

THE ANNAPOLIS  
CONFERENCE

# THE ANNAPOLIS PEACE CONFERENCE

CONFIRMATION OF THE COVENANT IN 2008?

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## A timetable has been set to conclude a final treaty resolving all outstanding Palestinian-Israeli issues. The Saudi Arabian government claims the Bush administration promised that an agreement would be achieved within twelve months of the conference.

**T**he confirmation of the covenant, as prophesied in the Bible, will mark the beginning of the final seven years to Armageddon. This confirmation will consist of two things:

1. The confirmation by the world community of Israel's right to exist in the Holy Land within internationally recognized borders.
2. The establishment of a sharing arrangement on the Temple Mount between Jew and Gentile. This sharing arrangement will allow for the building of Israel's Third Temple there, while not disturbing the Muslim holy sites.

The goals of the international peace conference in Annapolis, Maryland on November 26-27, 2007 were:

1. To launch negotiations to determine the final internationally recognized borders between Israel and a Palestinian state.
2. To settle the final status of Jerusalem, which would include the final status of the Temple Mount.

In other words, the stated goal of the peace conference in Annapolis, Maryland was the confirmation of the covenant as prophesied in scripture!

It was known going into the conference that this goal would not be achieved at Annapolis. The purpose of the conference was not to conclude an agreement, but rather to restart the Israeli-Palestinian peace process that has lain dormant since the Camp David talks broke down in July of 2000.

A timetable has been set to conclude a final treaty resolving all outstanding Palestinian-Israeli issues. The Saudi Arabian government claims the Bush administration promised that an agreement would be achieved within twelve months of the conference. On November 21, 2007, just days

before the conference began, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the United States will try to close a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians before President George W. Bush's term ends in January 2009, but she cautioned there is no guarantee of success. Rice said Israeli and Palestinian leaders have pledged to work for a deal setting up an independent Palestinian state before President George W. Bush leaves office.

If this is accomplished, it appears the confirmation of the covenant will take place within the next twelve months. If the confirmation does occur, the final seven years prophesied in the Bible will begin.

Once again, if the goals set at Annapolis are actually achieved, it appears that the final seven years to Armageddon and the Second Coming will begin in 2008!

### What is the confirmation of the covenant?

Daniel 9:27 states that the leader of the international community, the Antichrist, will confirm a covenant with Israel for seven years. The "covenant" refers to the Abrahamic covenant spoken of repeatedly in scripture.

"In the same day the LORD made a 'covenant' with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates." Genesis 15:18

"I also established my 'covenant' with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they lived as aliens." Exodus 6:4

The covenant is God's promise to Abraham and to his descendants after him that the land of Israel will be their homeland forever.

We know the covenant referred to in Daniel 9:27 is the

covenant made by God in Genesis 15:18, because the other two events foretold in the Daniel 9:27 prophecy also pertain to the Abrahamic covenant. The other two things the prophecy says the Antichrist will do are: to stop the offering of sacrifices and to stand in the Jewish temple claiming supreme authority there. Both of these events will take place three and one-half years after the confirmation.

Understanding these things enables us to know with certainty two major things that will happen during the first three and one-half years immediately following the confirmation of the covenant. 1. Israel's Third Temple will be rebuilt on the Temple Mount. 2. Animal sacrifices will be resumed in the rebuilt temple.

We know this because the Antichrist could not stand in the temple, as he is prophesied to do (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 & Revelation 11:1-2), if there were no temple. He also could not stop the sacrifices like the prophecy says unless the sacrifices were in progress.

So the confirmation of the covenant is simply the recognition by the world community of Israel's right to exist in the Holy Land within internationally recognized borders. Furthermore, it will open the door for the building of the Jewish temple and the resumption of animal sacrifice.

### A little history leading up to Annapolis

Since the stated goals of the Annapolis Conference match perfectly the things prophesied for the confirmation of the covenant, the conference is of incredible interest to Christians everywhere. If these goals are actually achieved, we could find ourselves entering the final seven years to Armageddon and the Second Coming.

So what was Annapolis all about? For a long time, it has

# The Annapolis Declaration

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE ANNAPOLIS DECLARATION

**T**he representatives of the government of the state of Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization, represented respectively by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and President Mahmoud Abbas in his capacity as Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and President of the Palestinian Authority, have convened in Annapolis, Maryland, under the auspices of President George W. Bush of the United States of America, and with the support of the participants of this international conference, having concluded the following joint understanding.

We express our determination to bring an end to bloodshed, suffering and decades of conflict between our peoples; to usher in a new era of peace, based on freedom, security, justice, dignity, respect and mutual recognition; to propagate a culture of peace and nonviolence; to confront terrorism and incitement, whether committed by Palestinians or Israelis. In furtherance of the goal of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, we agree to immediately launch good-faith bilateral negotiations in order to conclude a peace treaty, resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues without exception, as specified in previous agreements.

We agree to engage in vigorous, ongoing and continuous negotiations, and shall make every effort to conclude an agreement before the end of 2008. For this purpose, a steering committee, led jointly by the head of the delegation of each party, will meet continuously, as agreed. The steering committee will develop a joint work plan and establish and oversee the work of negotiations teams to address all issues, to be headed by one lead representative from each party. The first session of the steering committee will be held on 12 December 2007.

President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert will continue to meet on a bi-weekly basis to follow up the negotiations in order to offer all necessary assistance for their advancement.

The parties also commit to immediately implement their respective obligations under the performance-based road map to a permanent two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, issued by the Quartet on 30 April 2003 - this is called the road map - and agree to form an American, Palestinian and Israeli mechanism, led by the United States, to follow up on the implementation of the road map.

The parties further commit to continue the implementation of the ongoing obligations of the road map until they reach a peace treaty. The United States will monitor and judge the fulfillment of the commitment of both sides of the road map. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, implementation of the future peace treaty will be subject to the implementation of the road map, as judged by the United States. (EDITOR'S NOTE: "As judged by President Bush")

In his first speech as the new UN Secretary General on January 1, 2007, Ban Ki-Moon said that the Israeli-Palestinian issue was at the core of solving all the problems in the Middle East. This belief echoed similar statements made about the Middle East by British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Blair had expressed the opinion that peace in the Middle East was the world's number one priority.

been believed by many world leaders that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the core of the international war on terrorism. Many have said that we will never have true peace on earth until we resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

On December 12, 2006, in one of his last speeches as UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan made an impassioned plea to the UN Security Council for peace in the Middle East. He pointed out the potential for the region to disintegrate into a new and unpredictable round of violence if fresh moves toward peace were not taken soon. "We need a new and urgent push for peace... with principled, concerted help from the international community," he said.

Annan contended that there is no serious question about the broad outline of a final settlement between Israel and the Palestinians, since the two sides have come very close to an agreement on terms in previous negotiations. The agreement will provide for two states, Israel and Palestine, within secure, recognized and negotiated boundaries based on those of June 4, 1967. The final terms will allow both Israel and Palestine to establish their internationally recognized capitals in Jerusalem, and ensure access for people of all faiths to their holy places.

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In early 2007, it became apparent that a major peace offensive for the Middle East was being launched by the

Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Edmund Giambastiani, left, talks with European Union Secretary General and High Representative Javier Solana in the Pentagon. Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy / Department of Defense by R.D. Ward



world community. Condoleezza Rice let it be known that President Bush would love to see an agreement between Palestinians and Israelis before the end of his presidency.

The year 2007 became the year of the Middle East. Rice traveled to Israel eight times in eleven months. EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Javier Solana continually met with the different key players in the region. Even UN Secretary General Ban visited the state of Israel.

Before stepping down as Great Britain's prime minister, rumors began to fly that Tony Blair would become special envoy to the Middle East from the Quartet, thus representing the entire world community to the Middle East. Within days, the rumors were validated. Blair accepted the position. With the appointment of such a high-profile person to the envoy position, it was obvious that a decision had been taken by the world community to make peace in the Middle East its highest priority.

In July, President Bush announced his plans to hold an international conference on the Middle East in the fall. Israeli Prime Minister Olmert and Palestinian Chairman Abbas began to meet bi-weekly in an attempt to arrive at a position paper that would be agreed upon at the conference. In spite of much cajoling and arm-twisting, a joint declaration of principles just could not be agreed to.

The date for the peace conference was left very much up in the air while Rice, Abbas and Olmert attempted to pound out a document of agreement. Finally, a date was set... agreement or no agreement. The meeting would be held in Annapolis, Maryland, on November 26-27, 2007.

### What happened at Annapolis?

From the outset, the jury was very much out on who would respond to President Bush's invitation to Annapolis. The Palestinians said they would not attend unless there was agreement in advance on the core issues. Egypt was in. Jordan was in. Saudi Arabia seemed ready to stay home until the U.S. used all of its diplomatic capital to get the Saudis to change their minds. Finally, the Saudis said they were

## List of Annapolis delegation leaders

THE HEADS OF EACH DELEGATION ATTENDING THE MIDEAST PEACE SUMMIT IN ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND, AS PROVIDED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT:

- ISRAEL, PRIME MINISTER EHUD OLmert
- PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY, PRESIDENT MAHMOUD ABBAS
- UNITED STATES, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
- EUROPEAN UNION COMMISSION, BENTIA FERRERO-WALDNER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER
- EUROPEAN UNION HIGH REPRESENTATIVE, JAVIER SOLANA, HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY/SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
- EUROPEAN UNION PRESIDENCY, PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER LUIS AMADO
- RUSSIA, FOREIGN MINISTER SERGEY LAVROV
- UNITED NATIONS, SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON
- QUARTET REPRESENTATIVE, TONY BLAIR, MIDDLE EAST ENVOY
- SAUDI ARABIA, FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD AL-FAISAL
- EGYPT, FOREIGN MINISTER AHMED ABOL GHET
- JORDAN, FOREIGN MINISTER SALAHEDDINE AL-BASHIR
- LEBANON, FOREIGN MINISTER TAREK MITRI
- SYRIA, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FAYSAL MEHDAD
- ARAB LEAGUE, SECRETARY GENERAL AMR MOUSSA
- CHINA, FOREIGN MINISTER YANG JIECHI
- FRANCE, FOREIGN MINISTER BERNARD KOUCHNER
- GERMANY, FOREIGN MINISTER FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER
- JAPAN, TATSUO ARIMA, SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
- VATICAN, PIETRO PAROLIN, UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
- INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND, MANAGING DIRECTOR DOMINIQUE STRAUSS-KAHN
- WORLD BANK, PRESIDENT ROBERT ZOEGLICK
- ALGERIA, FOREIGN MINISTER MOURAD MEDELCI
- BAHRAIN, FOREIGN MINISTER KHALID BIN AHMED AL-KHALIFA
- MOROCCO, FOREIGN MINISTER TAJEB FASSI FIKRI
- QATAR, FOREIGN MINISTER AHMED BIN ABDULLA AL-MAHMOUD
- SUDAN, AMBASSADOR JOHN UKEC
- TUNISIA, FOREIGN MINISTER ABDELWAHAB ABDALLAH
- YEMEN, FOREIGN MINISTER ABUBAKR AL-QIRBI
- CANADA, FOREIGN MINISTER MAXIME BERNIER
- ITALY, FOREIGN MINISTER MASSIMO DALEMA
- UNITED KINGDOM, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DAVID MILIBAND
- BRAZIL, FOREIGN MINISTER CELSO AMORIM
- DENMARK, FOREIGN MINISTER PER STIG MOELLER
- GREECE, FOREIGN MINISTER DORA BAKOYANNIS
- INDIA, KAPIL SIBAL, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
- INDONESIA, FOREIGN MINISTER HASSAN WIRAJUDA
- MALAYSIA, FOREIGN MINISTER SYED HAMID ALBAR
- MAURITANIA, FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMED AHMED OULD MOHAMED LEMINE
- MEXICO, FOREIGN RELATIONS UNDERSECRETARY LOURDES ARANDA
- NETHERLANDS, FRANS TIMMERMANS, MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
- NORWAY, FOREIGN MINISTER JONAS GAHR STORE
- ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, SECRETARY-GENERAL ENKMELEDDIN IHSANOGLU
- OMAN, FOREIGN MINISTER YUSUF BIN ALAWI BIN ABDULLA
- PAKISTAN, FOREIGN SECRETARY RIAZ MOHAMMAD KHAN
- POLAND, FOREIGN MINISTER RADOSLAW SIKORSKI
- SENEGAL, FOREIGN MINISTER CHEIKH TIDJANE GADIO
- SLOVENIA, FOREIGN MINISTER DIMITRIJ RUPEL
- SOUTH AFRICA, FOREIGN MINISTER NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA
- SPAIN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MIGUEL ANGEL MORATINOS
- SWEDEN, FOREIGN MINISTER CARL BILDT
- TURKEY, ALI BABACAN, FOREIGN MINISTER AND CHIEF EU NEGOTIATOR
- UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN
- CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSON, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEZZA RICE



President George W. Bush visits the Azores for a one-day emergency summit with Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso (left), British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar (right), to discuss the possibilities of war. Photo courtesy of U.S. Air Force by Staff Sgt. Michelle Michaud

not interested in a peace process that would drag on for many years, ultimately creating more problems than it solved. The Bush administration promised it wouldn't happen. "We intend to conclude a final agreement on all issues within one year," President Bush promised. The Saudis were in.

By the time the delegates were counted, an amazing forty-six nations sent representatives to Annapolis. Each of the G8, the world's eight richest nations, sent delegations. All five of the permanent members of the UN Security Council were there. Interestingly, the Vatican's undersecretary of foreign affairs Pietro Parolin was in attendance. The head of the World Bank and the head of the International Monetary Fund attended. It was obvious that any deal in the Middle East was going to require big investments to implement. That's the reason it was critical for these international financial organizations to be represented.

\*NOTE: For a complete list of attendees, see side bar, "Delegates attending Annapolis Peace Summit."

Twenty-four hours before the conference began, Condoleezza Rice still did not have a declaration of principles that both Israelis and Palestinians would sign. Finally, at the eleventh hour, the deal was struck. The Annapolis Declaration was signed.



Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates hosts a Pentagon meeting with European Union Secretary General and High Representative Javier Solana. Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy / Department of Defense by R.D. Ward