them were the result of a complex editorial process in which the four main source documents – J, E, P, and D – were skillfully combined and linked by scribal compilers or "redactors," whose literary traces (called by some scholars "R" passages) consisted of transitional sentences and editorial sides."

"…Yet all agrees that the Pentateuch is not a single, seamless composition but a patchwork of different sources, each written under different historical circumstances to express different religious or political viewpoints."
In an interesting long article entitled “Jewish History & Myth: The Lion and the Gazelle,” written by a prominent Israeli peace activist, journalist and former member of the Israeli Knesset, Uri Avnery, Avnery discusses the role of myth and the bible and how it relates to Jewish and Israeli history.

Avnery writes:

“In the competition between "objective" history and myth, the myth that suits our needs will always win, and win big. It is not important what was, the important thing is what fires our imagination. That is what guides our steps to this day.”

He further adds:

“Jerusalem was a tiny market town, much too small and much too poor for any of the things described in the Bible to have taken place there at the time.”

That, “The "Jewish" revolution took place in the Babylonian exile (587-539 BC). After the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem, members of the Judean elite were exiled to Babylon, where they came into contact with the important cultural streams of the time. The result was one of the great creations of mankind: the Jewish religion.”

Further, that, “During the following 500 years, the Jewish monotheistic religion gradually crystallized. Also, at this time, the most outstanding literary creation of all times, the Hebrew Bible, was composed.”

2. The Existence of the Jewish Diaspora

Another Zionist Myth that Zionists exploited to entice Jews to espouse the Zionist doctrine and plans was the concept of the Return to Zion of the Jewish Diaspora. The notion predicates on the conviction that the world Jewry are the exiles of the Roman Era after the Jewish Revolt in exile of the Jews by the Romans from Palestine after 70 A.D.
History scholars, foremost Jewish and Israeli scholars dispute the Jewish Diaspora as a myth; that the European and Western Jews in general are converted Jews denizens of the localities in Europe where they mostly currently live.

A recent book, a best seller, published by Tel Aviv University, University of California, Berkeley, and the Ecole des hautes etudes en science socials in Paris’ History Professor Shlomo Sand that is entitled “When and How was the Jewish People Invented?” is causing a huge stir in the academic and Jewish circles. Sand’s main points are that the Romans never exiled any Jews and that all European Jews are descendants of converts. The Jews of Spain are converted Amazigh of North Africa, and the Ashkenazy Jews are descendants of Central European Kazar tribe, and the Arab Jews are Yemenite converts.

Sand further asserts that the renowned Jewish philosopher-historian Josephus Flavius of Alexandria, Egypt, never mentioned exile or was it mentioned in any other ancient source for either the revolt of 73 A.D. or the revolt of Bar Kochba. He further asserts that there was no exile because the Romans had peculiar logistical problem transporting Jews.

Sand, much in line with many Jewish Historians, rejects most of the stories of national identity formation in the Bible including the exodus from Egypt. Sand reckons that all were fiction and myth that served as an excuse for the establishment of the State of Israel.

Sand emphasizes that Romans did not generally exile whole nations and that most of the Jews were permitted to remain in the country. When the country was conquered by the Arabs, many of the Jews converted to Islam and were assimilated among the conquerors. It follows, according to Zand’s theses, that the Palestinian Arabs are converted Jews.

Sand appears to partially build on the theses of another Ashkenazy Jewish history scholar, the late Arthur Koestler. Arthur Koestler, much as Sand nowadays, caused a huge stir in the Jewish Academic

The book traces the history of the ancient Khazar Empire, a major power in Eastern Europe, which in the Dark Ages in 740 A.D. converted to Judaism. Khazaria, a conglomerate of Aryan Turkic tribes, was finally wiped out by the forces of Genghis Khan, but evidence indicates that the Khazars themselves migrated to Poland and formed the cradle of Western Jewry. (Source, …Google).

Koestler as an Ashkenazi Jew was very proud of his Khazar ancestry. He was a very talented and successful writer who published over 25 novels and essays. The publication of the “Thirteenth Tribe,” caused, as expected, a huge stir since it demolishes an ancient racial and ethnic dogma. At the height of the controversy in 1983 that Koestler’s book caused, the lifeless bodies of Arthur Koestler and his wife were found in their London home. Despite significant inconsistencies, the police ruled their death a suicide .... Another suspicious cause of death. (Source,…Google).

Zand and Koestler before him disputed the validity of the concept of the Jewish Diaspora and the Jews Return to Zion, the homeland they were originally exiled from by the Romans two millennia past. Uri Avnery tops this all with the following conclusions as quoted from his aforementioned article:

“The modern Jewish myth has it that almost all the Jews are descendents of the Jewish community that lived in Palestine 2000 years ago and was driven out by the Romans in the year 70 AD. That is, of course, baseless. The "Expulsion from the Country" is a religious myth: God was angry with the Jews because of their sins and exiled them from His country.”

“ZIONISM REPRESENTED a revolution in many fields, but its . mental revolution was incomplete. Its ideology turned the Jewish community into a Jewish people, and the Jewish people into a Jewish nation - but never clearly defined the differences.”
“WHY IS IT so important to differentiate between the Israeli
nation and the Jewish Diaspora? One of the reasons is that a nation
has a different attitude to itself and towards others than a religious-
ethnic Diaspora.”

It is most warranting and quite instructive to those with a rational,
objective and a humane mind to end by borrowing the following two
paragraphs from Avnery’s article:

“But the historical truth, whatever it is, is not so important. Myth is
stronger than truth, and it says that the Jews were expelled from
this land. This is an essential layer in modern Jewish
consciousness, and no academic research can shake it.”

“If we, the Israelis, want to consolidate our nation, we have to free
ourselves from the myths that belong to another form of existence
and re-define our national history. The story about the exodus from
Egypt is good as a myth and an allegory - it celebrates the value of
freedom - but we must recognize the difference between myth and
history, between religion and nation, between a Diaspora and a
state, in order to find our place in the region in which we live and
develop a normal relationship with the neighboring peoples.”

In conclusion the dilemma of the Palestinian-Israeli problem remains
on how to get God of the Jews to retire from the Real Estate
Brokerage Business so that we Earthly creatures can revert to a
rational premise of natural laws to get by in this short and ephemeral
existence.