

VOLUME

2

ISRAEL 70 YEARS OF MIRACLES

By Pastor **John Hagee**

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This year, Israel celebrates its 70th birthday. The rebirth of modern Israel is one of the greatest miracles of the last century. In fact, the survival of the Jewish people as a culture still anchored to the same Holy Scriptures, the same language, the same traditions, and the same land for more than 3,000 years might be one of the greatest miracles of all time.

Despite all the tragedies and abuses the Jewish people have suffered, the descendants of Abraham are living and prospering in the Land that God promised them in the book of Genesis. Israel's history over the last 70 years has been a continuous demonstration of the Lord's protection and blessing.

The miracle of Israel at 70 is perfectly summed up in the Hebrew phrase *Am Yisrael Chai*, which

means “the people of Israel live!” Israel and the Jewish people have suffered the adversity of defamation, persecution, dispersement, systematic annihilation and crushing wars—and they have not only supernaturally survived—they have thrived!

It is symbolically significant that Israel’s 70th anniversary takes place in a year ending in 18. The Hebrew word *chai* means life and also represents the number 18. Certain numbers have always held special meaning in Jewish tradition, so we can look at 2018 as symbolizing a *year of life*.

Just 70 years after starting with nothing and almost no help, Israel is one of the most successful nations on earth. The descendants of Abraham built cities out of swamps, and transformed the desert into farmland. Israel today is healthy, joyful, prosperous, and generous.

This booklet will highlight how the hand of the Almighty has been on Israel since day one, and how God has used Israel to bless the nations as

He promised Abraham. You'll also learn how Christians United for Israel has served a divine purpose in blessing and defending Israel in recent years. My hope is that you will feel inspired and motivated by this amazing account and take your place as one of the pivotal players in the greatest human story ever to unfold on the stage of modern history.

Thank you for standing with Israel and the Jewish people,

Pastor John Hagee

FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN
CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL

This Government has been informed that a Jewish state has been proclaimed in Palestine, and recognition has been requested by the Provisional Government of the State of Israel. The United States recognizes the provisional government as the de facto authority of the new Jewish state.

Israel

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STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

U.S. RECOGNIZES JEWISH STATE

Proclamation by Head of Government

Special Assembly Adjourns

2 Columns Cross Southern Border

Eilat Settlers Taken P.O.W.

Egyptian Air Force Spitfires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down

Jews Take Over Security Zones

Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History

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Exile and Restoration

Israel is the only nation in the history of the world that was created by a sovereign act of God. But that didn't happen in 1948. It took place nearly 4,000 years before, when God spoke to Abraham and made an everlasting covenant with him and his descendants.

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob very clearly included both the Jewish people and the land of Israel in His covenant.

“I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as

an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

GENESIS 17:6-8

When the Lord used the word *everlasting* to describe His covenant with Israel, He meant it—it stands *forever!* This covenant for Abraham and his descendants to own the land of Israel is in the Bible 22 times.

This foundational truth is very important for Christians to understand. The God we serve does not break covenant. The Bible says, “I am the Lord that keeps covenant for a thousand generations.” A generation according to Genesis 15:16 is technically a hundred years. That’s 100,000 years. The Hebrew meaning actually translates, “I am the Lord that keeps covenant longer than forever.”

O offspring of Abraham, His servant, O descendants of Jacob, His chosen ones. He is the Lord our God; His judgments are throughout the earth. He is ever mindful of His covenant, the promise He gave for a thousand generations, that He made with Abraham, swore to Isaac, and confirmed in a decree for Jacob, for Israel, as an eternal covenant, saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your allotted heritage."

PSALMS 105:6-11

When God gave Abraham, and his descendants through Isaac, the title deed to the land of Israel, it was never revoked. But through the centuries that followed, the Jewish people were driven from their land and scattered among the nations of the world in what is called the *diaspora*, referring to the Jewish people living outside of the land of Israel.

Yet despite the fact that many of the Jews were forced into exile through the

centuries by the Assyrians in 722 BC, the Babylonians in 605 BC, and the Romans in the year 70 AD, they always maintained a presence in their historic homeland. Even though Jews were not always in political control of the land, and were not always the majority of the land's population, they have lived in Israel continuously from the time of Joshua's conquest more than 3200 years ago until the present day.

During thousands of years of exile and suffering, Abraham's descendants never lost the hope of returning home. And they clung to God's many promises, given to the Hebrew prophets, that one day the children of Israel would be restored to Zion and reclaim their inheritance. The Jewish people base their claim to the land of Israel on at least three Biblical and historical facts:

1. God promised the land to the patriarch Abraham through an

irrevocable covenant recorded in the Book of Genesis

2. The Jewish people settled and developed the land as described by the prophet Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 24:6; 42:10).
3. The international community granted political sovereignty to the Jewish people through the Balfour Declaration in 1917, the United Nations partition resolution of 1947 and Israel's admission to the UN in 1949.

As promised in scripture, God's mighty hand began to gather the exiles back to their Promised Land

Be mindful of the promise You gave to Your servant Moses: "If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples; but if you turn back to Me, faithfully keep My commandments, even if your dispersed are at the ends of

the earth, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place where I have chosen to establish My name.”

NEHEMIAH 1:8-9

The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; He gathers in the exiles of Israel. He heals their broken hearts, and binds up their wounds.

PSALMS 147:2-3

In those days, the House of Judah shall go with the House of Israel; they shall come together from the land of the north to the land I gave your fathers as a possession.

JEREMIAH 3:18

For behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,’ says the Lord. ‘And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.’”

JEREMIAH 30:3

Assuredly, a time is coming – declares the Lord – when it shall no more be said, “As the Lord lives who brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt,” but rather, “As the Lord lives who brought the Israelites out of the northland, and out of all the lands to which He had banished them.” For I will bring them back to their land, which I gave to their fathers.

JEREMIAH 16:14-15

Thus said the Lord God: When I have gathered the House of Israel from the peoples among which they have been dispersed, and have shown Myself holy through them in the sight of the nations, they shall settle on their own soil, which I gave to My servant Jacob, and they shall dwell on it in security. They shall build houses and plant vineyards, and shall dwell on it in security, when I have meted out punishment to all those about them who despise them. And they shall know that I the Lord am their God.

EZEKIEL 28:25-26

And you shall declare to them: Thus said the Lord God: I am going to take the Israelite people from among the nations they have gone to, and gather them from every quarter, and bring them to their own land. I will make them a single nation in the land, on the hills of Israel, and one king shall be king of them all. Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms.

EZEKIEL 37:21-22

The appointed time for the rebirth of Israel had come at last.

Independence

After 30 years of promises from the British and other world leaders, in 1947 the Jewish people finally received formal approval from the United Nations General Assembly for the recreation of an independent Jewish state in the land of Israel. According to the UN's partition plan, the Jews would receive a tiny fraction of the land originally set aside for them by previous agreements.

UN Resolution 181 passed on November 29, 1947. Desperate Jewish leaders accepted the offer of these disjointed scraps of land. News of the UN's vote caused Jewish families to dance in the streets. But Arab leaders rejected the partition plan, and the local Arab population immediately began six months of attacks against their Jewish neighbors while preparations for statehood went forward.

On May 14, 1948, David Ben Gurion proclaimed Israel's official independence. Eleven minutes later, President Harry Truman of the United States was the first world leader to officially recognize the newborn state of Israel. In that historic moment, God miraculously restored the Land of Israel to His people and the ancient prophecy was fulfilled:

*Who has ever heard of such things?
Who has ever seen things like this?
Can a country be born in a day
or a nation be brought forth in a moment?
Yet no sooner is Zion in labor
than she gives birth to her children.*

ISAIAH 66:8

Celebration was short-lived. The next day, five Arab armies attacked Israel. Short on manpower, resources, and with almost no international assistance, Israel miraculously survived and even gained ground. But



independence came at a great cost. Israel lost 6,373 people in the war, nearly one percent of its entire population.

After more than a year of fighting, the Arab nations made armistice agreements with Israel and withdrew. For the first time in nearly 2,000 years the Jewish people could return to their God-given national home.



Building a Nation

From 1949 to 1967, Israel grew quickly as Jewish immigrants flooded back to their homeland from all over the world. Jews who had suffered in post-WWII refugee camps were finally allowed to leave Europe. These survivors of the Holocaust brought a wealth of skills and knowledge to the reborn state, but very little else.

At the same time, the surrounding Arab nations were so enraged by Israel's existence that they began harshly persecuting and evicting their Jewish citizens. More than 850,000 Jewish refugees from the Middle East and North Africa were forced to flee the communities where they had lived for nearly 2,000 years. These families lost everything. Their homes, their possessions, their ancestral heritage, and their religious artifacts – everything had to

be left behind.

Some went to the United States or Europe, but it was Israel that opened its doors without hesitation to welcome home the Jewish refugees. Families poured in from Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and Yemen. Their descendants are collectively known as the *Mizrabi* community, from the Hebrew word meaning “eastern.” Today over 50% of Israeli Jews trace their roots back to these refugees.

All of these new immigrants and refugees were bound together by the experience of pioneering a barren land. United by their divine destiny, they learned to speak Hebrew, a language that had been resurrected and modernized by Eliezer Ben Yehuda during the late 19th century.

The Jewish people formed collaborative farming communities known as *kibbutzim*,

where they worked together to transform the arid land into green fields. An Israeli pioneer invented the world's first drip irrigation system and revolutionized not only Israel's agricultural industry but also transformed how farmers all over the world irrigated their crops.

Israel faced a severe shortage of water for drinking, agriculture, and industry. Much of the country was desert. Finding a way to get a reliable source of water to all of its cities and farmers was critical. In 1964, the government completed a massive project to transport water from the Sea of Galilee in the north to the center of the country and the southern communities in the Negev.

Through the Lord's blessings, and with their hard work, determination and ingenuity, Israel flourished and grew stronger. Once again, the Jewish people participated in the fulfilment of Biblical

prophecy,

*The wilderness and the wasteland
shall be glad for them,*

*And the desert shall rejoice
and blossom as the rose...*

ISAIAH 35:1

Yet peace remained elusive as its Arab neighbors continued to brazenly threaten Israel with annihilation.

The Six Day War

In 1967, Israel faced an invasion of nearly half a million Arab troops positioned along every border. Increasing terrorist attacks along the borders had plagued Israelis for years. Arab leaders spoke openly of their desire to wipe Israel off the map, and to massacre every Jewish man, woman, and child. Syria threatened Israel's water supply from the Jordan River, leading to a military confrontation between Israel and Syria in April of that year. Syria then called on Egypt, its ally, to attack Israel. In May, Egyptian troops expelled UN forces stationed in the Sinai desert and closed off Israel's access to shipping routes. Israel's allies in Europe and the United States refused to intervene, and warned Israel not to start a war.

But by June 1st, it was clear that if Israel

did nothing the Arab armies on its borders would wipe out the Jewish state. Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq joined Syria and Egypt in preparations to fight Israel. The people of Israel had spent weeks preparing for the slaughter they knew was coming. Then in the early morning of June 5th, Israel's air force launched a surprise attack on Egypt's planes while they were still on the ground.

Israel would continue to fight and win miraculous victories over their enemy armies for five more days. The battle for Jerusalem was one of the defining moments in modern Israeli history.

Israel had lost the eastern half of Jerusalem during the 1948 war for independence. The Old City, where Jews had lived continuously even under foreign rule since the Romans sacked the city in 70 AD, was captured by Jordan. All Jews were forced out of their homes and none were allowed

to visit the Temple Mount or Western Wall. The holiest site in the world for the Jewish people was taken from them, and for more than 19 years they mourned this profound loss.

Initially, Israel had no intention of fighting against Jordan to recapture eastern Jerusalem. But when King Hussein ignored Israel's pleas to stay out of the war, Israeli paratroopers stormed into the Old City on June 7th. Within four hours, Israel had retaken control of the Temple Mount and the world witnessed young IDF soldiers weep as they touched the Western Wall for the first time in their lives.

Brigadier General Shlomo Goren, who later became the Chief Rabbi of Israel, sounded the shofar and led his troops in prayer. There at the Western Wall, Israel's soldiers jubilantly rededicated Jerusalem to the Lord and mournfully remembered the lives

they'd lost to liberate the Holy City.

“For some two thousand years the Temple Mount was forbidden to the Jews. Until you came – you, the paratroopers – and returned it to the bosom of the nation. The Western Wall, for which every heart beats, is ours once again. Many Jews have taken their lives into their hands throughout our long history, in order to reach Jerusalem and live here. Endless words of longing have expressed the deep yearning for Jerusalem that beats within the Jewish heart. You have been given the great privilege of completing the circle, of returning to the nation its capital and its holy center. Jerusalem is yours forever.”

– IDF Commander Motta Gur,
June 7th, 1967

By the end of the Six Day War, Israel had captured enough land to triple its size. Most of it they would eventually and willingly exchange for peace agreements, but Jerusalem was too precious to give

up or divide. After years of separation, the Jewish people again had access to their holiest sites. Under Israeli authority, Jerusalem was made safe for people of all religions to live in and freely worship according to their own traditions.

The land of Israel captured during the Six Day War included the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights in the north, the Gaza strip, and the ancient biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria. This miraculous victory transformed the way the world saw Israel, and the way Israelis saw themselves. No longer was the Jewish state seen as weak, and Israel's enemies were not only humiliated—they were furious.

This stunning victory came at a steep price. Israel lost 777 soldiers and 2,586 more were wounded in the battle. This number may seem small, but proportionate to Israel's total population it is on par with

the number of casualties the US suffered during eight years of the Vietnam War.



Three No's

Although Israel had decisively won the Six Day War, almost immediately the Israeli government offered to give up the vast majority of its newly acquired territory in exchange for peace.

On June 19, 1967, Israel offered to return the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt and the Golan Heights to Syria. Despite the immense economic benefits and strategic military value of controlling these territories, Israel was willing to sacrifice this prized land if the Arabs would agree to accept Israel's right to exist.

But the Arab leaders were in no mood to negotiate. Stung by their humiliating defeat and outraged by the suggestion that Jews had a right to live anywhere in the land, they immediately rejected Israel's offer of a permanent peace treaty.

At the Arab League's Khartoum Conference in Sudan, the League adopted an official position against Israel that included three infamous NO's:

No Peace

No Recognition

No Negotiation

For twelve years, the three NO's prevented all peace efforts. To this day, the three NO's are a major obstacle to establishing peace between Israel and many of its neighbors.

Land for Peace

The outcome of the Six Day War not only angered the Arabs. The United Nations also viewed Israel's control of its new territories with disapproval. Since the beginning of time, nations have recognized the right of the victors in war to retain control of territory rightfully won in battle. However, the United Nations decided that this was no longer valid and on November 22, 1967, the Security Council passed Resolution 242.

This resolution became the foundation of all future efforts to influence peace between Israel and the Arabs. It called on Israel to trade land it had won in the 1967 war for peace agreements, and it called on the Arab states to recognize Israel's right to exist.

Israel has consistently shown its willingness to trade land for peace; in stark contrast, Palestinian rejectionism has consistently

undermined efforts to end the conflict. The Palestinian leadership has yet to truly accept Israel's existence as a nation.

Even during negotiations, the Palestinian leadership continuously seeks to find a way to destroy Israel. For example, Palestinians claim that Arabs who left the fledgling state of Israel in 1948 – and all of their descendants – have a “right” to return to the land of Israel (which they refer to as Palestine). Such would end the Jewish character of the Jewish state. In addition, as you'll read later, even when Israel made dramatic and painful offers of peace, or unilaterally sought to disengage from the Palestinians, violence and obstinacy are all the Israelis got in return.

Until the Palestinians accept that Israel is the Jewish state, no international pronouncement will serve to advance an end to the conflict.

Yom Kippur War

It was Saturday, October 6th 1973 in Israel. The country was quiet and focused on observing the Day of Atonement, the holiest day in Judaism. Suddenly the solemn and sacred atmosphere was shattered.

Catching the Israel Defense Force (IDF) unaware while many soldiers observed Yom Kippur, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel simultaneously on two fronts. Less than 500 Israeli soldiers faced an overwhelming force of 600,000 Egyptians in the south, while in the North 180 Israeli tanks defended against 1,400 Syrian tanks.

On October 12th, motivated by fears of an Arab victory backed by the Soviet Union, US President Richard Nixon authorized a massive emergency airlift of weapons to Israel.

Though vastly outnumbered, Israel shocked the world by surviving the initial attacks and rallying to push the invaders back across the borders. Eighteen days after Egypt and Syria first attacked Israel; the Arab leaders agreed to a cease fire rather than suffer further losses.

Israel won the Yom Kippur War, but 2,688 Israeli soldiers sacrificed their lives to protect the Jewish homeland. It was an agonizing price to pay.

Angered and stunned by yet another miraculous Israeli victory, the Arab world realized that conventional warfare against Israel was not working. They changed their strategy, and sought to isolate Israel from sympathetic foreign governments by declaring an oil embargo against the West. The oil crisis lasted from October 1973 until March 1974.

The propaganda war worked, and nations began changing their policies towards Israel. This model of economic and diplomatic warfare became the basis for the anti-Israel BDS (Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions) movement around the world.

After the Yom Kippur War, foreign attitudes toward Israel grew increasingly hostile. In November 1975, the United Nations General Assembly declared that Zionism was a form of racism. It labeled the Israeli government as the racist occupier and oppressor of the Palestinian people. Israel was accused of being like the apartheid regime in South Africa, and this smear campaign did lasting damage to Israel's international reputation. The UN later revoked this hateful and undeserved resolution, (UNGA 3379), but none the less, Israel is repeatedly singled out by the United Nations for more condemnation than any other country.

Peace with Egypt

Israel's first peace treaty with an Arab state began with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977. Sadat shocked and angered the Arab world by standing in the Knesset and declaring that he sought peace between Egypt and Israel.

Israel's Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, received this announcement in good faith and began making difficult, often unpopular, moves to achieve peace.

The Camp David Accords took place as a series of meetings in the United States during 1978. The Carter Administration sought worldwide support for the negotiations, and asked religious leaders to pray for success. Finally, a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel was signed on March 26, 1979.

The concessions Israel made for peace were painful. Menachem Begin agreed to return 91 percent of the territory it had won in the Six Day War to Egypt, and willingly gave up the strategic and economic benefits of the Sinai Peninsula. But peace with Egypt was the first step in achieving the peace and security Israel's people had sought for decades.

Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978 for their courage in participating in the Camp David Accords. Unfortunately, the Arab League rejected Sadat's actions. Just two years after making peace with Israel, Sadat would be assassinated by members of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad.

A *fatwa*, which is a religious ruling authorized by an Islamic ruler, sanctioned Sadat's murder. This fatwa was issued by Omar Abdel-Rahman, known in the

United States as “The Blind Sheikh”.
Rahman was later sentenced to life in
prison by a US court for his role in the
1993 World Trade Center bombing.



Operation Babylon

Israel watched Saddam Hussein's attempts to acquire nuclear weapons with alarm for many years while the world looked the other way. France helped Iraq build research facilities, and resisted Israel's urgent warnings that Saddam Hussein intended to use nuclear weapons to perpetrate a nuclear holocaust against Israel. Pleas for help to the Italians also fell on deaf ears.

America's Defense Secretary, Casper Weinberger and Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, agreed with the Israeli assessment of the Iraqi nuclear program's goal of destroying Israel, but the United States refused to act. Despite estimates that Iraq was only 5-10 years away from acquiring nuclear weapons, and some reports saying that Saddam could have the

bomb within a year; world leaders would not take the threat seriously.

Israel did not have the luxury of hoping for the best. Past experience had proved that when an Arab dictator declared he intended to wipe Israel off the map, it was not an empty threat. History had also proven that Israel could not rely on any of its allies, even the United States, to intervene on its behalf when it came time for war.

After Israeli intelligence confirmed Iraq would complete the bomb within a year, Prime Minister Begin ordered a covert strike on the Osirak reactor. On June 7, 1981, fourteen F-15s and F-16s flew at low altitude over enemy airspace and launched a surprise attack on the nuclear facility. It was over in less than 90 seconds.

Immediately, a firestorm of criticism erupted around the globe. The United

States was furious, and voted for a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israel for the attack.

While watching the news coverage in San Antonio, I grew extremely frustrated with the worldwide outrage over Israel's strike on the Iraqi nuclear plant. I was so irritated that I decided to do something radical by planning the first Night to Honor Israel. To my surprise, the local Jewish community was skeptical of my offer of support—they believed I had a hidden agenda. A gesture of unconditional love and support had never been extended before, but thanks to the courage of a righteous orthodox rabbi, the Jewish community agreed to the event. Despite death threats and harsh opposition from many bigots, I went forward and hosted the Night to Honor Israel with the backing of my family, our church and my new found friend, Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg.

On the appointed night of September 10, 1981, the crowd of Christians and Jews that gathered in the Lila Cockrell Theater experienced a divine sense of brotherhood. To demonstrate our support, the Christians in the room raised ten thousand dollars and presented the gift to Israel's Hadassah Hospital. As Rabbi Scheinberg gave the final benediction, the director of security quietly informed me that they had just received a bomb threat to the building.

No bomb went off that night in San Antonio—instead a new movement exploded within our hearts. Since that historic night, Rabbi Scheinberg and I, along with the help of thousands of Christians and Jews in cities around the country, have held hundreds of Night to Honor Israel events for over thirty-seven years. It is my great privilege to report that through our united efforts, Christians United for Israel is now hosting over forty

pro-Israel events every month throughout our great nation in churches, on college campus' and within local communities.



First Lebanon War

Lebanon has long been a safe-harbor for terrorist groups such as the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Hezbollah. The PLO was created in 1964 during the Arab League Summit in Cairo, Egypt with the alleged purpose of the “liberation of Palestine”. In reality its main objective was the destruction of the nation of Israel through acts of terror.

In 1978, PLO terrorists penetrated the northern border of Israel and murdered 39 innocent victims, 13 of which were children. After this attack and others like them, Israeli forces crossed into southern Lebanon pushing the terrorists back from the border but to no avail—the terror war continued.

Even after the United States helped broker a ceasefire agreement 1981, the PLO

repeatedly violated the truce, continued to build their forces and increase their arsenal while killing Israeli's along the way. During the 11-month "cease-fire" period, Israel suffered 270 PLO terror attacks that killed 29 Israelis and injured more than 300 people. In June 1982 Israel could tolerate no more and the IDF moved into Lebanon to drive out the Palestinian terrorists through "Operation Peace for Galilee." Secretary of State Henry Kissinger under President Ronald Reagan defended the Israeli operation, "No sovereign state can tolerate indefinitely the buildup along its borders of a military force dedicated to its destruction and implementing its objectives by periodic shellings and raids."

The war in Lebanon was fought on two fronts—on the ground and in the media. Despite a series of attempted cease fires by the Israelis, the PLO orchestrated provocations that generated required

responses from the IDF. Unfortunately, the world press chose to accept the PLO's spin and blamed Israel—rather than the provocateurs—for the violence.

For the first time since Israel's rebirth as a nation, there was a civil debate on the war and as a result of the extreme internal dispute; Israel pulled most of its troops out of Lebanon in 1985. Israeli civilians continued to suffer terror attacks along the Lebanese border after the IDF withdrew, and between 1985-1999 there were 9 civilians killed and 248 wounded by terrorists.

In May of 2000, Israel fulfilled its obligations under the Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978 by removing all of its troops out of southern Lebanon. Israel may have succeeded in the ground war against Palestinian militants but it did not win the propaganda war and once again

paid a heavy price with the loss of 1,216 lives.

During the clashes between Israel and the PLO in the early 80s Hezbollah, (the party of god), gained strength and took root in Southern Lebanon with the financial and military backing of Iran. Hezbollah later published an “open letter” identifying the United States as one of Islam’s principal enemies and called for the “obliteration” of Israel.

Operation Moses

Israel's Knesset passed an extraordinary law in 1950 that essentially defined the nation's fundamental purpose: "Every Jew has the right to immigrate to this country..." This Law of Return established that all Jews everywhere are entitled to Israeli citizenship. After the rebirth of the nation of Israel, the 2,000 years of wandering was officially over.

In 1975, Israel's Chief Rabbinate recognized the Ethiopian Jewish community's status as Jews entitled to the Law of Return, giving them the right to immigrate to Israel. For 3,000 years, these displaced Jews had been faithful to the Torah and Jewish customs handed down to them by their ancestors. After Israel became a state, they desperately wanted to join their Jewish brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

There was a problem. Ethiopia forbid the Jews to leave. Unwilling to accept the Ethiopian government's decision, thousands of Jews secretly traveled to the Sudanese border and waited for transport to Israel. The journey was dangerous, and many died along the way. Reports reached Israel that thousands of Ethiopian Jews were dying, and Israel decided to mount a rescue mission.

On November 21, 1984, the Israeli Mossad collaborated with the CIA and the Sudanese State Security to covertly smuggle nearly 8,000 Ethiopian Jews out of Sudan. Over seven weeks, cargo planes made more than 30 secret flights to pick up the refugees while Israel clandestinely paid Sudanese officials to look the other way.

Operation Moses gave thousands of Ethiopian Jews the hope of a new life in Israel, and fulfilled 3,000 years of

longing to be reunited with their spiritual homeland. Today, after two more rescue operations in 1991 and again in 2010, there are over 140,000 Ethiopian Jews living and thriving in Israel, fulfilling the words of the Lord through the prophet Zechariah;

Thus said the Lord of Hosts: I will rescue My people from the lands of the east and from the lands of the west, and I will bring them home to dwell in Jerusalem. They shall be My people, and I will be their God – in truth and sincerity.

ZECHARIAH 8:7-8

First Palestinian Intifada

A four-year period of violence and terrorism broke out in December 1987 after deliberate misinformation was spread in Gaza that Israel had killed four Palestinians in retaliation for the stabbing death of an Israeli. Huge riots soon broke out among the Palestinians, and each additional death added fuel to the fire. In the eyes of the international community, as in times past, Israel deserved all the blame and was harshly condemned for the necessary force it used in an attempt to quell the terrorism.

Enemy propaganda continued to circulate that Israel was murdering Palestinians. The UN investigated and determined the stories were false, but the damage had been done. The *intifada*, (violent uprising), continued to grow, and the IDF reported thousands of attacks to include bombings

and shootings. The terrorism targeted both Israeli soldiers and civilians. Casualties over the next four years included 16 Israeli civilians and 11 IDF soldiers killed, while more than 1,400 Israeli civilians and 1,700 Israeli soldiers were injured. What was reported in the world press as spontaneous mob violence was soon revealed to have been orchestrated and encouraged by the PLO, led by Yasser Arafat.

Many of the Palestinian victims were targeted by other Palestinians based on accusations of collaborating with Israel. The murder among their own people grew so out of control that Palestinian leadership began to try to put out the fire it had started and helped spread.

As Arafat lost control of his people, another new organization called Hamas emerged. Backed by the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas had a much more

extreme ideology than the PLO. Instead of being a secular nationalist movement, Hamas wanted to create an Islamist society of religious radicals engaged in a holy war against the Jews.

Until now, Jordan had been the only Arab state willing to give citizenship to the Palestinian people. That changed after the intifada, and over one million Palestinian Arabs lost their Jordanian citizenship.

Oslo Accords

Israel's success in trading land for peace with Egypt led them to believe they could accomplish the same thing with the Palestinians. Yasser Arafat had announced a plan for a two-state solution in 1988, and in 1993 Israel began secret negotiations with the PLO.

Israel and the Palestinian leaders worked on a plan to divide the West Bank, an area known to Jews and Christians by its Biblical name of Judea and Samaria. In the years since 1967, Jewish pioneers built towns in Judea and Samaria and Israel's leaders wanted most of them to become part of the nation in any final peace agreement. Under this plan, the united city of Jerusalem would also remain in Israel. After eight months of peace talks, Israel and the Palestinian leadership reached an accord.

The Oslo Accord signed in September 1993 by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was an agreement on a set of principles for further negotiations. Arafat recognized Israel's right to exist, and renounced terrorism. Peres agreed to recognize the PLO as the leader of the Palestinian government. Under these terms, they pledged to continue seeking a solution for the conflict.

The success of the accords encouraged Jordan to negotiate its own separate peace treaty with Israel. As a result a final peace treaty was signed and a cooperative relationship was formed between Jordan and Israel in October 1994.

A second round of talks between Israel and the Palestinians, known as Oslo II, took place in 1995. The two parties agreed to a temporary system of government for the Palestinian Authority that still gave

Israel security control over strategic areas. The agreement was supposed to expire in 1999, but the peace process stalled and the temporary arrangement has hung in limbo for almost 20 years.

Although Yasser Arafat told Israel and the United States that he had renounced violence and recognized Israel's right to exist peacefully, he told Arab audiences that these negotiations were just a mechanism to buy time and a better position from which to launch future attacks.

During the period after the Oslo Accords between September 1993 and September 2000, nearly 300 Israelis were killed by terrorists. Trust between Israel and the Palestinians broke down, and peace remained out of reach once again.

Israel in the 90s

Despite decades of war and terrorism, by the 1990s Israel had become a global powerhouse of innovation. As a tiny nation dependent on making the most out of every resource, Israel, by necessity, developed a philosophy of creativity and collaboration.

Israel's government changed its economic policies in the 1980s to provide funding and incentives for startup companies and inventors. Government investment in the private sector led to a boom in high-tech innovation. By providing the venture capital for inventors but allowing private individuals the freedom to manage their work unhindered, Israel unleashed a powerful growth engine.

During the 90s Israel also experienced a huge wave of Russian immigration as Jews

fled the former U.S.S.R. after the fall of the Iron Curtain. The Israeli government invested in programs to provide the skilled engineers and scientists from Russia with the resources they needed to become entrepreneurs in Israel. These programs eventually expanded and included Israelis of all backgrounds. Israel's high-tech industry produced several inventions during this time period that would soon change the way the whole world functioned.

A group of three young computer programmers created the world's first commercial firewall software in 1993. Their virus protection technology soon grew into one of the world's leading cyber security companies. Another invention that came out of Israel in 1998, the PillCam, revolutionized the way doctors diagnosed patients. Considered common today, this ingestible camera gave doctors a video

recording of the intestinal tract.

Because Israel was compelled to develop its own infrastructure so quickly, it was and is uniquely equipped to aid developing countries with agriculture, water management, education, medicine, and other areas of need. And as Israel's economy grew, the Jewish state began looking for ways to reach out to the rest of the world with humanitarian aid through the Agency for International Development Cooperation, (MASHAV).

In 1994, Israel provided medical aid for Rwandan refugees. Since 1995 Israeli doctors, through Save a Child's Heart, have provided free life-saving heart operations to over 4,400 children from around the world. Half of these patients are from the Palestinian Authority, Iraq, Jordan and other Arab nations. In 1998, Israel gave medical aid to flood victims in Central America and aided Turkish earthquake

victims in 1999.

Israel became the world's first responder in many major disasters.



Camp David Summit

Having successfully brokered the Oslo Accords, US President Bill Clinton was eager to try again for an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement before the end of his last term in office. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat accepted Clinton's invitation to a summit at Camp David in July 2000.

Barak offered Arafat 91% of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and 100% of the Gaza strip for a Palestinian state. He even offered the Palestinians sovereignty over the Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem, a plan that would divide the very heart of Israel and cause great emotional pain to the Jewish people.

Arafat refused the offer, and gave no counter-terms. The two-week summit ended without a deal.

Second Palestinian Intifada

After the 1967 war, Israel immediately granted control of the Temple Mount to the Muslim religious authorities in Jordan. This gesture was extended to avoid a religious war over access to the two Islamic holy sites on the Temple Mount: the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. Israel also restricted Jewish access to the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism, and forbid Jews to pray on the mount. This status-quo has remained in effect for over 50 years.

In September 2000, Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount in Jerusalem after receiving permission from the head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Organization, “If Mr. Sharon refrains from entering the Mosques on Temple Mount,

there will not be any problem.”

However, even with official Palestinian consent, Sharon’s visit was used as a pretext by the PA to spark violent riots among the Palestinians. Yasser Arafat instigated the riots and planned the intifada in advance. In fact, there were reports that the violence had begun before Sharon entered the Temple Mount. In November, the US sent a committee to Israel to investigate the root of the uprising, and in April 2001 the Mitchell Report concluded that the intifada had not been caused by Sharon’s visit to the Temple Mount.

This intifada was more deadly than the first due to the radical increase of suicide bombings. No one was safe. Over 1,000 Israelis were murdered over the next six years through various acts of terror. This compelled Israel to build a security barrier in 2002, through Jerusalem and parts of

Judea and Samaria, to protect innocent civilians from sniper fire and suicide bombers.

In spite of the security barrier's obvious necessity, pro-Palestinian propagandists managed to convince many in the media and the international community that the fence was a burden to ordinary Palestinians. Anti-Israel activists oversimplified the issue and labeled the life-saving security barrier an "apartheid wall".

The United States tried to broker a peace agreement that would stop the unrelenting terror. At the beginning of this intifada, in December 2000, Prime Minister Ehud Barak accepted a proposal from President Clinton that was even more generous to the Palestinians than what had been offered at Camp David five months earlier. Once again, Arafat said no.

After Arafat's refusal to make peace, the

United States, the European Union, Russia, and the United Nations formed a mediating body called the “Quartet.” In 2002, without appropriately consulting Israel, the Quartet created the “Road Map to Peace” and laid out a process based on the land for peace scheme.

The Road Map to peace failed but Israel’s security fence succeeded. In 2002 there were 47 suicide bombings, by 2006 this number dramatically dropped to three.

Withdrawal from Gaza

From its rebirth Israel has held true to the fundamental goal to live in harmony with its Arab neighbors. Establishing peace is not only part of the foundation of Jewish tradition it is also a “declared policy of the State of Israel” and it has come at a great price.

In an attempt to ease tensions with the Palestinians, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon initiated a *Disengagement Plan* in 2005 which called for Israel’s unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza strip and northern Samaria. The plan’s dual purpose was to increase Israel’s security and create yet another opportunity for peace with the Palestinians.

Sharon believed that in order for this peace initiative to work it required the great sacrifice of the over 9,000 people

that lived in 25 settlements. After working hard for many years to establish a good and prosperous life in Gaza and parts of Northern Samaria, these brave families abandoned their homes and livelihoods at the mandate of the Israeli government.

Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Daniel Ayalon called the Disengagement Plan “a test case for peace.”

Israel’s sacrificial gesture of goodwill and faith in the peace process was met with the immediate takeover of Gaza by Hamas. Hamas had no interest in a peace agreement, and used their new political power and strategic position on Israel’s border to begin launching daily rocket attacks into Israeli cities. This soured many Israelis on the idea of exchanging land for peace.

Hamas’s unfettered domination of the Strip has haunted Israelis and Gazans

ever since. Their unrelenting pursuit of evil has led to tremendous suffering on both sides of the border. Hamas terrorists divert humanitarian resources away from the Gazan people to buy weapons, build bunkers, and dig tunnels for their continued and escalated war with Israel.

Needless to say, the Palestinians failed the “test case for peace”.

Second Lebanon War

On July 12, 2006, Hezbollah crossed the Lebanese-Israeli border and ambushed an IDF patrol. They killed eight soldiers, and kidnapped two others. In the ensuing conflict, Israel bombed known Hezbollah strongholds while the terrorists launched rockets at Israel's northern population centers. For nearly five weeks, Hezbollah launched more than 100 rockets per day into Israel. Israeli families slept in their bomb shelters.

To make matters more complicated, the IDF faced an enemy that purposely hid among the civilian population in Lebanon. The terrorists stored their weapons in private homes and fired their rockets from neighborhoods filled with women and children. Knowing that Israel values all human life, Hezbollah used the Arab

people as human shields—this barbaric tactic became their signature.

Israel was under intense international pressure and criticism for the unavoidable civilian deaths. By divine arrangement, Christians United for Israel had just been formed in February of that year. Over 3,600 CUFI members descended on Washington DC for our first summit at the exact same time this war broke out. We were able to meet with members of Congress and urge them to support Israel against the tidal wave of international condemnation. It was a time when Israel desperately needed friends, and by the grace of God, we were ready to speak out during Israel's hour of need.

The war ended with a ceasefire on August 11, 2006. Israel withdrew without destroying Hezbollah, but the IDF was able to severely cripple their operations in

Lebanon. The Second Lebanon war took the lives of 164 Israelis.

Two years later, Hezbollah released the bodies of the two kidnapped IDF soldiers captured at the start of the war in a prisoner exchange for five known terrorists, one of which was Samir Kuntar. Kuntar was convicted of viciously murdering four Israelis to include a father and his 4 year old daughter. After his release from prison Kuntar received Syria's highest medal honored by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad while Israel laid to rest its fallen soldiers. Kuntar later played an operational role, with the assistance of Iran and Syria, in "building up Hezbollah's terrorist infrastructure in the Golan Heights."

Operation Cast Lead

After three years of sustained rocket fire from Gaza, Israel's people could take no more. The IDF entered Gaza on December 27, 2008.

Hindered by Gaza's dense population and the fact that Hamas terrorists hid among the civilians, the IDF faced a huge challenge. Hamas launched many of its rockets from schools, hospitals, and buildings owned by the United Nations. When Israel retaliated, the international media focused on stories about Israel bombing schools instead of blaming the terrorists for using human shields—once again the propaganda war focused on vilifying the Jewish people.

To save as many innocent lives as possible, Israel voluntarily gave up the strategic advantage of surprise. The IDF sent

voicemail messages and fliers in Arabic to thousands of Gazan residents before sending in an airstrike. This gave civilians time to evacuate, but also warned the terrorists to escape. During the operation, Israel lost nine soldiers.

However, a new day had dawned for the pro-Israel movement—during the three weeks of fighting, CUFI staff and lay leadership organized multiple events around the country to draw attention to Israel’s extraordinary efforts to save innocent lives. While Israel was getting hammered in the media, Christians United for Israel was able to rally support in American communities and college campuses.

Israel in the 2000s

Fueled by the startup boom in previous years, Israel's high-tech industry took off in the first decade of the new century.

The successful entrepreneurs of the 1990s became venture capitalists themselves, and began investing in the next generation of promising ideas. Foreign investment in Israeli startups also increased as industry leaders around the world recognized the value of Israel's scientific, medical and hi-tech advancements.

Flash drive technology was invented in Israel, and after its release in 2000 this new data storage system was quickly adopted by every nation in the world. The Israeli parent company, M-Systems, was bought by the US corporation SanDisk in 2006 for \$1.6 billion.

One of the most popular navigation

smartphone apps, Waze, was developed in Israel in 2008. Millions of people in major cities all around the world now use this app to track the flow of traffic and find the best route to their destination. Google, which has operated a research and development center in Israel since the mid-2000s, purchased Waze for \$1.1 billion and helped jump-start global interest in Israeli startup companies.

Google's partnership with Israel has been profitable. Its 600-employee research center in Tel Aviv created Google's "auto-complete" search engine feature. Another tech giant, Microsoft, also operates R&D centers in Haifa and Herzliya. Israeli computer scientists developed Microsoft's motion-sensing cameras and facial-recognition software.

The medical and technological advancements coming out of Israel are

almost unbelievable. Israel is literally inventing ways to allow paraplegics to walk, give sight to the blind, create water out of thin air, and cure the worst diseases known to mankind. From discovering a compound that disables cancer cells and creating an artificial cornea, to developing the world's first bone implant—Israel is at the forefront of major medical breakthroughs. Whether people want to admit it or not, they have Israel to thank for making their lives safer, easier, and more abundant.

Israel also played a vital role in humanitarian aid for natural disasters in the 2000s. The devastating 2004 tsunami that hit Indonesia was recorded as the sixth-deadliest natural disaster in history. Israel was one of the first three countries to send a team of medical and logistical personnel to assist in the recovery efforts, along with 60 tons of emergency supplies. When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans

in 2005, Israel's first responders brought 80 tons of critically needed goods and equipment donated by Israeli companies. Three days after a massive earthquake leveled Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in January 2010, the swiftest and most critical medical response came from Israel as the IDF established a fully functional field hospital in the devastated city.

Operation My Brother's Keeper

In June 2014, three teenage Jewish boys disappeared while hitchhiking near the city of Hebron. Authorities soon determined they had been kidnapped, and for 18 agonizing days Israel's soldiers, police, and security services launched a massive search for the victims.

Israeli civilians also helped in the mission through a group of volunteer searchers familiar with the terrain. They eventually found the boys' bodies hidden under a pile of rocks fifteen miles from where they were abducted.

It was quickly determined that the missing teens had been murdered almost immediately after their capture. Israel's national heartbreak was shared by millions

of Christians and Jews in the US who had prayed for the safe return of Gilad, Eyal, and Naftali as if the boys were their own family.

Eventually Israel learned that Hamas had been behind the kidnapping and murders and funded the three terrorists responsible. One of the terrorists was captured and imprisoned, while the other two were killed during a firefight with the IDF.

The kidnapping shook Israeli society, and awoke Israel to the growing threat of Hamas's influence in Judea and Samaria.

Operation Protective Edge

For eight years, Israelis along the border with Gaza had endured daily rocket fire from Hamas. But in the summer of 2014, while Israel was searching for three kidnapped teenagers, the rocket attacks suddenly escalated. For weeks, Israel's government sought to negotiate a cease-fire without success. Then on July 7th, Hamas fired over 100 rockets into Israeli neighborhoods in one day. This situation was intolerable—Israel had to act.

On July 8th, Israel responded with a massive ground incursion of Gaza. Sending in soldiers to fight in the cramped streets and booby-trapped buildings of the Gaza strip was not an easy decision. It put Israeli soldiers in extreme danger, but it also minimized the chances of civilian casualties.

As Israel entered Gaza, they discovered an even more dangerous threat. Hamas had secretly built a network of underground tunnels beneath the border with Israel. The terrorists intended to use these tunnels to infiltrate Israel's towns and kidnap and murder Israeli citizens. Several times during the war, Hamas sent groups of terrorists into Israel through these secret tunnels, sometimes disguised in IDF uniforms. Thankfully, none of their planned massacres succeeded, but the discovery of this new threat alarmed Israel. The tunnels had to be destroyed.

Meanwhile, around the world, anti-Semitism surged during the fighting. Members of the Jewish community were attacked and threatened. Massive anti-Israel rallies were held in several Western countries. The pressure on Israel to withdraw from Gaza before their mission was complete grew intense.

Israel desperately needed a friend, and Christians United for Israel became one of the leading voices speaking up in defense of Israel's right to defend itself. During the July Washington DC Summit, nearly 5,000 CUFI members convened in the nation's capital to take a stand for Israel and send a clear message of support to Congress. Following the Summit, CUFI placed multiple full-page ads in national newspapers exposing Hamas's stated vow to destroy the Jewish state.

Then in early August, CUFI organized an emergency solidarity mission to Israel and brought fifty US pastors, one from every state, on a tour of the cities threatened by Hamas rockets and tunnels. They brought hope and comfort to the Jewish people, both in Israel and abroad, by publicly demonstrating their unconditional Christian support for Israel's morally-justified acts of self-defense.

Soon after CUFI's solidarity mission returned home, Hamas finally accepted a cease-fire agreement. Israel had successfully destroyed the tunnels beneath the border and dealt a crippling blow to the terrorist infrastructure in Gaza. Yet for this success Israel paid the price of losing 64 soldiers and three civilians during the operation.

Israel's humanitarian actions during the war were finally recognized. An independent assessment of NATO's military leaders exonerated and praised Israel, stating, in their 2015 report that the IDF had conducted itself by the highest possible moral standards.

The Iran Deal

The tragic miscarriage of American foreign policy known as the Iran Deal, or more formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, has gone down in history as one of the worst mistakes of modern times. Its consequences have not been fully revealed, but already we can see how this bad deal jeopardizes Israel and America's security, as well as the security of the entire free world.

Shortly after coming to office, President Obama decided to pursue a nuclear deal with Iran that he believed would be a historic achievement and end decades of hostility between Iran and the West. Details are still coming out that show just how much Obama was willing to put America and Israel's safety at risk to get a deal inked on paper, but even before those details began to come to light it was obviously a

fatally flawed agreement.

After years of negotiating with Iran to set aside its nuclear program for a short period in exchange for lifting decades of crippling international financial sanctions against the Iranian government, President Obama and the leaders of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the European Union reached an agreement with Iran in 2015.

This historically bad deal essentially gave Iran two paths to a nuclear bomb, which the Iranian government has always made clear they intend to use first against Israel and then against the infidels, us, in the West. All Iran has to do is ignore the deal and continue to enrich uranium to the level needed for a nuclear bomb while continuing its program for developing ballistic missiles capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. Under the JCPOA,

international inspections to verify Iran has halted its nuclear weapons program are completely voluntary, and Iran has adamantly refused to allow inspectors into its military sites since the deal was made.

Alternatively, Iran could follow the JCPOA to the letter and still get a nuclear bomb within a little more than a decade, because the deal Obama made with Iran automatically expires in 2031. However, key restrictions against Iran's military program and other international provisions hindering Iran's nuclear weapons program begin to phase out as soon as 2020.

Unless the deal is terminated or radically amended, Iran will be able to achieve its long-awaited dream of a nuclear weapons arsenal capable of fully destroying the Jewish State and threatening the entire Middle East, Europe, and even America with a nuclear war.

Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions represent an existential threat to Israel and a serious threat to American security, and this deal makes Iran even more dangerous because it gives Iran access to over \$150 billion in previously frozen funds. Iran is putting a huge amount of money from the deal's sanctions relief into building its military and international terrorism programs.

We recognized this threat long before President Obama inked the deal with Iran, and fought hard against it. CUFI spoke out frequently against the Iranian nuclear threat and the dangers of making a bad deal for years, even before President Obama was elected and made it his number one foreign policy goal. On the day Obama announced he had signed the deal in July 2015, CUFI was in Washington DC at our 10th annual Summit. The same day, we brought 5,500 of our members from all 50 states to meet with their

members of Congress on Capitol Hill and express opposition to the deal. We strongly supported the attempt within Congress to stop the deal from taking effect.

In the months leading up to the final agreement, CUFI spearheaded an aggressive nationwide grassroots campaign against the Iran Deal. This effort generated more than 400,000 emails and phone calls to Congress. CUFI members attended 101 town halls and constituent meetings with members of Congress and their staffs in their home states and districts. As a result, we succeeded in persuading bipartisan majorities in both Houses of Congress to vote against the deal. Unfortunately, supporters of the deal used a procedural maneuver in the Senate to block the resolution disapproving of the agreement from ever coming to a vote.

Stabbing Intifada

On Rosh Hashanah, September 2015, a wave of violence emanating from Jerusalem began to spread across the country. This hostility was fueled by the hateful and deceitful rhetoric of the Palestinian Authority. Believing the lie spread by Palestinian media that Israel was threatening the Muslim holy sites on the Temple Mount, Palestinian men, women, and even children began terrorizing Israelis in the streets and in their homes. These assaults, which have lasted for more than two and half years, became known as the “Stabbing Intifada” or the “Knife Intifada” because of the frequency of stabbing attacks.

In the first several months, hundreds were injured in the riots and terror attacks. Jewish civilians were attacked in their

cars, at bus stops, near holy sites, and even in their own homes. Twenty-seven Israelis were murdered before the end of 2015. Over the next few years, that number grew to include over 60 innocent victims brutally killed, and over 900 more wounded. Along with the stabbings, many victims were shot, rammed with a vehicle, firebombed, or beaten with large stones.

One of the victims was Taylor Force, a young American citizen on a study abroad trip in Israel. Taylor, who had served his country in Iraq and Afghanistan, was stabbed and killed by a Palestinian terrorist near Tel Aviv on March 8, 2016. The 28 year-old's tragic murder led to the Taylor Force Act in the United States, a piece of legislation designed to cut off the flow of American tax dollars to the Palestinian Authority until the PA stopped all payments to terrorists.

It has been customary for many years for the Palestinian Authority to reward terrorists or their families with a lifelong pension worth more than most Palestinians could hope to earn in their lifetime. This financial incentive to commit terror was funded by international foreign aid, to the tune of \$350 million a year. When Americans discovered their tax dollars were being used to reward terrorism they were outraged.

Christians United for Israel took up the Taylor Force Act as our top legislative priority in 2017. Our members sent over one million emails to Congress, insisting that they pass the Taylor Force Act and end the PA's "pay-to-slay" policy. By the end of 2017, the House of Representatives passed this legislation and sent it on to the Senate. Senate leaders then included the Taylor Force Act in the final omnibus spending bill passed by Congress on March

23, 2018. It has now been signed into law by President Trump, representing a major legislative victory for CUFI and an important step toward making the people of Israel safer.

Surrounded by Violence

Iran has been firmly entrenched on Israel's northern border since 2011 when the Islamic Republic's military began operating in Syria in support of President Bashar al-Assad's regime during the Syrian Civil War.

On the morning of February 10, 2018, Iran invaded Israeli airspace by sending an unmanned drone, equipped with explosives, across Israel's border. Iran's presence in Syria has posed a serious threat to Israel's security; however, the drone invasion was more than a threat—it was seen as a flagrant attack by Iran's government on Israel's sovereignty. By any definition, it was an act of war.

Shortly after the Iranian UAV entered Israel's air space at 4 AM, the IDF responded by shooting it out of the sky with an Apache helicopter. As an act

of deterrence and self-defense, the IDF then sent eight fighter jets into Syria and destroyed the Iranian command post that had launched the drone. These jets were immediately attacked by a barrage of Syrian anti-aircraft missile fire, which managed to critically damage one of the Israeli jets and cause it to crash as it crossed back into Israel. Two IDF pilots ejected before the crash, and one was seriously injured.

Tensions escalated as Israel mobilized a massive counterattack against both Syrian and Iranian forces. With overwhelming force, Israel's fighter jets destroyed four Syrian command posts and eight Iranian command posts, sending a clear message to Iran and Syria that Israel will not tolerate attacks on its sovereignty or attempts to prevent Israel from exercising its right to self-defense.

As soon as we learned about what took

place, Christians United for Israel sent an email to our 4 million members reporting the facts surrounding the situation and urging them to share the IDF's video footage of Iran's drone attack. As a result, over 187,000 people viewed the footage on the CUFI Facebook page. In a separate Facebook Live broadcast, our terrorism expert Erick Stakelbeck gave his analysis of Iran's act of war and Israel's response. That broadcast reached an additional 61,000 people. Because CUFI was able to react quickly, at least 4 million people learned the truth that the mainstream media had ignored.

Iran, its terrorist army Hezbollah, and their Syrian allies continue to pose a dangerous threat on Israel's northern border. Although the February conflict did not escalate into a full-blown war, it easily could have, and it proved that Iran is eager to provoke war with Israel. Sadly, it will not

be long before Iran tries to violate Israel's sovereignty once again.

In the west, along Israel's border with Gaza, another serious threat emerged in March 2018. Hamas announced that it would sponsor a massive "march of return" towards Israel's security fence in anger against Israel's upcoming 70th anniversary. A longstanding goal of Palestinian leaders has been to force Israel to accept the "return" of millions of Palestinians descended from those who fled the war 1948. This "return" would mean the end of Israel as a Jewish state.

It is important to reiterate that Israel withdrew totally from the Gaza Strip in 2006, and Hamas has had complete control of Gaza since 2007. This "march of return" was not a protest against Israeli occupation. It was not a protest against a disputed border, because the current border between

Gaza and Israel follows the same line that has existed since 1949. Bottom line, these riots were not a protest at all—they were a sustained act of choreographed mass terrorism.

Remaining true to their threat, beginning on the morning of Passover, March 30th, tens of thousands of Palestinians began rioting along the Gaza security fence in an attempt to provoke a violent response from the IDF soldiers opposite them. This violence was methodically organized and scheduled to increase daily for over six weeks up to the day Palestinians refer to as the Nakba, the “catastrophe” also known as Israel’s independence. Hamas further incited the Palestinians to be as provocative and violent as possible by offering a reward of \$3,000 to the family of any Palestinian killed during the riots, and \$500 for anyone seriously wounded by the IDF.

The Prime Minister of Gaza and top Hamas official, Yahya Sinwar, visited the border demonstrations on March 30th and publicly declared that his goal was to “erase this border.” While they used civilians, including women and children, as cover for their terrorist activities, Hamas attacked IDF soldiers across the fence with gunfire, Molotov cocktails and stones. Some terrorists attempted to plant explosive devices along the fence, while others tried to set fire to it. When the IDF was able to clearly identify those known to be Hamas operatives or observed individuals in the act of sabotaging the fence or attacking IDF soldiers, they responded with lethal force to protect Israel’s border from infiltration.

The international media, predictably, focused their coverage on distorting Israel’s acts of self-defense and reported that the IDF had killed Palestinian civilians. In

fact, many of the men who were killed can be identified as terrorists through Hamas's own photos if journalists cared to investigate. Hamas even admitted that some of their militants had been killed, but this fact was ignored by Israel's critics. The media also ignored obvious acts of provocation and aggression by the Palestinian rioters and insisted the demonstrations were merely "peaceful protests." Meanwhile, these "peaceful protesters" burned thousands of tires along the border to obscure the IDF's vision as they continued to try to sabotage Israel's security fence and invade the Jewish state.

Of course Israel cannot and will not allow its border to be breached by even a single terrorist, much less thousands of hostile combatants. It might seem that the "march of return" was a futile act, but in fact it was designed to be a clever propaganda weapon to inflict massive political damage on Israel

through staged photos, video footage, and inaccurate casualty reports. And sadly, the media and the United Nations fell for it.

CUFI, however, was ready to take action. On the first day of violent demonstrations, we emailed our members to provide them with the truth about what was happening in Gaza. In the following weeks, we countered the false media narrative with regular social media updates and expert analysis that reached hundreds of thousands of people online. We made sure that an army of informed Christians was equipped to extinguish the lies being spread about Israel during this violent uprising.

Israel is currently surrounded on almost every side by violence and threats of a much larger regional war. Behind the scenes, Iran's invisible hand is pulling the strings of its puppets Hamas and

Hezbollah, the Syrian government, and smaller terrorist groups like Palestinian Islamic Jihad, to squeeze Israel in a vice.

Eventually, Israel will be forced to defend itself in a major confrontation with Iran and its proxies. We can expect the United Nations and the international media to condemn Israel for any defensive action, because they continually ignore the acts of aggression that force Israel to respond. What most matters though is that Israel is morally and legally justified in defending its sovereignty, the security of its borders, and the safety of its people.

My Jerusalem

Jerusalem, the center of the universe.

Jerusalem, the City of Gold.

*Jerusalem, the undivided capital of the covenant
nation of Israel.*

*Jerusalem, the place that the God of Abraham,
Isaac and Jacob calls home.*

*Jerusalem, the experience that forever
changed my life.*

From the moment I first walked the ancient cobblestone streets of that Holy City, I sensed a divine presence there—a type of supernatural peace known nowhere else. I have traveled the world but only Jerusalem has felt like home.

Jerusalem is where Abraham, the father of all who believe, placed his beloved son,

Isaac, on the altar of sacrifice at Mount Moriah, reflecting his absolute faith in God Almighty.

Jerusalem is the city King David conquered 3,000 years ago, making it the eternal capital of Israel.

Jerusalem is where Jeremiah and Isaiah penned the principles of righteousness that became the moral foundations of civilization.

Jerusalem is where a Rabbi named Jesus of Nazareth established the covenants of my faith that are chiseled in the depths of my soul.

Jerusalem is where Messiah will rule the earth for 1,000 years of perfect peace in the world to come.

Jerusalem is the city that holds my heart.

When I first prayed at the Western Wall, I stood next to a rabbi who bowed his head

at every mention of God's Holy Name. I knew the Lord was listening to his prayer and at that very moment I heard the Lord speak to my heart to bring Christians and Jews together in an atmosphere of unconditional love and mutual respect. It was a seemingly impossible task were it not for the help of the Almighty.

I entered the city of Jerusalem a pilgrim... and walked out of its gates a Zionist. I believe all that the Holy Scriptures say of Jerusalem and have dedicated my life to sharing these truths with the world.

Yes, this Holy City has forever changed my life. Jerusalem means eternal—for as poets have declared, “Jerusalem is the port city on the shore of eternity.”

Jerusalem's Jubilee

At the beginning of 2017, Christians United for Israel declared a year-long celebration of Jerusalem's Jubilee, the 50th anniversary of the reunification and restoration of Jerusalem as Israel's undivided capital. Along with the celebration, CUFI made the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and President Trump's campaign promise to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem a top priority.

Proclaiming that 2017 was the year of Jerusalem's Jubilee was much more than an entertaining way to celebrate an anniversary. Both the Bible and history indicated that 2017 would have prophetic significance. God does everything at an appointed time, especially when it comes to Israel.

The importance of the Jubilee Year comes from Leviticus 25:10-11,

“Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.

It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines.”

From this passage, we know God measures time in modules of 50 years, and at the end of each module He declares a Year of Jubilee. However, God’s prophetic clock only runs when the Jewish people are in the Promised Land of Israel.

This prophetic clock last stopped when the Roman Army under General Titus conquered Jerusalem in 70 AD destroying the Second Temple. According to the historian Josephus over 1 million Jewish people were slaughtered in the siege and

tens of thousands more were taken as slaves to Rome or dispersed among the nations of the world.

The clock began ticking again in 1917, with the creation of the Balfour Declaration. This British pronouncement stated that the Jewish people could return and rebuild their national home on a small piece of land representing a portion of the total real estate given to them by God in the Book of Genesis.

When you add 50 to 1917, you reach the year 1967 when in just six days; Israel miraculously defeated five Arab armies who were armed to the teeth by Russia. The astonishing victory of the Six Day War more than doubled the size of Israel's land mass. But more importantly, Jerusalem was reunited with the State of Israel for the first time since 70 A.D. when it was besieged by Rome. This war was a war of miracles—and

this year was a year of Jubilee.

Finally, from 1967 add 50 years and you come to 2017. I believed with all my heart that this Jubilee Year would be monumental for Israel and the Jewish people.

In April, members of CUFI's executive leadership and I had the honor of meeting with President Trump and Vice President Pence in the White House. It was the first time in 8 years that CUFI had direct access to the Administration, and of course, Jerusalem was on the agenda. We addressed the importance of moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem, something the last three presidents had failed to do despite the law Congress passed mandating the move over 20 years ago.

That was the beginning of an ongoing conversation that allowed me to personally speak to the President about the

importance of announcing to the world that the United States recognize Jerusalem was the eternal and undivided capital of Israel. After considerable discussion, the President pointed his finger at me and said, “Other presidents have failed you but I will not fail you!”

Throughout the rest of the year, CUFI members sent the president over 135,000 emails asking him to move our embassy. God’s prophetic clock hovered on the edge of striking 50 as the appointed time drew near. And on December 6th, President Donald Trump stunned the world and all the foreign policy experts by publicly announcing that the United States of America recognized Jerusalem as the official capital of Israel. The President demonstrated the courage other presidents did not—he made a promise and kept that promise—he is a bold defender of Israel.

Furthermore, President Trump announced that his State Department would immediately begin preparations to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv. On May 14, 2018, Diana and I and members of our CUFI team were honored to be in God's Holy City for the ceremony officially moving our US Embassy to the rightful capital of the state of Israel. It was another miraculous year for the Jewish people.

Am Yisrael Chai

After nearly 2,000 years of exile and longing, in 1948, Israel was reborn as a modern independent nation and the last seven decades have been miraculous.

Despite all the wars, all the terrorism, and all the sacrifice, Israel has thrived. The people of Israel are alive and well. God has kept His promises to the descendants of Abraham. The desert has bloomed. The barren places are fruitful again. And Israel, as assured by the Almighty, is blessing the nations of the world through its innovations as promised in Genesis 18:18.

Israel's awe-inspiring story throughout the last 3,500 years can be summed up in seven words.

**COVENANT
STRUGGLE**

SACRIFICE
PERSEVERENCE
RESTORATION
BLESSING
HOPE

As you learned in this pocket-book, after God's eternal covenant with Abraham, Israel has overcome a relentless barrage of attacks, constant struggles and sacrifices, and heartbreaking tragedies. This is not a revelation to us who believe what the Word of God says. Our God keeps His covenants for a thousand generations. The world may be mystified at Israel's perseverance and triumph, but we are not.

The miracle of Israel at 70 is that such a tiny nation surrounded by a massive sea of enemies has so quickly become one of the brightest torches of freedom, generosity, courage, and blessing in the world.

While the rest of the Middle East has been a dark place of torment for thousands of

Christians and other religious minorities, the Jewish state has been a place of refuge, safety, and prosperity. In Israel, women and ethnic and religious minorities are free to pursue their dreams, worship as they choose, and participate in every level of society.

This covenant nation, restored by destitute refugees and Holocaust survivors, bequeathed a legacy of resilience, optimism, and faith to its 8.5 million descendants. With that legacy, the Jewish people have embraced peace instead of war, love instead of hate and life instead of death.

The truth is many in the Arab world owe their lives to Israel as well. The doctors and nurses who volunteer to perform life-saving surgery on children from all over the Arab and Muslim world have given thousands of innocents new lives without asking or

caring what their parents think about Israel. The IDF medics who respond to terror attacks treat a wounded terrorist with as much dignity and proficiency as they do the victims.

Through the foundation of their faith, Israel has found the divine grace to show unconditional love and compassion to all of humanity. Not only do the people of Israel live—they are an example to the rest of the world of how we can live under the blessings and hope of God.

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is unfolding Israel's prophetic destiny before our eyes and Christians United for Israel is proudly standing with His chosen people as He fulfills His mighty plan. As the Lord's Covenant Nation celebrates 70 years of miracles we unite with one voice and declare that, *Am Yisrael Chai—the people of Israel live!*



In the 70 days leading up to Israel's celebration of its 70th anniversary, the Israeli Embassy in Washington and the Jewish News Syndicate chose to honor 70 Americans who have invaluable strengthened and blessed Israel and the US-Israel relationship since its founding. Christians United for Israel is thrilled to announce that our very own founder and Chairman, Pastor John C. Hagee, was chosen as 27th of 70.

Along with historic American icons such as Albert Einstein, Frank Sinatra, Elie Wiesel, and Reinhold Niebuhr, Israel honored Pastor John Hagee for his 37 years of friendship and generosity to the Jewish State. The JNS story praised and thanked Pastor Hagee for playing a leading role in strengthening the relationship between American Christians and the State of Israel, beginning with the first Night

to Honor Israel in 1981 and culminating in the creation of CUFI which is now over 4 million members strong and growing rapidly.

“CUFI has become the largest pro-Israel Christian group in the United States, and one of Israel’s most significant and vital sources of support in America.”

– Jewish News Syndicate

We at CUFI are humbled and gratified that the State of Israel chose to honor Pastor Hagee as a man of uncommon courage, conviction and moral clarity. With God’s help, Pastor Hagee will continue to build his legacy for many generations to come. Christians United for Israel will always be watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem.

Thank you for being part of this historic movement. This is only the beginning!

Get Involved with CUFI

Since 2006, CUFI has been on the frontlines of the movement to bless and defend Israel. CUFI works every day to ensure the American Christian Zionist community's voice is heard in our nation's capital. From seeking to thwart Iran's imperialist ambitions and sanctioning terrorist financiers to advocating for military aid to the Jewish state, CUFI consistently works to strengthen the US-Israel relationship and ensure the Israel has the means to defend itself from the enemies at its gates. There is no stronger unified voice in the world promoting the truth and silencing the lies about Israel. Israel has a story to tell, and we are making sure it is heard.

CUFI on Campus is defending Israel by providing students with the skills,

resources, and knowledge to support Israel. CUFI on Campus develops student leaders and equips them to become effective advocates for Israel on their college campuses.

The Israel Collective (IC) is revealing the truth about Israel and the Middle East to the Millennial generation. The IC brings Christian leaders to Israel to experience a personal encounter with the people and the land. The IC also produces films that highlight human interest stories revealing the heart of the Israeli people.

CUFI's social media machine shares Israel's story in real time with millions of Christians across multiple platforms. CUFI's social media followers are one of the most engaged and passionate online audiences of any grassroots organization in America.

The Washington Summit makes Israel stronger and her people safer by bringing thousands of Christians from all 50 states to personally express their support for Israel with their elected officials on Capitol Hill.

CUFI's weekly national televised show, **The Watchman**, educates TBN's audience of 100 million households about the rising security threats facing America and Israel. *The Watchman* is also dubbed into Spanish as *El Vigilante* and broadcasted throughout the Spanish-speaking world on TBN's partner network, Enlace.

The Mizrahi Project tells the personal stories of nearly one million forgotten Jewish refugees who were forced to flee their ancestral homes in the Middle East and North Africa and leave behind more than 2,000 years of Jewish history to make new lives in Israel and other countries.

CUFI Events educate tens of thousands

of Christians every year about what is happening in the Middle East today and how to effectively tell Israel's story to those they influence.

CUFI shares Israel's story to millions of Americans through billboards, bus ads, and full-page ads in major newspapers.

CUFI safeguards Israel during political crises by bringing our top leaders to DC for emergency summits and Hill meetings.

CUFI Pastor Leadership Tours to Israel transform pastors from spiritual pilgrims into passionate Zionists who share Israel's story with their congregations.

CUFI's BDS Task Force protects Israel from boycotts, divestment, and sanctions by passing anti-BDS legislation on campus and in state government.

CUFI Action Alerts have generated well over 1.5 million emails and phone calls to

elected officials and consistently generate a deluge of messages to Congress and the White House from our members each time Israel is threatened.

There are many ways you can get involved with this historic movement. You can be part of the next chapter in Israel's story by joining us today.

Sign the Israel Pledge

Signing the Israel pledge demonstrates to our nation's leaders that millions of Christians are demanding that they stand with Israel. Every signature makes CUFI's voice louder and makes Israel stronger.

www.cufi.org/pledge

Respond to Action Alerts

Send a clear and immediate message to our elected officials that millions of Christians are paying attention and will hold them responsible for how they treat Israel. When

you receive an action alert, please take 2 minutes to respond and share it with your friends and family. www.cufi.org/action

Become a Social Media Ambassador

You can take a more active role in representing CUFI online by applying to be one of our select digital ambassadors. These ambassadors are responsible for amplifying the message CUFI puts out through social media and motivating our members to become more involved in supporting Israel online. Ambassadors are carefully selected and provided with high-quality training for this important role. Apply at www.cufi.org/digital **ambassador**

Attend a Local Event

Attending a CUFI sponsored gathering will help to equip you with the facts necessary to defend and support Israel. We hold pro-Israel events across the country

almost every day of the month. When a CUFI meeting comes to your city, church, or campus please attend and bring your friends. Check out our event calendar at www.cufi.org/events

Become a Congregational Representative

Even if your pastor loves Israel but doesn't have time to work with CUFI, you can help by volunteering to serve as a Congregational Representative for CUFI in your church. These are the people we count on as our point of contact for planning events, educating the community, and organizing grassroots activism within their church or community. With your pastor's blessing, we would be honored to train you in this important role. You can apply at www.cufi.org/representative

Host a Small Group Study Series

Designed for easy use by small groups,

CUFI has provided ready-made presentations that will help you educate your friends, family, book club, or church group on the issues that are important for Christians who support Israel. These presentations are available at www.cufi.org/smallgroups

Attend the Washington DC Summit

Every summer thousands of pro-Israel Christians gather in the nation's capital for two days of power-packed advocacy training and mobilization. The Summit draws the most renowned speakers, national leaders, and experts in Washington and Jerusalem. It is also our single biggest opportunity to impact our nation's foreign policy by swarming Capitol Hill to encourage every member of Congress to support policies that strengthen the US-Israel relationship. www.cufi.org/summit

Participate in CUFI Sunday

Have your church join Christians around the world united in prayer and action in support of Israel. www.cufi.org/CUFISunday

Become a Monthly or Annual Donor

The only way we are able to maintain and escalate our efforts to combat the relentless attacks against Israel is with a full war chest provided by the generosity of our donors. There are 10 donor levels, each with its own special benefits. The lowest level is just \$18 per year. Find out more by visiting www.cufi.org/donate

In order to help you better defend Israel, we offer these amazing resources.

Israel 101

Start with the basics. Find out how, when, and why Israel was reborn as a modern

state. Inside this booklet you'll find the foundational truths that will help you understand what you see on the news and defend Israel against the lies and myths being spread. Available as a free e-book download at www.cufi.org/Israel101

Social Media

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube for breaking news and engaging educational content.

Facebook: @ChristiansUnitedforIsrael

Twitter: @CUFI

Instagram: ChristiansUnitedforIsrael

YouTube: OfficialCUFI

The Watchman

Hosted by prominent Middle East expert Erick Stakelbeck, The Watchman airs on TBN every week with a new 30-minute program spotlighting the rising security

threats facing America and Israel. Featuring on-the-ground reporting from Israel and Washington, DC, The Watchman provides commentary and interviews with top US and Israeli experts and decision-makers. You'll also see the important work CUFI is doing in churches, classrooms, and communities across the United States to strengthen the US-Israel relationship and empower Christians everywhere to stand with Israel. View it online at www.cufi.org/watchman

CUFI Film Series

Christians United for Israel and our good friends at Jerualem U have teamed up to take you on an exclusive journey through Israel's past, present, and future. We have put together a film series of six world-class documentaries available at no cost to our members. Sign up to participate at www.cufi.org/film

CUFI U

Now you can learn about the biblical, political, and cultural issues surrounding Israel from the most sought-after experts in the field, and it's complimentary for all our members! Get a world-class education from the comfort of your living room. All you have to do is join CUFI U on our Facebook page livestream on the first Thursday of every month at 9:00 PM ET.

Micro History Videos

We are excited to present an ongoing series of bite-sized documentary-style videos showing you key moments in Israel's history. This original series of 1-2 minute videos created in-house by CUFI is one of the easiest and fastest ways to begin learning and sharing the truth about Israel's history. View all videos at www.cufi.org/micro-history

Why Christians Support Israel

Do you know...Why Israel has a biblical and historic claim to the land? Why it is important to bless Israel? Why modern Israel matters to the world? If you are searching for answers to these questions, you need to read Pastor John Hagee's important revised book, *Why Christians Support Israel*. Order your complimentary copy at www.cufi.org/book

Israel: Through the Looking Glass

CUFI's first full-length documentary movie dispels the myths about Israel with personal testimonies from the people who live in Israel. This film empowers Christians with an engaging tool to combat the sinister lies and distorted truths often told about the nation of Israel and her people. Request your DVD copy at www.cufi.org/movie

Israel for Critical Thinkers

Do you need to know the answers to commonly asked questions about Israel? This resource will help. For a donation of \$18 or more, you will receive this shortened Primer edition, and for a donation of \$75 or more you will receive the full-length Israel For Critical Thinkers handbook. Make a donation and receive your copy at www.cufi.org/donate

The Torch

CUFI's quarterly magazine is filled with inspiring and educational articles covering current events surrounding Israel and the work CUFI is doing to make Israel stronger and her people safer. Subscribe for \$25/year by visiting www.cufi.org/resources/the-torch or get the best deal and receive a complimentary subscription by becoming a Torch Club level donor or above.



CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL

WASHINGTON

SUMMIT

CUFI.ORG

STAND WITH ISRAEL

Join CUFI this July in Washington, D.C.

Go online to cufi.org/summit

and register today.