

God, Government and Gaza

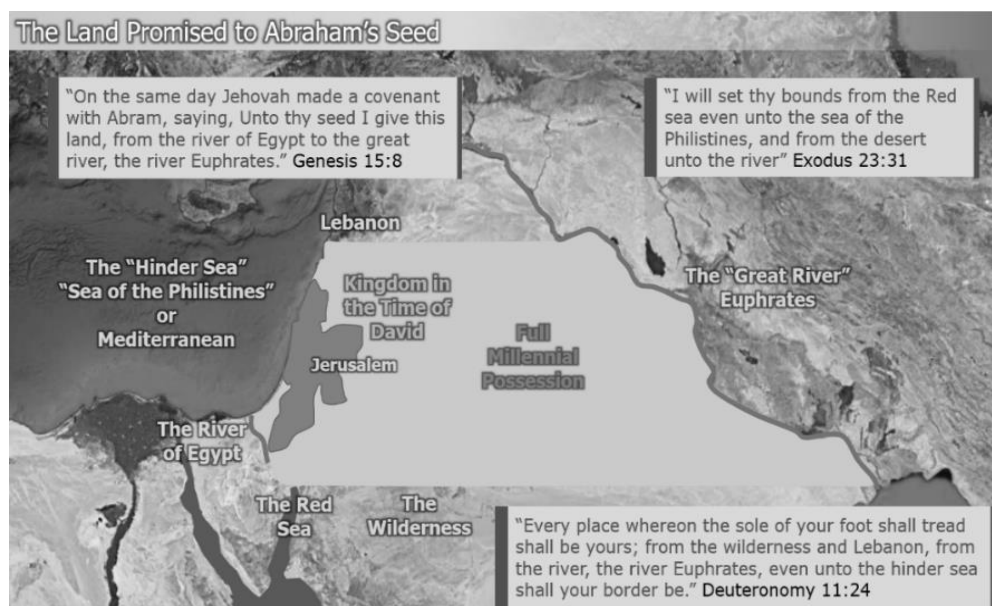
President Trump's PROPOSAL THAT STUNNED THE WORLD

- **The earthquake of Trump's ground shaking proposal has sent a tsunami** that could wipe out 4 decades of dead wood for the longstanding "Two-State Solution" and literally proposes wiping the Gaza slate clean and rebuilding it through an international coalition.
- President Donald Trump doubled down on controversial plans for the Gaza Strip on Thursday, saying **the Palestinian enclave would be "turned over to the United States by Israel" once the war ends.**
- Prime Minister Benjamin **Netanyahu praised Trump's initial proposal.**
- Israeli officials' early responses are falling along predictable polarized extremes. **Liberals and the Arab League members are sharply condemning it while extreme right-wing conservatives in Israel are applauding it. Within hours the Saudi's declared the proposal a non-starter, as did Egypt and Jordan.**
- The one thing both have in common is that **95% of Palestinians and 85% of Israelis see no hope of a Two-State Solution** since the Oct. 7, 2023 massacre and war began.
- **Should the US take over Gaza? "Own" sounds permanent.**
- **Is this temporary to rebuild?**
- **When can 1.8 mil. Gazans return if relocated ?**
- **What are the ramifications of the proposal on the status of the hostages and the cease-fire.**

What does the Bible say about Gaza? It is mentioned in 18 verses.

Is Gaza part of the Abrahamic title deed to the promised land?

In Genesis 13: 14-17 after Lot had chosen the well-watered plain near Sodom and Gomorrah, God told Abram, "And **the LORD said unto Abram**, after that Lot was separated from him, **Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.**" God later promised Jacob as he fled from Esau, "I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: **the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed**" and repeated the third promise that He made to Abram, ...in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed... and **will bring thee again into this land**; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of" (28:13-15). Jacob's last words were to be buried with his fathers "**in the land of Canaan which Abraham bought.**" (49:29-32)



The only question is the location of Gaza in regards to the boundaries of the promised land.

Textual mentions of Gaza give more specifics.

“And **the border of the Canaanites** was from Sidon, as thou comest to Gerar, unto Gaza; as thou goest, unto Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Admah, and Zeboim, even unto Lasha”(Gen. 10:19) .

Gaza on the Mediterranean shoreline was the western property stake of the southern boundary line of the Canaanites running due east almost directly through Beer-Sheba down to Sodom and Gomorrah which was the eastern property stake. Gaza to Sodom was the southern boundary line of Canaanite territory. Abraham was standing near Bethel and Ai about north 20 miles of Jerusalem and 70 miles north of this southern boundary when God said, “I will give thee this land” (Gen. 12:5-8). Lot parted from him and chose the “ Jordan” which is a 12-13 mile wide plain at the north end of the Dead Sea (Gen. 13:4,8-13). God told Abram that He would give “all the land” to the north, south, east and west to him and his “descendants forever”(Gen.13:14,15). Abram then traveled south to Hebron (Gen. 13:18). God specified the general land deed with aquatic boundaries (Genesis 15:18). From the river of Egypt southeast of Abram’s location to the River Euphrates along which Abram traveled when God first called him to leave Ur of the Chaldees (Genesis 12:1). There are two debated options for “the river of Egypt.” (1) “Hebrew - *nahar mitsraim*, (Genesis 15:18) is believed by some to denote the Nile” (2 Chronicles 9:26).ⁱ (2) The other river of Egypt is identified is a “wadi,” sometimes translated “brook of Egypt” by the Hebrew word *nahal*, denoting a stream flowing rapidly only in the rainy season. This desert stream is now called Wady el-'Arish (Numbers 34:5). “From thence it passed toward Azmon, and went out unto the river of Egypt; and the goings out of that coast were at the sea: this shall be your south coast.” Joshua 15:4; 1 Kings 8:65 ; 2 Kings 24:7 ; Isaiah 27:12 ; Ezekiel 47:19.”ⁱⁱ Many of those who identify this Wadi as “the river of Egypt” marking the southern boundary of the “land deed,” point out that God said “Great” for the River Euphrates but omitted using “Great” to describe the Nile which is a major a waterway. **Either one puts Gaza well within the southern boundary line of the Canaanites which God deeded to Abram.**

When did Israel possess Gaza?

Gaza was allotted to Judah, “the uttermost cities of the tribe of the children of Judah toward the coast of Edom southward were... Ashdod with her towns and her villages, Gaza with her towns and her villages, unto the river of Egypt, and the great sea, and the border *thereof*”(Josh. 15:47). Joshua smote them from Kadeshbarnea even unto Gaza ... but could not expel all the Philistines in the valley (Josh.10:41; Judges 1:18). When Joshua ceased conquering the “land of the children of Israel, only Anakims (giants) that remained unconquered were in Gaza (Josh. 11:22).

Some argue that unto Gaza indicates that Gaza is outside the border of the “land of the children of Israel.” Others say it just remained unconquered in the initial conquest of Canaan but still belonged to Israel. David much later had to defeat the Philistines believed to be descendants of the Anikim.ⁱⁱⁱ Goliath the giant was from Gath, one of the four coastal and or piedmont cities (Gath, Ekron, Ashkelon, Ashdod), that guarded the valley entrances going west into the Judean hills. L.H. Grollenberg Atlas of the Bible does not include Gaza in the list of towns and territories allotted to Israel by Joshua.^{iv} **Gaza remained under the control of the Philistines during the time of the Judges. Gaza is known as the infamous Philistine City where Samson was tortured, imprisoned and died.** (Judges 16:21-31).

Israel lost Gaza to the Philistines after Solomon. Hezekiah later defeated the Philistines in Gaza.

2Kings 18:8, “He smote the Philistines, **even unto Gaza**, and the borders thereof.”

Jeremiah gave a prophecy of God’s sword upon Gaza. Jer. 47:5 Baldness is come upon Gaza.— Heb. *kaw-rakh'* A primitive root; to *depilate* - to shave bare

The minor prophets called for the destruction of Gaza for taking Israelite hostages and delivering them to Edom

“Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because they carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver *them* up to Edom: But I will send a fire on the wall of Gaza” (Amos 1:6,7)., “For Gaza shall be forsaken” (Zeph. 2:4).

David and Solomon controlled Gaza. Israel controlled Gaza from 1967-2005 less than 200 years in the last 3500 years.

1. Gaza was at the southern border of the land given to Israel by God via Abram and conquered by Joshua.
2. Gaza was apportioned to Judah, but was not conquered (Joshua 15:47; Judges 1:18).
3. Joshua warned Israel unconquered Canaanites would be a “scourge” and a “thorn in your eyes” (Josh. 23:13).
4. Gaza was lost to Egypt (Jer. 47:1) and to the Philistines as well as other empires and repeatedly recaptured.
5. Modern Israel only recaptured it in 1967 when it defeated Egypt, and captured the Sinai in the 6 day war.
6. Israel yielded control to the Palestinians in 2005. Over 8,000 Jewish settlers from the 21 settlements in the Gaza Strip were relocated. By 2007 Hamas gained control and began launching rockets on southern Israeli towns.
7. On Oct. 7, 2023 over 3,000 Hamas plus 2000 Palestinians civilians invaded Israel and killed over 1250 Israelis and took 250 hostages into Gaza of which almost 60 remain as of February 2025.

Politically control was given away. Biblically it belongs to Israel.

Can the US orchestrate an international temporary solution that leads to a long term status?

Will the US lead a restoration of Gaza and give control back to the Palestinians or Israel?

The US should not divide “own” any part of Israel.

The Anti-Christ will do that during the time of Indignation = Tribulation

“Thus shall he do in the most strong holds **with a strange god**, whom he shall acknowledge *and* increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and **shall divide the land for gain**” (Dan. 11:39).

“I will plead with them there for my people and *for* my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and **parted my land.**” Joel 3:2

President Trump is not the Anti-Christ, but the world is getting to the point to seek a powerful peace maker with miracle working powers. Israel will get to the point to willingly have their land partitioned for peace by the false Messiah..

One thing is for sure - Gaza needs Jesus. The last mention of Gaza is in Acts 8:26

“And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.”

Let’s not just think “outside the box” let’s “think inside the Book”

As of the end of 2021, the population of Ethiopian Jews in Israel is approaching 200,000

The Ethiopian Jews are greatly discriminated against in Israeli society.

Allow the rebuilt Gaza to be governed/operated by Ethiopian Jews. They could serve as intermediaries like the Druze in the north are intermediaries between the Lebanese and Israelis.

Give Jesus a chance. Allow Gaza to be a freedom of religion zone for Israeli believers to build churches, humanitarian schools, and hospitals.

ⁱ <https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/river-of-egypt/>

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anakim>

^{iv} Atlas of the Bible, L.H. Gorllenberg, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1963, NY, NY, pp 59-61