

O Children of Israel!

Divine calls and Historical facts
Resolving the conflict over land and sanctities

The Quran
and History of
Jews in 5 min

"O Children of Israel! Remember My favor which I bestowed upon you and fulfill My covenant that I will fulfill your covenant, and be afraid of [only] Me"

The Quran, 2: 40

- The Children of Israel are descendants of noble prophets:** They are the grandchildren of Prophet Abraham, the friend of God and the leader of the monotheists. Allah described him in the Holy Quran as equal to a nation that is obedient to God, upright and not of the polytheists. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ described him as the best of creation and the first to be clothed (dressed) by God on the Day of Resurrection (Narrated by Muslim).
- The Holy Quran carries divine calls specifically for the Children of Israel:** Although the Quran carries divine calls from the Lord of people to all people, and other calls to the People of the Book and to the believers in the message of Islam, it has explicit calls to the children of Israel. It reminds them of God's blessings upon them and that He favored them over others and that He took from them a solemn covenant, they must avoid what would bring God's wrath upon them. Verily, He is the Perpetual Forgiver of whoever repents and believes in the truth and does righteousness and then continues in guidance (Refer to Quran, 2:40,47,122; 20:80 - 82).
- The first Divine Call to the Children of Israel:** It is stated in verse 40 in chapter 2: (The Cow). The number of the verse has many implicit meanings that refers to important events in the history of the Jews (explained later). As for Surah Al-Baqarah, it is the hump of the Holy Quran and the longest surah in it. It contains the story of the cow that God commanded them to slaughter to reveal the identity of a murderer among them.



"And [recall] when We took your covenant, [saying], "Do not shed each other's blood or evict one another from your homes." Then you acknowledged [this] while you were witnessing." The Quran, 2:84

- 4 **Murder is the greatest sin in the eyes of God:** He decreed to the Children of Israel that killing people and shedding blood is one of the greatest sins. He said:

"Because of that, We decreed upon the Children of Israel that whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land – it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one – it is as if he had saved mankind entirely. And our messengers had certainly come to them with clear proofs. Then indeed many of them, [even] after that, throughout the land, were transgressors". The Quran, 5:32

- 5 **God's punishment of the children of Israel:** At Mount Sinai, Moses stayed 40 nights then God gave him the tablets containing the Commandments and detailing the Divine Law. However, during his absence, his people worshiped the calf even though God saved them from Pharaoh. Later, they refused to enter the Promised Land. Didn't God become angry with them? He caused them to (get lost) wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Regrettably, they broke God's covenant, disobeyed His commandments and later killed some of His true prophets.
- 6 **(722 - 586 BC) The Assyrian and Babylonian captivity:** After the Jews entered the Promised Land, David, then his son Solomon ruled a united monarchy. However, after the passing away of Solomon, the monarchy split into two warring entities. In 722 BC, the Assyrians invaded them, destroyed Samaria city and exiled the Jews to Assyria (northern Iraq). In 586 BC, the Babylonians (led by King Nebuchadnezzar) invaded them and destroyed Jerusalem. The remaining Jews were put in captivity and were exiled to Babylon (southern Iraq).
- 7 **(70 CE) The siege of Jerusalem by the Byzantines:** Approximately six centuries after the Babylonian captivity, the Romans, led by Emperor Titus, besieged the city of Jerusalem and destroyed it. The city of Ilia was built on its ruins. After that, the Jews were excluded from entering Jerusalem for many centuries.
- 8 **(636 CE) Palestine under Islamic rule for more than 12 centuries:** The Islamic rule of Palestine began in 636 CE when Omar bin Al-Khattab entered Jerusalem peacefully and received the keys of Jerusalem from the Patriarch Sophronius. He gave the Christians and others freedom of worship and protection which is stated in his famous "Omari" Testament. He appointed Ubadah bin Al-Saamit as the first judge of Jerusalem until he died there. His grave still exists until now in Bab Al-Rahma cemetery on the eastern side of Al-Aqsa Mosque.
- 9 **(1187 CE) Palestine during the reign of Saladin:** After nearly five centuries of Islamic rule, Jerusalem fell into the hands of the Crusaders in 1099 CE, then Saladin regained it in 1187 CE after the Battle of Hattin. Under his reign, Jerusalem witnessed prosperity and religious tolerance. It is worth mentioning Moses Maimonides the Jewish philosopher and physician who became famous and close to Saladin. Approximately after one century, Jerusalem was subjected to the Mongol invasion, but the Mamluks defeated them in 1260 CE in the Battle of Ain Jalut and ruled Egypt and the Levant until 1517 CE.

(For about two hundred and fifty years).



10 **(1517 - 1918 CE) Palestine under Ottoman rule:** It started when Sultan Selim-I entered Jerusalem and lasted for about four hundred years. People lived in prosperity and peace (Muslims, Christians and Jews who enjoyed religious freedom). Jerusalem witnessed remarkable urban development. The rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls during the reign of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent was one of the most prominent monuments left by the Ottomans.

11 **Sultan Abdul Hamid-II adherence to Palestine:** He categorically rejected an offer made by Theodor Herzl, founder of the World Zionist Organization (after the Basel Conference in 1897 CE) to allow the Jews to establish a state for themselves in Palestine in exchange for paying the debts of the Ottoman Sultanate.



12 **Anti-Jewish violence and expulsion in Europe:** After England expelled the Jews in 1290 CE, they were expelled from Hungary in 1349, France in 1394, Austria in 1421, Naples in 1510, Milan in 1597, Spain in 1492 and Portugal in 1497 CE (source: BBC)

13 **(1821 CE...) Pogroms against Jews in the Russian Empire:** On the other hand, Jews were subject to organized massacres (pogrom in Russian language) that started in 1821 CE in Odessa (Ukraine) followed by a series of pogroms in different parts of Imperial Russia (1859, 1871, 1881, 1903, 1905 and 1906). Pogroms continued in Eastern Europe after the collapse of Imperial Russia in 1917. (Note: The Balfour Declaration was in 1917CE)

14 **(1939 - 1945 CE) Jews will not forget the "Holocaust":** And history will not forget the Nazi antisemitism during World War II, the extermination or death camps (Todeslager) and the gas chambers for mass murder.

15 **(1947 CE) The Zionist occupation and displacement of Palestinians from their homeland:** Did Palestinians participate in any of the historical massacres against Jews? Is it fair to force displacement against Palestinians who lived on their land for thousands of years? Have they forgotten the massacres of the Haganah Zionist militia in 1947 (Balad Al-Sheikh), Saasaa and Saliha, Tantura and Lydd in 1948 (when Palestinians were killed and buried in a large hole?) Deir Yassin massacre in 1948, the Qibya massacre in 1953, the Khan Yunis massacre in 1956, the Jerusalem massacre in 1967, the crime of burning Al-Aqsa Mosque in 1969, and the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in 1994?

16 **Trespassing Al-Aqsa Mosque and the escalation of mutual hostility:** Do you know the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the month of Ramadan for Muslims? It is the holiest month that they fast and dedicate extra prayers. It is also the month in which the Qur'an was revealed to humanity. But how many times worshipers including Muslim visitors from different parts of the world were disturbed and offended by deliberate trespassing of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Ramadan by extremists and Israelis forces? How many times Palestinians could not celebrate their feasts (Eid) because it was turned into mourning gatherings after clashes and incursions?



- 17 War on Gaza:** Over one month of continuous bombing on civilian buildings, houses, hospitals, mosques and churches where thousands of people including women and children were killed, we did not see military targets. Does suspicion justify the killing of innocents and the bombing of civilians? Do international norms and conventions allow this? Sane voices in the whole world have denounced this mad offence.
- 18 Gaza: Israel's Open-Air Prison, under siege for decades:** The Gaza Strip is only 41 kilometers long, 6 to 12 kilometers wide, and more than 2.2 million Palestinians live there. Did you know that the wall that Israel built in 1994 around Gaza is 65 km long and six meters high and it costs more than a billion dollars? It formed a stifling siege and a slow killing machine for the Palestinians. Gaza has turned into an open prison and a time bomb due to economic, social and psychological pressures. The poverty rate in Gaza exceeds 50% and the unemployment rate exceeds 40% (Reference: Middle East Eye).
- 19 It is all about arrogance:** Satan's first sin was "arrogance". He objected to God's command and refused to prostrate to Adam. In his opinion, he was created from fire and Adam was created from clay. How many world wars and catastrophes triggered by arrogance and stubbornness? How many innocents were killed, and resources were wasted. Since when the Israeli government is illegally occupying Palestinian and neighbor's lands? Didn't the Arabs humbly accept the least bit of their rights and welcome many peace initiatives?
- 20 Israel continues its occupation:** Do they remember these peace initiatives? Do they remember United Nations Resolution No. (242) in 1967, which was adopted unanimously and required Israel to withdraw from lands it occupied after the 1967 war? Then Resolution (338) came after the 1973 war to demand a ceasefire and confirm the implementation of Resolution (242)? *(It is worth mentioning here that there are several Jewish associations, clerics, thinkers and Western figures who reject the continuation of the occupation and conflict in Palestine).*
- 21 "Keys to Peace" in simple words:** "Recognizing the Truth", "Enacting Justice", and "Seeking Wisdom". It appears very simple, but it cannot be achieved through arrogance, stubbornness, and violence. The decision to make peace is more difficult than the decision to make war, but it is greater than it. Only rational and wise people can create peace because it saves blood and prevents mischief. God Almighty said in the Holy Quran:

And when it is said to them, "Do not cause corruption on the earth," they say, "We are but reformers." Unquestionably, it is they who are the corrupters, but they perceive [it] not. The Quran, 2:11-12

