

One Nation at a Time – ISRAEL



The Country

Following World War II, the British withdrew from their mandate of Palestine, and the UN partitioned the area into Arab and Jewish states, an arrangement rejected by the Arabs. Subsequently, the Israelis defeated the Arabs in a series of wars without ending the deep tensions between the two sides. The territories Israel occupied since the 1967 war are not included in the Israel country profile, unless otherwise noted. On 25 April 1982, Israel withdrew from the Sinai pursuant to the 1979 Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty. In keeping with the framework established at the Madrid Conference in October 1991, bilateral negotiations were conducted between Israel and Palestinian representatives and Syria to achieve a permanent settlement. Israel and Palestinian officials signed on 13 September 1993 a Declaration of Principles (also known as the "Oslo Accords") guiding an interim period of Palestinian self-rule. Outstanding territorial and other disputes with Jordan were resolved in the 26 October 1994 Israel-Jordan Treaty of Peace. In addition, on 25 May 2000, Israel withdrew unilaterally from southern Lebanon, which it had occupied since 1982. In April 2003, US President BUSH, working in conjunction with the EU, UN, and Russia - the "Quartet" - took the lead in laying out a roadmap to a final settlement of the conflict by 2005, based on reciprocal steps by the two parties leading to two states, Israel and a democratic Palestine. However, progress toward a permanent status agreement was undermined by Israeli-Palestinian violence between September 2003 and February 2005. An Israeli-Palestinian agreement reached at Sharm al-Sheikh in February 2005, along with an internally-brokered Palestinian cease-fire, significantly reduced the violence. In the summer of 2005, Israel unilaterally disengaged from the Gaza Strip, evacuating settlers and its military while retaining control over most points of entry into the Gaza Strip. The election of HAMAS in January 2006 to head the Palestinian Legislative Council froze relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA). Ehud OLMERT became prime minister in March 2006; he shelved plans to unilaterally evacuate from most of the West Bank following an Israeli military operation in Gaza in June-July 2006 and a 34-day conflict with Hizballah in Lebanon in June-August 2006. OLMERT in June 2007 resumed talks with the PA after HAMAS seized control of the Gaza Strip and PA President Mahmoud ABBAS formed a new government without HAMAS. OLMERT in September 2008 resigned in the wake of several corruption allegations, but remained prime minister until the new coalition government under former Prime Minister Binyamin NETANYAHU was completed in late March 2009, following the February general election.*



Facts and Figures

Capitol City: Jerusalem

Population: 7,233,701

note: includes about 187,000 Israeli settlers in the West Bank, about 20,000 in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, and fewer than 177,000 in East Jerusalem (July 2009 est.)

Religion: Jewish 76.4%, Muslim 16%, Arab Christians 1.7%, other Christian 0.4%, Druze 1.6%, unspecified 3.9% (2004)

Language: Hebrew (official), Arabic used officially for Arab minority, English most commonly used foreign language

The Church

Praise God that there has been an increase in the number of born-again believers among Jews. Within Israel, the number of Messianic Jews increased from 250 to 7,000 over the past 30 years. Around the world, there has been a significant response to Jesus as Messiah among Jewish communities.*

Our Prayer

- Pray for a resolution to end the intense half-century of conflict between Arabs and Israelis. Pray that a just and lasting agreement would be formed, and that Israel would know an end to division.
- There are now an estimated 9 million Jews living outside of Israel who need to be reached with the Gospel. Pray that ministry organizations working to reach Jewish communities would bear fruit, and that the Gentile Church would develop a greater sensitivity to the Jewish remnant within the Church.

Our Partnerships

- Please pray for a **Missionary** who is serving in this region. Her team is establishing a kindergarten and cultural center within the community. Pray that she would be salt and light to the family she is staying with, her neighbors, and the students.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us at
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*Some statistics and information were gathered from the Operation World Prayer Calendar and CIA World Factbook.