

\* Aim: How do  
religious people  
view the idea of  
Zionism?

Zionism Topic 1:

- \* Can Jews return to Israel as a nation before the time of the messiah?
- \* Can Jews bring the messiah quicker through their return?

# \* Main Questions asked by Religious Scholars regarding returning to Israel.

## \* Parshat Bo

- \* 12:22 'You will then have to take a bunch of hyssop and dip it into the blood that [will be placed] in a basin. Touch the beam over the door and the two doorposts with some of the blood in the basin. Not a single one of you may go out the door of his house until morning.

\*

## \* 12:29-39

It was midnight. God killed every first-born in Egypt...

- \* [Pharaoh] sent for Moses and Aaron during the night. 'Get moving!' he said. 'Get out from among my people - you and the Israelites! Go! Worship God just as you demanded!..
- \* The people took their dough before it could rise. Their leftover dough was wrapped in their robes [and placed] on their shoulders...
- \* [The Israelites] baked the dough that they had brought out of Egypt into unleavened (matzah) cakes, since it had not risen. They had been driven out of Egypt and could not delay, and they had not prepared any other provisions.

# \* When did the Jews leave Egypt?

## Rabbi Akiva

- \* Jews left in the morning.
- \* Didn't bake matzot because they were on call.
- \* Natural occurrence.

## Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah

- \* Jews left in the “morning”
- \* Hashem made the night into morning.
- \* No time to bake matzot.
- \* Miraculous occurrence.

# \*When did the Jews leave Egypt?

## Rabbi Akiva

- \* People can bring about the redemption.
- \* Backed the Bar Kochbah rebellion.

## Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah

- \* Only Hashem can bring us back to Israel.

\* Why does it matter?

[כתובות קי: - קיא.]

# \*Three Strong Oaths

## Three strong oaths.

Rabbi Zera was avoiding Rab Yehuda because he [Rab Zera] desired to emigrate to the Holy Land, because Rab Yehuda said: “Everybody that emigrates from Babylonia to the Holy Land transgresses a positive commandment, as it is written: ‘To Babylonia you should be brought and there you should be until the day that I remember you, these are the words of G-d’. And Rabbi Zera interprets that scriptural source as referring to the service vessels [of the First Temple]. And Rab Yehuda says: “it is written another scriptural verse: ‘I made you swear, daughters of Jerusalem, by gazelles or by hinds of the field...’ And Rabbi Zera interprets that verse to mean that Jews shouldn’t emigrate en masse [to the Holy Land]. And Rab Yehuda replied: “it is written another oath in the scriptural verses”. And Rabbi Zera says: “that other scriptural source is needed for what Rabbi Yossi son of Rab Chanina said, for he said: ‘Why are these three oaths written? One is that Jews shouldn’t emigrate en masse [to the Holy Land], one that the Holy One, Blessed be Him, made the Jews swear that they shouldn’t rebel against the nations of the world and one that the Holy One, blessed be Him, made the nations of the world swear that they shouldn’t oppress the Jews more than enough’”.

- \* **Issued at Tel Aviv on May 14, 1948 (5th of Iyar, 5708)**
- \* The land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and national identity was formed. Here they achieved independence and created a culture of national and universal significance. Here they wrote and gave the Bible to the world.
- \* Exiled from Palestine, the Jewish people remained faithful to it in all the countries of their dispersion, never ceasing to pray and hope for their return and the restoration of their national freedom.
- \* Impelled by this historic association, Jews strove throughout the centuries to go back to the land of their fathers and regain their statehood. ..

# \* Declaration of Israel's Independence

## 1948



# THE JEWS OF PALESTINE 636 A.D. TO 1880

0 10 20 30  
Miles

In 1500 there were an estimated 10,000 Jews living in the Safed region

1563 Establishment of a Hebrew printing press, the first printing press on the Asian Continent

1100 AD Jews take part in defence of Haifa against the Crusaders



1191 The Jews driven out by the Crusaders. Many move to Jerusalem

Jews sought a new homeland here after their expulsion from Spain (1492), Lithuania (1495), Portugal, Sicily and Sardinia (1497), Rhodes (1502) and Naples (1541)

1099 AD Jews take part in the defence of Jerusalem against the Crusaders, fighting alongside the Arabs  
1211 Several rabbis from France and England settle here  
1267 Ramban settles, and establishes a synagogue. During the next five centuries, Jerusalem is reinstated as a centre of Jewish learning. By 1880 the Jews formed the majority of the population of Jerusalem

24 Feb 1799 The Jewish community flees to Hebron on the eve of Napoleon's entry into the city

Jerusalem was conquered by Muslim Arabs in 637 AD. From 637 to 1099 the Arabs sometimes ill-treated and were sometimes tolerant towards their Jewish subjects. From 1099 to 1291 the Christian Crusaders mercilessly persecuted and slaughtered the Jews of Palestine. The Mameluks (Muslims) who ousted the Crusaders in 1291, and ruled until 1516, at times encouraged Jewish settlement, and many Jews came to Palestine to escape from Christian persecution in Europe. After 1517, under the Ottoman Turks the Jews of Europe continued to seek refuge in Palestine from Christian persecution and expulsion, despite spasmodic ill-treatment by their Muslim rulers

-  The four 'Holy Cities' of Judaism, in which there was continuous Jewish settlement from biblical times
- Towns and settlements inhabited by Jews during the period of Arab rule from 637-1099
-  Area in which the Jews formed the main population from the thirteenth to the nineteenth century
- ⊙ Towns and villages with continuous Jewish communities from the thirteenth to the nineteenth century

