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A SCRIPTURAL FORMULA FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1 Chronicles 21:18-26

By Hon. Randolph Jackson

Personal & Unofficial

An examination of the ancient Scriptures, properly understood, can provide a basis for ameliorating many of our current problems.

The Book of first chronicles, beginning at Chapter 21, verse 18, tells the story of David the Hebrew and Ornan the Palestinian. The Scriptures call him Ornan the Jebusite, because Jebus is the original name of Jerusalem and because the original inhabitants of the land were the Jebusites (1 Chronicles 11:4). Today we would call him a Palestinian.

David the king needed land on which to build his temple. He found suitable land, owned by Ornan the Palestinian. David the Hebrew approached the Palestinian and offered to buy the land. The Palestinian offered it to David the Hebrew free of charge, together with every thing on it. David the Hebrew insisted on paying full price for the land, refusing to take that which was another's without payment. David paid Ornan six hundred shekels of gold for his land. The Lord was pleased and blessed the place and it later became the site of the temple of David, built by Solomon. The moral of the story for present-day readers is that David the Hebrew and Ornan the Palestinian treated each other with dignity and respect and David paid Ornan the full price for Ornan's land.

Today, when a government needs someone's private land for a public purpose (e.g., to build a highway), the government condemns the land and pays the former owner in a court action, known as a condemnation proceeding.

What is needed today is the establishment under the auspices of the United Nations, of an *International Court of Condemnation Claims* (the ICCC). Persons whose lands have been taken for governmental purposes would be able to go to that international tribunal and receive proper compensation. Everyone would be treated with dignity and respect, and past grievances could be ameliorated. This tribunal would be backed up by the nations of the world and paid for by the nations of the world. The nations of the world authored the creation of the modern-day state of Israel. The nations of the world have a duty to protect it and to pay for the cost of its creation.

The infamous *Dred Scott* decision of the United States Supreme Court in 1857, which stated that "a black man has no rights which a white man is bound to respect," was a formula for war, not a formula for peace. The result, four years later, was the worst war in the history of America. What is presented here is a formula for a lasting peace.

The Honorable Randolph Jackson is a Justice of the Supreme Court of the state of New York. He is an author, Bible teacher, empowerment consultant, motivational speaker, patron of the arts and spiritual teacher. His latest book is *Black People in the Bible*, published by Vantage Press (New York) and available through Barnes and Noble, worldwide, and at www.barnesandnoble.com.