

Palestine does not belong to the Jews or the Arabs it belongs to the Muslims

Tafseer Shaykh Uthaymeen

يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتِيَ الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَأَنِّي فَضَّلْتُكُمْ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ (البقرة: 47)

O Children of Israel, remember My favor that I have bestowed upon you and that I preferred you over the worlds. (Soorah Al Baqarah 2:47)

Shaykh Uthaymeen: From the benefits of this verse:

1. It is obligatory upon the children of Israel to remember Allah's favor upon them and to show gratitude for it. **And from showing gratitude is for them to follow Muhammad peace be upon him.**
2. Clarifying that **this favor was not earned by them**, or due to their hard work, nor was it inherited from their fathers; rather it was only a favor from Allah upon them. Thus Allah said: 'I have bestowed upon you.'
3. The children of Israel were the best of mankind during their era, based upon the statement of the Exalted: 'I preferred you over the worlds.' This is because during that time they were people of faith. As a result victory was decreed for them over their enormous enemies. It was said to them:

ادخلوا الأرض المقدسة التي كتب الله لكم [المائدة: 21]

Enter the Holy Land which Allah has assigned to you (Soorah Al Maidah 5:21)

And the Holy Land is Palestine. And Allah only assigned the land of Palestine to the children of Israel during the time of Musa because they were righteous slaves of Allah. And Allah the Exalted said:

ولقد كتبنا في الزبور من بعد الذكر أن الأرض يرثها عبادي الصالحون [الأنبياء: 105]

And indeed We have written in Psalms after (We have already written in) Al-Lauh Al-Mahfuz, that My righteous slaves shall inherit the land. (Soorah Al Anbiyah 21:105)

And Musa said to his people:

إِنَّ الْأَرْضَ لِلَّهِ يُورِثُهَا مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ [الأعراف: 128]

Indeed, the earth belongs to Allah. He causes to inherit it whom He wills of His servants.

(Soorah Al 'Araf 7:128)

Then he said:

وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ [الأعراف: 128]

And the [best] outcome is for the righteous.

Therefore the righteous shall inherit the earth; **but the children of Israel today do not deserve the Holy land, because they are not righteous slaves of Allah**; as for during the time of Musa, they were more deserving of it than those who lived there. And it was written for them, and they were the most deserving of it. But when Islam—which was brought by the Prophet peace be upon him—came, then **the most deserving people of this land became the Muslims. Not the Arabs; because Palestine is not Arab such that the people deserving Palestine can be described as Arabs; rather the people deserving of Palestine are Muslims, their description is Muslim.** They have no other description. And they can be called righteous slaves of Allah the Exalted. **For this reason the Arabs will never succeed—according to what I believe and the knowledge is with Allah—in recovering Palestine in the name of Pan-Arabism.** It is not possible to recovery it except with the name Islam upon what the Prophet peace be upon him and his companions were upon. As the Exalted said:

إِنَّ الْأَرْضَ لِلَّهِ يُورِثُهَا مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ [الأعراف: 128]

Indeed, the earth belongs to Allah. He causes to inherit it, whom He wills of His servants.

(Soorah Al 'Araf 7:128)

Regardless of what the Arabs try; and **regardless of how they fill the earth with speeches and protest; they will never be successful until they call for the Jews to exit from it with the name of Islam; after they apply it (Islam) in themselves.** If they do this then they shall actualize what the Prophet peace be upon him has informed us of:

لَا تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ حَتَّى يُقَاتِلَ الْمُسْلِمُونَ الْيَهُودَ، فَيَقْتُلُهُمُ الْمُسْلِمُونَ حَتَّى يَخْتَبِئَ الْيَهُودِيُّ مِنْ وَرَاءِ الْحَجَرِ، وَالشَّجَرِ، فَيَقُولُ الْحَجَرُ،  
أَوِ الشَّجَرُ: يَا مُسْلِمُ، يَا عَبْدَ اللَّهِ، هَذَا يَهُودِيٌّ خَلْفِي، فَتَعَالَ فَاقْتُلْهُ

The hour will not be established until the Muslims fight the Jews. The Muslims will kill them such that the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees. So the rock or the tree will say: O Muslim, O slave of Allah, here is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.

Thus the trees and rocks will direct the Muslims to the Jews saying O slave of Allah; calling him by the name of servitude to Allah; and it will say: O Muslim; calling him by the name of Islam. The Messenger peace be upon him said: 'The Muslims will fight the Jews.' He did not say the 'Arabs'.

For this reason I say: We will never remove the Jews by the call of Pan-Arabism, we will only remove them with the name of Islam. Whoever wants let him recite the statement of the Exalted:

ولقد كتبنا في الزبور من بعد الذكر أن الأرض يرثها عبادي الصالحون [الأنبياء: 105]

And indeed We have written in Psalms after (We have already written in) Al-Lauh Al-Mahfuz, that My righteous slaves shall inherit the land. (Soorah Al Anbiyah 21:105)

Thus He made the inheritance for His righteous slaves. And that which is connected to a description will occur when the description is present, and it will be negated when the description is negated. If we are righteous slaves of Allah we will inherit it with complete ease, without any hardship, toil or difficulty and without long drawn out speeches which never end! We will seize it with the help of Allah the Exalted with what Allah has decreed for us. And how easy is this for Allah! We know that the Muslims did not rule Palestine during the illustrious era of Islam except due to their Islam. And they did not conquer the capital cities of Persian, and the capital of Rome, and the capital of the Coptic except due to their Islam. Thus if only our youth were conscious and aware that absolute victory is not possible except with real Islam; not Islam which is identified by an I.D. card!

And perhaps some of you have heard the story of Sad ibn Abi Waqas may Allah be pleased with him. The Persians had destroyed the bridge over the Tigris River and sank the ships so the Muslims would not cross (the river) and reach them. So Allah subjugated the river for them. Thus they started walking on top of the water with their horses, their men, and their camels. They walked on top of the water just as they walked on top of the land. The water did not cover the hooves of the camels. When the horses became tired Allah facilitated a raised boulder so they could rest upon it. And this was from the signs of Allah no doubt. And Allah the Exalted has power over all things. Thus the One who split the sea for Musa peace be upon him and his people such that it instantly became a dry path for them and they walked therein safely; has the ability to do greater than that.

The point is; the children of Israel no doubt were the best of mankind when they were righteous slaves of Allah, but when they were afflicted with humiliation, and cursed, and debased, then they are no longer the best of mankind; rather some of them are monkeys and pigs. And they are the most debased slaves of Allah based upon the statement of the Exalted:

ضربت عليهم الذلة أين ما تقفوا إلا بحبل من الله وحبل من الناس وبأؤوا بغضب من الله [آل عمران: 112]

Indignity is put over them wherever they may be, except when under a covenant (of protection) from Allah, and from men; they have drawn on themselves the Wrath of Allah, and destruction is put over them. (Soorah Aali Imraan 3:112)

And the Exalted said:

لا يقاتلونكم جميعاً إلا في قرى محصنة أو من وراء جدر بأسهم بينهم شديد تحسبهم جميعاً وقلوبهم شتى ذلك بأنهم قوم لا يعقلون [الحشر: 14]

They will not fight you all except within fortified cities or from behind walls. Their violence among themselves is severe. You think they are together, but their hearts are diverse. That is because they are a people who do not reason.

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