



# Israel Unveiled

## Who Are the Palestinians?

*“Palestine was never a Palestinian Arab nation. It was just the name given to a general area that referred to all peoples living in that area.”*

**Host: Sandy Wezowicz, Israel Education Director for Aglow International.**

**Key Themes:**

- Clarifying historical misconceptions about “Palestine”
- Biblical foundation of Israel’s land covenant
- The origins of the term “Palestine” and how it was politicized
- The modern development of a Palestinian national identity

### 1. What Was “Palestine”?

- “Palestine” was never a sovereign Arab nation, had no distinct language, currency, or ruling body of Palestinian Arabs throughout recorded history.
- The name originated from the Romans, who renamed the land Syria Palaestina after crushing a Jewish revolt in 135 AD, in an effort to sever Jewish ties to the land.

### 2. Biblical Foundations of Israel

- God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15 & 17), giving him and his descendants the land from Egypt to the Euphrates.
- This land covenant is unconditional, unlike the later Mosaic covenant, which was conditional on obedience.
- The Jewish people’s connection to the land is God-ordained, not man-made.

### 3. History of the Region

- Israel never referred to as “Palestine” in Scripture.
- Romans renamed the land post-rebellion; the term was meant as an insult, referencing ancient Philistines.
- The land changed hands over the centuries—Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Crusader, Ottoman.
- The Ottoman Empire ruled for 400 years until post-WWI, when Great Britain was given a mandate (San Remo, 1920) to establish a Jewish homeland.

#### **4. Emergence of the Palestinian Identity**

- Until 1948, all residents, including Jews, were referred to as “Palestinians.”
- Ex: Palestine Symphony Orchestra, Palestinian Brigade (Jewish WWII fighters)
- Modern political identity of Palestinians was largely developed by Yasser Arafat (an Egyptian) and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) founded in 1964.
- The PLO’s original charter called for the destruction of Israel.

#### **5. Why It Matters**

- There is widespread misinformation and shallow understanding about Israel and the Palestinian issue.
- Understanding the biblical, historical, and political context helps believers and intercessors stand with clarity and truth.