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Was Jesus a Palestinian?

By JONATHAN FELDSTEIN 12/30/2013 23:04

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Sprache auswählen

"It's a dangerous lie that is a hybrid between Palestinian nationalism and the ultimate Islamic replacement theology."



A CENTERPIECE portrait of Jesus Photo: Fresno Bee/MCT

Just in time for Christmas, the world was treated last week to the latest offense from the Palestinians with the declaration by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas that Jesus was a Palestinian.

Abbas's offensive Christmas greeting called Jesus "a Palestinian messenger who would become a guiding light for millions around the world," and suggested Israel was to blame for the exodus of Christians from the Holy Land. With a reference to Luke 23:34, Israel's foreign ministry spokesman noted, "He should have read the Gospels before uttering such offensive nonsense, but we will forgive him because he doesn't know what he's doing," adding that Abbas's remarks are an "outrageous rewriting of Christian history."

I'm no theologian and, as an Orthodox Jew, certainly no expert in Christianity or the Gospels. However, I know a dangerous and offensive ambush on both Judaism and Christianity when I see it, and when those called Palestinians today erase and rewrite whole sections of scripture that are the foundation of Judaism and Christianity, it must be called what it is: a dangerous lie that is a hybrid between Palestinian nationalism and the ultimate Islamic replacement theology.

There are many, many examples of this, but one of the best is when Palestinians say (often) that there was never a Temple on the Temple Mount, the focal point of biblical Jerusalem whose central architectural landmark was destroyed, rebuilt, destroyed again in the year 70 CE, and replaced by two mosques hundreds of years later as if to spread the dominance of Islam over Jerusalem, which is not even mentioned in the Koran, as an Islamic city.

Of course, any Jew or Christian knows that the Temple was a reality, and the denial of its very existence also denies, literally, those of us who share so much in common the foundation of our respective faiths. This is one egregious example, but one doesn't have to look too hard to find plenty more, the same way one doesn't have to dig too deep in Jerusalem to find archeological remains, evidence of the reality we know from the Bible.

Of course, denying the underpinnings of Judaism and Christianity are no problem in Palestinian society, but stating the inconvenient truth that Islam is the main threat to both, particularly to Christians living among Muslims and the primary cause for the Christian exodus, would be a PC no-no.

For instance, Abbas also mentioned Palestinians "trapped under siege" in Gaza, "who are prevented from worshipping in Bethlehem," conveniently overlooking that it's his good friends from Hamas who control Gaza and who make life for

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Christians there a living hell.

The same as among Christians in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iran and the list goes on.

Why do I care? Why write this? It's simple: Israel is the birthplace of both Judaism and Christianity. Jews and Christians have a common bond that's based biblically, and has never been more important.

True, thousands of years of history from Jesus' time until the past century have displayed a less enlightened, less kind and certainly not a gentle approach by what's loosely referred to as "the church" to Jewish neighbors and Judaism as a whole.

But the awakening in the past century of Christians who understand the biblical injunction to bless Israel, and who know that Israel's rebirth is fulfillment of prophecy, needs to be met with open arms by Jews, and reciprocated. So when a Palestinian leader refers to Jesus as a Palestinian, it's an affront to the foundation of Christianity, making one want to imagine Jesus dying not on a Roman cross, but with a suicide belt packed with explosives at a 2,000-yearold Jerusalem café, and must be challenged at every turn.

The name "Palestine" in modern usage initiated with the League of Nations and the British. Native residents of what's Israel today were referred to as "Palestinian," but the term was used by the British to refer to Jews.

My father, for instance, born in Haifa, was a "Palestinian." Only decades after Israeli independence when Jews (and what's grown into about 1.5 million Arabs) became Israeli, did the term "Palestinian" morph to refer to Arabs.

There is ample historical documentation to prove that while there were indigenous Arabs in Israel as well, Arab migration to Israel exploded as the land flourished with Jews returning from exile and corresponding economic opportunities, drawing many whose origins are still unmistakable by their names as being from Egypt or Syria, and that are still evident today. But while Jews returned en masse, fulfilling prophecy, there was always an unbreakable and majority Jewish presence in the land.

So while there is legitimate evidence to show that many of today's "Palestinians" are in fact not indigenous to Israel, and that "Palestinian" nationalism was born more as a way to delegitimize and destroy Israel, I for one understand that there is a reality on the ground that must be dealt with today, and am all for coexistence and peace, if the latter is even possible.

However, by claiming Jesus was a Palestinian, what Abbas has actually accomplished is to debunk the myth of a "Palestinian people" as the term is abused today; everyone knows Jesus was a Jew. The latest "Palestinian" lie underscores the reality that if Jesus were a "Palestinian" it is the indigenous Jews who have the rightful claim to Israel, going back to those lived in here in Jesus' time, with its center in Jerusalem established by the Jewish King David 3,000 years ago, in the Land God promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob long before that, and documented in the Bible.

But those who read and understand scripture, and don't try to erase and rewrite it, knew that already. I think I'm starting to like today's "Palestinian" lies and rhetoric.

The author is the director of Heart to Heart, a virtual blood donation program to support Israel's blood services.

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John Kirkpatrick · Owner at Genesis Galleries Hawaii
 No one in history has loved the Jewish people and Jerusalem as Jesus. He is our Redeemer!
 Reply · 3 · Like · January 9 at 11:40pm



Rabiul Hossain Zaki · Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
 Isn't what Mahmud Abbas alleged to have said is a rhetorical, political statement rather than a commentary on history? Is it wrong or bad? Don't know. Politicians, worldwide, do it all the time. Even average people do it, like the Brazilians say "God is Brazilian".
 Abbas may have been referring to Biblical (Matthew 27-28?) and Christian (Paul, Peter et al) view that Jesus was prosecuted by the then Jewish community. He then drew parallel historical line that today, Palestinians are prosecuted by some Jews, say settlers (He wants to negotiate with Israel, unlike Hamas, he differentiates between different sections of Jews).

Regarding treatment meted out by the Christians while dealing with Jews, author seems very selective and subdued. If you read David Turner's writings- you will form a different view.

The books named "Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust" by D.J. Goldhagen and "Inquisition: The Reign of Fear" by T. Green portray slightly different pictures i.e only the church but also monarchs and common folks had very deem views about the Jews and treated them very poorly, which culminated in The Holocaust in 1940's, i.e. less than 70 years ago. We hear that anti-Semitism also exists in the modern, civilised, democratic, Christian West in 2014.

Reply · Like · 8 hours ago



Edwah Zephaniah Joshua · Top Commenter · 国際文化理容美容専門学校園分 寺校 Kokusaibunka Tech of Hairdesign, Tokyo Kokubunji
 Oh really yhgtrk You really believe that hmm
 I would think that the whisper into his ear by the Pope gave him the idea; sort of a parallel to the ANTICHRIST claiming to be God lol
 Reply · Like · 6 hours ago

Loudon (signed in using Hotmail)

Jesus was an Israeli sabra: born in the Land, Jewish but not very Orthodox, tolerant and loving but arrogant and rebellious, wore sandals, liked a good meal with friends and hikes in the desert, did things that supposedly couldn't be done and just refused to die.
 Reply · Like · about an hour ago



Abed Younes · Ottawa, Ontario
 Pure bull shit
 Reply · Like · January 9 at 7:23pm



Anna M Sedda · Top Commenter
 You are so right, we do not need to be theology specialist to confirm that the PA has always used this lie „also called the Greatest Islamic Worldwide Deception“.... Islam is alive only for the lies that everyday are told to the world..
 Reply · 3 · Like · 18 hours ago



Anna M Sedda · Top Commenter
 Non bisogna essere teologi per confermare che Gesu' e' un Ebreo; e' storicamente, culturalmente „archeologicamente gia' provato....Cosi' come e' gia' provato che la Palestina non e' mai esistita...
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**bones327** • 7 hours ago

Yeshua is a Jew from the Tribe of Judah, from the House of David. He is the King and will reign over the whole earth from the Throne of David in Jerusalem. Anyone who denies this does not know the Word of Ha Shem, as recorded by the Jewish prophets in the Tanakh.

1 | [Reply](#) • [Share](#) ↗**baboon123** • 8 hours ago

Jesus was a Palestinian. He was a Palestinian Jew. Nothing to do with the palestinian arabs who happen to call themselves 'palestinians' as well like they own Palestine and no other ethnic group lives in Palestine. This is their underhanded political word game.

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I've heard some nasty things said about Jesus but this is one of the worst.

3 | [Reply](#) • [Share](#) ↗**Lysulv** • 13 hours ago

After what I have learned Jesus grew up in Galilee among jews that mainly were Judahites and Benjaminites. At that time people still distinguished between these two tribes. And the Benjaminites were concentrated in the north when Judahites were in areas usually held by earlier "Kingdom of Judah" in the south. Jesus was a man in full agreement with the prophets of "Israel" and "Judah", two different peoples and kingdoms. Which are not yet reunified, but will be. The "Palestinians" today obviously do not agree with him. One meaning by saying that Jesus is a Palestinian is this: He will be king of the Jews, the Israelites and the Palestinians (and all others) (In one State)

1 | [Reply](#) • [Share](#) ↗**Eileen** → **Lysulv** • 11 hours ago

Abbas is a bad Christian using Jesus a Jew for political points.

| [Reply](#) • [Share](#) ↗**AbieDee** • 14 hours ago

No surprise here. Muslims have always been history revisers. They took the old testament, kept all the characters but gave them new naratives. In the real world, they've taken over other's religious sites by destroying what was there and builing a mosque over it. The Holy Temple in Jerusalem is a perfect example.

3 | [Reply](#) • [Share](#) ↗**Eileen** → **AbieDee** • 11 hours ago

Except that Abbas is a Christian.

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