

COVID 19, the Trump Peace Plan and the Ark of the Covenant
by Jim Dodge

The Michael Snyder article that formed the basis for this paper claims that the U.S. is being punished by COVID 19 more than other nations because the timing of the outbreak coincided with release of the Trump peace plan in January 2020 – a plan that “potentially” provides the Palestinians with more than twice the amount of West Bank land than previous proposals.

After careful consideration, my conclusion is that the COVID 19 crisis has little, if anything, to do with the Trump peace plan. A big problem with Snyder’s claim is that the history of God’s judgments on the U.S. and Israel with respect to the two-state solution has been that, either the U.S., Israel or both have clearly experienced God’s wrath after a specific unilateral action was taken (always to the Palestinians advantage) to implement a portion of a previous peace plan. Snyder fails to address what happened to Israel in his article, like the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin in 1995 after signing the Oslo Peace accords with Arafat, or the God induced coma on Prime Minister Sharon after he forcibly evacuated Jews from Gaza in 2005 after the U.S. was struck by Katrina. Also, on the U.S. side, we paid the price for President Clinton’s obsession with giving Israeli territory to the Palestinians via both Oslo and Camp David – with 9/11. If there is a connection between COVID 19 and the Trump Peace Plan, it is difficult to see because, as of this writing, more than 140 nations have been affected by the virus - though the U.S. appears to have been hit harder than other nations.

Just the announcement of a Peace Plan in the past did not normally result in devastating consequences for either Israel or the U.S. Only when action was taken to implement part of a plan did God’s wrath become apparent. Importantly, the Trump Peace Plan differs from previous plans because it gives Israel the ability to actually re-claim sovereignty over its territory and it forces the Palestinians to perform in good faith before getting any concessions. Trump’s performance to date, by recognizing Jerusalem as the capital, recognizing Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan and by allowing Israel to annex West Bank settlements in the current proposal, is all positive. While it is true that if the Palestinians were to perform perfectly by meeting all the requirements stipulated in the Trump Peace Plan, they could conceivably control territory larger than what was offered in previous plans, but to date (since 1948), the Palestinians have yet to comply with a single provision in any prior peace plan and, it was clear well before the Trump plan rolled out that the Palestinians would totally reject the current plan, which they have.

Once Israel’s new government begins to annex significant settlements and strategic areas in the West Bank, which is allowed in the Trump plan, Israel’s position will improve, not diminish. While war with the Palestinians is a clear possibility, when that happens, I don’t believe it will be viewed as a punishment from God because war has been the norm in the past, it is prophesied to happen (Psalm 83, Zechariah 12:3-6), and Israel thrives in war against this enemy and will continue to do so until God intervenes at the battle of Gog/Magog (Ezekiel 38-39).

We must remember that in Jesus’ Olivet Discourse, we are told that in the end times there will be pestilence: *“And great earthquakes shall be in diverse places, and famines and pestilences and fearful*

sights and great signs shall there be from heaven” (Luke 21:11). Because we are living in the end times, a pestilence like COVID 19 should be expected as a fulfillment of Bible prophecy, but it should not necessarily be linked to the Trump peace plan.

One issue in the Trump plan, as in all previous plans, that is a concern is that of making East Jerusalem the Palestinian capital. There is nothing in Scripture to indicate this will ever happen. Furthermore, it is clear that God’s wrath will be poured out greatly on whoever attempts to implement any aspect of a plan to make East Jerusalem the capital of Palestine. The Bible is quite clear that Jerusalem is God’s holy and eternal city and the capital of Israel (the apple of God’s eye), so any attempt to change that status would be met with the fiercest of God’s wrath. Below is a sample of confirming Scriptures:

Isaiah 31:5 As the birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.

Isaiah 62 – The Future of Jerusalem

(1...3) For Zion’s sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest...Thou shalt be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

(6-7) I have set my watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day or night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence. And give him no rest, till he establish and till he make Jerusalem a praise in all the earth.

Isaiah 65:19 - And I rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people, and the voice of weeping shall no more be heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

Joel 3:16, 21 - The Lord also shall roar out of Zion and utter his voice from Jerusalem... For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the Lord dwelleth in Zion. (3:21) – The Lord dwelleth in Zion.

God Himself, in the person of His Son, will reign from the earthly Jerusalem for a thousand years (Rev 20:6), then in the New Jerusalem forever (Rev 22:3-5).

For those who were in the Prophecy class in 2013, you might remember there is a very important reason why I believe God will never allow East Jerusalem to become the capital of a Palestinian state – a state that has never existed. **East Jerusalem is where the Ark of the Covenant is located.** Bible archaeologist Ron Wyatt discovered the Ark in 1986 near the Garden tomb at the base of Golgotha (place of the skull) or Calvary. Wyatt has been disavowed and panned by everyone, especially by the Israeli’s, since he died in 2006. But, he foretold why this would happen. After Wyatt’s discovery of the Ark, the Jews made an effort to retrieve it and six men were killed by the angels who protect the Ark during the attempt. Wyatt had to be called back to Israel from the U.S. to go into the chamber (about 20’ below the place where Jesus was crucified) where the Ark is located to recover the bodies. Thus, the Ark remains where it was discovered and where it fulfills Bible prophecy even today. The Discoveries DVD that describes all this in detail has been removed completely from the public eye and DVD’s that replaced it are heavily censored and provide none of this background. The Israeli’s know where the Ark is located but they can’t retrieve it, and of course, they must deny they know it even exists, hence, all the disclaimers relating to Ron Wyatt. I will explain why I firmly believe in the Ark’s location shortly.

But first, the Google Earth photo below will help you understand why the Ark's location and East Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital are completely and divinely incompatible. Pinpointed are the Garden tomb, Golgotha, the Damascus Gate and the Mount of Olives. The Damascus Road, running between the Damascus Gate and Golgotha runs across the Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olives. Today it is called Sultan Suleiman Road. The red lines extending north and south on both sides of the critical sites are the 1947 armistice lines, so everything inside those lines was Arab or Jordanian territory prior to 1967 and it includes all of the old city of Jerusalem. The Ark of the Covenant was discovered near the base of Golgotha, along the Damascus Road. Wyatt found the cross holes where Jesus and the thieves were most likely crucified and beneath that site, between Golgotha and the Damascus gate on the north side of Sultan Suleiman Road, is where the Ark is located – indicated by the small black arrow.



If you extend a line between the SW corner of the Temple Mount and the Damascus gate, to the right of that line you have what is essentially called the Arab quarter in Jerusalem today and it's the part of the city, along with the Temple mount, that the Palestinians want to make their capital. How far north of Sultan Suliman Road their land claim might extend is anyone's guess. Regardless, I don't believe Israel or God will ever allow the Arab quarter of Jerusalem become part of a Palestinian capital.

The photograph reveals one more important point that is both prophetic and it makes perfect sense if the Ark of the Covenant is actually located near the base of Golgotha (which I believe it is). Zechariah 14:4 describes Christ's return to earth at the Second Coming: *And his feet shall stand in that day on the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley, and half of the mountain shall remove to the north and half of it toward the south.*

The magnetic variation in Jerusalem is zero degrees. This means that an east-west line extending through the Mount of Olives, as shown by the gold line, would have the same true and magnetic bearing- 270 degrees. Notice that the 270 degree gold line extending west from the peak of the Mount of Olives passes almost directly through the place where the Ark of the Covenant is located. For those who have been to Israel, the traditional Ascension site on the Mount of Olives is located south of the point indicated on the map (closer to the point on a line directly east of the middle of the Temple mount below the Dome of the Rock). If Christ were to touch down near the traditional site, Jerusalem would essentially be divided in two. But, if the Mount of Olives site shown on the map is correct and Jesus touches the earth at that point when He returns, all of Jerusalem would be on the south side of the resulting valley and everything above Sultan Suleiman Road would lie to the north. The Bible reveals much about what is going to happen when Christ returns and touches the earth at the Mount of Olives to bring an end to the Tribulation. One thing I believe will happen that's not mentioned in Scripture is when the cleaving that creates the great valley happens is, it will reveal the secret chamber with the Ark of the Covenant where it has been hidden and protected for more than 2,600 years.

The last we read about the Ark in the Old Testament was written by Jeremiah, the prophet who hid the Ark in the chamber as the Babylonians were preparing to lay siege to Jerusalem: *"In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land," declares the Lord, "men will no longer say 'The ark of the covenant of the Lord.' It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made..." (Jeremiah 3:16).* The days Jeremiah is referring to are the end times of today. Israel is now greatly re-populated with Jews. Today the Ark is ancient history and even in Israel no mention of the Ark is made, including by those preparing artifacts and implements for the third or Tribulation temple. It should be comforting to know from this passage that no replica of the Ark was ever or ever will be made. Even so, thanks to Ron Wyatt's discovery, Israeli authorities know the Ark exists and they know where it is located, but the Ark will only be revealed according to God's will and timing.

The next and final place we read about the Ark of the Covenant in Scripture is in Revelation 11 at the mid-point of the Tribulation. In verse 15, the seventh angel sounds his trumpet to mark the beginning of the second half of the 70th week of Daniel 9:26-27, also known as the great tribulation. According to Dr. Henry Morris, it will evidently continue to sound throughout the remaining 3 ½ year period and by the time the 3 ½ years have finished, all the kingdoms of the world will have become the kingdoms of the Lord and His Christ. This passage looks forward to a period after the tribulation when all the kingdoms of the earth belong to the Lord. Then in verse 19 it says this: *"Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant..." (Rev 11:19).* Based on this passage, I believe that after the Ark is revealed when Jesus' foot touches down on the Mount of Olives

to end the tribulation, it will be taken by the angels protecting it to heaven, where it will remain in the throne room of God during the 1000 year Millennial Kingdom reign of Jesus on this earth. After the thousand years and the new heavens and new earth are come, the Ark will return to earth where it will reside in the Holy city, Jerusalem with God and Jesus for all eternity.

Much of what I just described may be hard to believe or not make sense if the Ark is not actually located in the chamber beneath the site where Jesus was crucified in Jerusalem. So, why am I so certain of Ron Wyatt's discovery? It's all about the blood of Jesus. But, it starts with Daniel's 70 week prophecy. Daniel 9:24 lists six things that must be accomplished before the completion of the 70 weeks which concludes at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The last item on the list is "...and to anoint the most Holy" (Dan 9:24). Some prophecy experts, including Dr. David Reagan, believe this refers to the anointing of the millennial temple, but this can't be true for two reasons. First, temples are dedicated, not anointed (Ezra 6:16-18) and second, the millennial temple will not exist until after the Second Coming so "anointing the most Holy" as a fulfillment of the 70 weeks cannot be referring to the millennial temple which comes later. For nearly 800 years, between the times of Moses and Jeremiah, the High Priest would, once each year on the Day of Atonement, enter the Holy of Holies and anoint the Mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant with the blood of animals to cover the sins of the Jewish people. This act, using the blood of animals, only covered their sins. It did not forgive or remove their sins as far as the east is from the west as we are promised. Only the blood of Jesus is able to do that. As Ron Wyatt describes it in the one significant YouTube video clip on the link below that remains of his work, Jesus' blood is the only blood that could anoint the most Holy in order to forgive and remove the sins of not just the Jews, but of all mankind –forever. Wyatt makes clear that the blood he had tested could only have been that of Jesus and the results, from an Israeli lab, confirm both the crucifixion site and the location of the Ark of the Covenant. Watch and decide for yourself. It's poor quality imagery but it reveals volumes!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AbVOdRigOA>

This paper has given me the opportunity to share with you what I believe to be important as we sift through the headlines and news for truth as the day of the Lord draws near. In conclusion, the COVID 19 pandemic, as a pestilence sign of the times, appeared exactly as Jesus prophesied it would. I don't believe, as Snyder does, that it's a judgment on America linked to the Trump peace plan. The Trump peace plan, like all those before it is dead if one somehow believes it will ever lead to a two state solution in the Middle East. Even so, God will surely use Trump's plan for His purposes to help make Jerusalem "*a burdensome stone for all people...*" (Zech 12:3) in order to "*...gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle...*" (Zech 14:2), as the day of the Lord draws near. As we enter July and the Annexation issue in Israel takes center stage, exciting and dramatic things, possibly leading to war, will happen. Even so, we are going to know soon enough if the Ark of the Covenant is located beneath the site where Jesus was crucified. As raptured saints, born again believers will be with the Lord when He returns on that day, to see, first-hand, what happens when His foot touches the earth on the Mount of Olives. What a glorious day that will be. Praise God! Maranatha!