

The Middle East will never have peace until this question is honestly answered according to the historical facts. Myths and legends are fine as children's stories, but in the real world we must have facts and documentation.



**The
Palestinian
Flag**

THE ARAB CLAIM

The Arabs' claim to the land of Israel rests entirely on three false assumptions:

1. All Arabs are the descendants of Abraham through Ishmael.
2. Ishmael and his descendants were included in the covenant God made with Abraham.
3. Since the Abrahamic covenant included the land of Israel, the Arabs have a legitimate claim to it.

TEN HISTORICAL FACTS

1. According to the Torah, when Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees, he went West to what is now called Israel. He became a dweller in tents in that land. It was in Israel that God made a covenant with him for the land in which he was living at that time.

It was in Israel that he fathered Isaac, Ishmael, and many other sons and daughters. Isaac was the only son of Abraham chosen by God to be the heir of the covenant. Abraham took Isaac to Mount Moriah to be offered up as a sacrifice to God.

2. The Torah is contradicted by the Qur'an at nearly every point. According to Surah 2:119-121, Abraham and Ishmael did not dwell in tents in Israel but in the city of Mecca in Arabia. Together they rebuilt the Kabah and placed the black stone in the wall. It was Abraham who started the tradition of an annual pilgrimage to Mecca, throwing stones at the devil, etc. Abraham took Ishmael (not Isaac) to nearby Mount Mina to offer as a sacrifice to God.

3. Ishmael's twelve sons were named Nebaioth, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hada, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah (Genesis 25:12-16). They intermarried with the local population in North Arabia and produced several nomadic tribes known as the "Ishmaelites".

4. It was prophesied in the Torah that Ishmael and his family would "live to the East of all his brothers" (Genesis 16:12). "And they settled from Havilah to Shur which is east of Egypt as one goes toward Assyria" (Genesis 25:18). This broad area is the desert section east of Egypt in Northern Arabia toward the kingdom of the Assyrians.

5. The Ishmaelites are mentioned as a distinct tribe in the Assyrian records. They later intermarried with and were absorbed by the Midianites and other local tribes. In Genesis 37:25-28; 39:1 the Ishmaelites are called the Midianites and in Judges 8:22-24 cf. 7:1f, the Midianites are called the Ishmaelites. The identification cannot be made any stronger.

6. Arabia was already populated by the descendants of Cush and Shem long before Abraham or Ishmael was born (Genesis 10:7). Their cities and temples have been well documented by archeologists.

7. If all the Arab people were descended from Ishmael as Muhammad claimed, where did all the original Arabs go? What happened to them? Who did Ishmael marry if the Arabs did not already exist? If Arabia was unpopulated, who built Mecca? Since he moved there, obviously it existed before he was born. The facts speak for themselves. The Arab people existed before, during, and after Ishmael moved and started roaming the wilderness of North Arabia.

8. The descendants of Ishmael were scattered in Northern Arabia from the wilderness of Shur to the ancient city of Havilah. They were absorbed by the local tribes such as the Midianites (Genesis 37:25-28; 39:1; Judges 8:24).

There is no historical or archeological evidence that Ishmael went south to Mecca and became the Father of the Arab race. Modern Arab scholars admit that before Muhammad, Qahtan was said to be the Father of the Arab people, not Ishmael.

9. The Abrahmic Covenant was given only to Isaac and to his descendants. Ishmael and the other sons of Abraham do not have any claim to the land of Israel because they are not included in the covenant God made with Abraham. Only the Jews have any claim to the land of Israel.

10. Therefore the descendants of Ishmael and the other sons of Abraham do not have any claim to the land of Israel because they are not included in the covenant God made with Abraham. Only the Jews have any claim to the land of Israel.

ISLAM'S CLAIM

Muslims like to claim that Islam gives them the right to claim the land of Israel as their own. This claim rests upon two false assumptions:

1. All Arabs are the descendants of Ishmael,
2. Muhammad went to Jerusalem.

TWO HISTORICAL FACTS

1. The first assumption has already been proven false. The Arab people are not all the descendants of Ishmael and hence they are not the heirs of the Patriarchs, the prophets, the Scriptures, or the land of Israel.

2. The claim that Muhammad went to Jerusalem is false. According to the Qur'an and the Hadith, Muhammad only had a dream in the middle of the night in which he traveled through the sky, visited seven heavens, and met people like Jesus.

CONCLUSION

The Arab people are not all the children of Ishmael. Even if they were, they would still have no claim to Israel because God excluded Ishmael from having any part in the covenant made with Abraham. Isaac was the only heir of the Abrahamic covenant. Thus the Arabs as a people have no claim to the land of Israel.

The Muslims have no claim to the land of Israel either. Muhammad never went to Jerusalem except in a dream. The only ones with a spiritual and biblical claim to the land of Israel are the descendants of Isaac, the Jews.

Further Documentation:

“... Arabian literature has its own version of prehistoric times, but it is entirely legendary.”
(*Encyclopedia Britannica*, Volume 2:76)

“The pure Arabs are those who claim to be descended from Joktan or Qahtan, who the present Arabs regard as their principal founder ... The ‘Arabu ‘l-Musta’ribah, the mixed Arabs, claim to be descended from Ishmael ... they boast as much as the Jews of being reckoned the children of Abraham. This circumstance will account for the preference with which they uniformly regard this branch of their pedigree, and for the many romantic legends they have granted upon it ... The Arabs, in their version of Ishmael’s history, have mixed a great deal of romance with the narrative of Scripture.”
(*A Dictionary of Islam*, pages 18-19)

“Muhammad was not informed about the family of Abraham.”
(*Encyclopedia of Islam*, I:184, also pages 544-546)

“There is a prevalent notion that the Arabs, both of the south and the north, are descended from Ishmael; and the passage in Genesis 16:12, ‘He (Ishmael) shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren’, is often cited as if it were a prediction of that national interdependence which, upon the whole, the Arabs have maintained more than any other people. But this supposition is founded on a misconception of the original Hebrew, which runs literally, ‘he shall dwell before the faces of all his brethren’, i.e., (according to the idiom above explained, in which ‘before the face’ denotes the east), the habitation of his posterity shall be ‘to the east’ of the settlements of Abraham’s other descendants ... These prophecies found their accomplishment in the fact of the sons of Ishmael being located, generally speaking, to the east of the other descendants of Abraham, whether of Sarah or of Keturah.

But the idea of the southern Arabs being of the posterity of Ishmael is entirely without foundation, and seems to have originated in the tradition invented by Arab vanity that they, as well as the Jews, are of the seed of Abraham. A vanity which, besides disfiguring and falsifying the whole history of the

patriarch and his son Ishmael, has transferred the scene of it from Palestine to Mecca.”

(*Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature*, McClintock and Strong, Volume 1:339)

In the Qur’an, “Genesis 21:17-21... is identified with Mecca”. (*Concise Encyclopedia of Islam*, page 19)

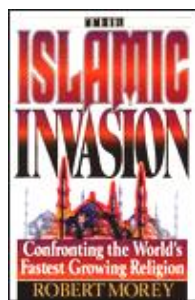
It states that Southern Arabs come from Qahtan, not Ishmael. (*Concise Encyclopedia of Islam*, page 48)

See also:

The Encyclopedia of Religion, Volume 7, page 296, where the connection between the Midianites and the Ishmaelites is noted.

The Shorter Encyclopedia of Islam, pages 178-179.

A popular Dictionary of Islam, page 127



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