

Religionens bidrag til en fredelig verden
The right of the Hebrew tribes for peace –

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Key points to speech at Grønland church Oslo, 18th September.

Salam Aleikum, Pax Vobis, Peace on you, שלום עליכם

I am an independent thinker, and have been a peace and environmental activist since my teens.

A Jewish believer born in Israel. Not religious, but deeply immersed in our ancient culture. My perspective is historical, theological, logical, geo-political in a realpolitik manner, economic, environmental and humanistic.

I would like to start with a clarification of simple issues, as we seem to be in total confusion now. Excuse me if it is too simplified:

Norway is in principle a Christian secular land with ancient roots in the Viking culture. Acceptance of that and the country's democratic system of law is a first assumption if one is to live here.

In the same way, Israel is in principle the only Jewish secular democratic land with roots in two previous states it had thousand years ago and Saudia Arabia is in principle one of many Muslim Sharia law lands (with ancient roots

in the Bedouin culture mentioned in the Bible as Qeidar-
the second son of Ishmael). Acceptance of that and the
law in each country is a first assumption if one is to live
there and is a good start for our dialogue.

Further:

The events in the middle east are an accumulated result of
many hundreds years of western colonial abuse of middle
east resources, manipulation of the people and borders, in
accordance with various methods of control.

Israel is a relatively a new factor in that phenomena, but
receives hate and blame, though the complexity of the
issue is deep and is rooted in western religious thinking
used for power and economical gain for centuries.

I am not **here** to defend policies but hopefully inspire to
find long term paths ahead for real sustainable peace
based on mutual respect and real reconciliation of all
monotheistic religions.

It seems we have reached a Tower of Babylon situation.
Though we all speak the same language (English), we seem
not to really understand each other and thus comes
confusion.

I believe a deeper understanding between the
monotheistic religions themselves is the key. BUT, it is not

only about fine words. It must be about clear, visible, peaceful actions also within the religious education systems. Clear actions can start to influence a change in the current course of action and STOP a religious war on all levels (physical, spiritual and virtual).

Through that, a healthy atmosphere will be more able to make the stage ready for tolerant forces to create the new alliance of interests. Norway is surely a great global haven, where we can “experiment”, so to speak, positively with that concept. It seems to work fine when Oslo was mobilized to say NO to ISIS, NO to Profit Ummah and YES for PEACE. The atmosphere in Oslo streets is good now, what can we learn from it?

I will want shed light on the perception of the exile of 12 Hebrew tribes after the destruction of the 2nd temple and the clear “yes” or “no” question any person involved in the middle east conflict needs to answer: Is it clear that the 12 tribes are back in their state? On purpose, I emphasize the state-focused side and not the religious side or institutional side. A NO answer to the question reflects what we see now, where there are people that question the existence of the state of Israel and think about ways to dismantle it (both Christians and Muslims). I say “dismantle” as it includes all kind of activities to ensure the Hebrew people and culture is dispersed again.

The tribes have met under one rule in a powerful chain of events last century and are in need of peace to reconfigure internal ways to make the common culture based not only on a justified absolute unified fight for existence, something that never stopped, but on peaceful integration with its neighboring peoples.

A simple, straightforward answer of YES, accepting the notion that the 12 Hebrew tribes are back in their state, opens the way for a constructive dialogue and potential real reconciliation. More than in one that needs to argue for its mere existence.

I simplify the KEY definition from my point of view, as it will be easier to reach results and not just talk and waste time quarrelling about details, derailing the process towards potential real reconciliation of the monotheistic religions.

There is a need to have a religious **recognition** of the Jewish contribution to the Bible as the base for Christianity and Islam and Avraham-Abraham-Ibrahim, the true entrepreneur that has revolutionized the world.

The Sykes-Picot agreement on the ground is probably over, and that is probably the only thing I can agree on with IS's declarative position. In many senses, acceptance of that can mean openness towards a new border

configuration .That is an issue by itself and I will not focus on it. But we need to listen to the the people, not necessarily to their leaders. I refer for example to Iraq and Syria's status, with the potential of an independent Kurdistan in one way or another.

The Palestinian people need to make their leadership choose between real, united, non-corrupt state governance with reliable mechanisms or find a different solution. Due to the fact that it looks that the fight with IS is to increase in intensity, the pressure to resolve local "smaller" conflicts will grow and so the pressure to resolve the Palestinian issue will be critical.

It might be a thought to have a solution under a new UN resolution and potentially with Egypt and Jordan getting back control of the territories as in pre-1967, as Israel has not won control over territories of a Palestinian state but from Jordan and Egypt, with which it has solid peace agreements that are honored by both parties. In this respect the current offer by the Egyptian government to grant the Palestinians territory 5 times larger than Gaza to establish their state, is very interesting. The Palestinian and Israeli people need a rest to focus on their own issues and mainly on their children's safe future!

Time to give the Palestinian people a life and a future to develop peacefully a healthy economy based on using the natural resources around them. It costs very little to have

a thriving agriculture in the region. They simply need to start building and developing with a focus on construction of a solid, independent, sustainable existence.

Former president Peres has made a beautiful plan for cooperation in high technology, academics, agriculture, energy resources and trade.

If we change the hard disc and think differently, we can turn the Middle East over time into a real Oasis where the ancient world cultures cooperate for the benefit of the people: The Persian, Babylonian, Egyptian, Greek, Byzantine and Hebrew cultures that gave us a rich volume of know-how, philosophy and science. The Middle East Union.

At the same time, those who influence environmental issues and global division of resource control needs to take into consideration a better, healthier sharing of resources, with a great level of importance given to self-help and local initiatives. This will bring a turn toward using natural resources to grow food locally and not turn the world resources into a transportable machine that makes no sense. Fish travels from Norway to China, then to Germany and finally back to Norway. Is this logical? We need to work in harmony with nature and not destroy it for greed.

Such thinking, if actually implemented - will give results also in natural energy supply and R&D in supporting local strong societies in what is called the third world.

The deep recognition of those mentioned key elements can assist strongly in reaching an eventual world peace. It is an almost abstract goal we dream of, as there will always be those who can make profit out of chaos and war. It is long term thinking, and not a recipe for instant processes. Binding ourselves back to earth and not to the computer can assist tremendously in turning the historical evolution of global environmental damage into the correct sustainable proportion. It will naturally lead to more peaceful people.

Here we come back to the starting point: The monotheistic religions can find a formula of coexistence in respect to each other, based on potential new rules.

I would like to end (potentially start) with the reading of the first sentences of the Tanach as inspiration in these chaotic times:

בראשית, ברא אלוהים, את השמיים, ואת הארץ. ב
והארץ, הייתה תוהו ובוהו, וחושך, על-פני תהום; ורוח
אלוהים, מרחפת על-פני המים. ג ויאמר אלוהים, יהי
אור; ויהי-אור. ד וירא אלוהים את-האור, כי-טוב;
ויבדל אלוהים, בין האור ובין החושך. ה ויקרא אלוהים

לאור יום, ולחושך קרא לילה; ויהי-ערב ויהי-בוקר,
יום אחד.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.....Let us take care of that cherished earth that nourishes us, mother earth, and look to the heaven above where the source of light is shining on us and making things grow to feed us.

We have reached a time we need urgently to define a clear picture in a confused world, we need to make the clear definition between light and darkness, good and evil, as broad a consensus as possible. The open information society must now develop in dialogue with nature and take people out of loneliness and back into the warmth of the family, and the tribe.

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Thank you,
Yossi