



Christian Friends of Israel

cfi@cfijerusalem.org

www.cfijerusalem.org

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Triumphal Trump: He Came, He Saw, He Conquered



US President Donald Trump visits the Western Wall in Jerusalem - May 22, 2017

A few history buffs will know that part of the above title is a take-off on the words of Julius Caesar after he had conquered the king of Pontus in 47 BC.

Prime Minister Netanyahu greeted President Trump with these words: "Your visit here, Mr. President, is truly historic. Never before has the first foreign trip of a president of the United States included a visit to Israel. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for this powerful expression of your friendship to Israel."

In a recent speech to the Knesset, Prime Minister Netanyahu said U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to the Western Wall proves the Jewish people's connection to the city and holy site. If he inspired that kind of confidence in the Jewish people, then he was certainly a conqueror – in the sense of instilling confidence in the people of Israel that the United States was truly once again "with" them.

"I told Trump that his visit to the Western Wall dispels all of the UNESCO lies," Netanyahu continued, one day after U.S. President Donald Trump addressed Israel, referring to motions by the UN agency that sought to disregard Jewish ties to the Temple Mount.

"The Temple Mount and the Western Wall will remain forever under Israeli sovereignty," Netanyahu said, "the historical achievement will stand forever."

Addressing the issue of the potential relocation of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, Netanyahu said, "Jerusalem should be home to all the embassies, including the American embassy."

"We liberated Jerusalem and turned it into a city that is not perfect but it is united. It respects the different faiths," Netanyahu said.

“We are the ones who redeemed Jerusalem from neglect and distress. We are the ones who brought it to a peak in its development. What was here in Jerusalem? Almost nothing. In the 19th century was there an advanced kingdom or a vibrant Palestinian capital? It is necessary to tell the truth that Jerusalem, like the entire Land of Israel, was a marginal and desolate province in the Ottoman Empire.”

Answering comments made by the head of Israel’s opposition, Netanyahu said “Why isn’t there peace? Why [you ask]? Yesterday I said something after the horrible incident in Manchester, and I was criticized: ‘How dare you talk [about incitement]? On this day too you are speaking about the Palestinian Authority?’

“I want peace. I want to speak the truth – you cannot talk about those nurturing terror in Manchester and not say anything about those who are nurturing terrorists in the West Bank.”

In the West Bank, Netanyahu claimed, the family of the suicide bomber would have received a pay check from the Palestinian Authority. “The issue is their unwillingness to accept the Jewish people and their presence in Jerusalem. We will continue to develop and build in Jerusalem.”

Opposition leader Isaac Herzog responded saying that even though 70 years had passed since the establishment of the State of Israel, Israeli prime ministers had still failed to move any embassies to Jerusalem.

This writer would say that is not the fault of the Israeli prime ministers. It is the fault of the US leaders who got cold feet after the Arab world threatened to bring on the Apocalypse should they move the US embassy to Jerusalem.

When President and Mrs. Trump visited the Israel Museum, PM Netanyahu said, “This museum tells the story of Israel. Mr. President, you’ve just gone through a fast-paced visit through our past, our present and we work together to fashion the future. Here you can see Hebrew texts of the Bible that are 2,000 years old. You can see the seals and coins that bear witness to nearly 4,000 years of our presence in this land. You can see the menorahs we lit, the synagogues we prayed in during our long exile.

“But the story of Israel is not simply the story of the past. It’s the story of a nation reborn, of a barren land brought back to life, of an ancient language revived, of an exiled people who returned, of Jewish sovereignty restored. We have a saying, Mr. President, “The Jewish people lives.” The State of Israel lives on, alive as ever: a thriving democracy; a powerful army; an innovative, free economy; and a proud, resilient people.

“Mr. President, over the years Israel has had many friends, but Israel has never had and will never have a better friend than the United States of America. That friendship is reflected in the overwhelming support of the American people, strong bipartisan support of the American Congress and the support of American presidents from Harry Truman to Donald Trump. Thank you, President Trump, for your steadfast friendship to the Jewish people and the Jewish state. It is deeply, deeply appreciated.

“Mr. President, I believe that the alliance between America and Israel is more important than ever. **Together we must defeat those who glorify death and protect those who celebrate life.**

Together we can defeat the forces of militant Islam who seek to destroy the civilized world. And together we can and we must defeat the forces of terror. Terrorism, the deliberate slaughter of innocents, must be equally condemned and equally fought, whether it strikes in Europe, in America or in Israel – or for that matter, anywhere else. And as you said this morning, Mr. President, funding and rewarding terrorism must end.

President Trump Speaks in Jerusalem

At the Israel Museum, Trump spoke before about 200 people including Netanyahu, government ministers and Knesset members from both the governing coalition and opposition. Also invited were several of Trump’s friends, associates and contributors headed by Netanyahu patron Sheldon Adelson, the U.S. [business] magnate and owner of the *Israel Hayom* daily.

“As I have repeatedly said,” Trump continued, “I am personally committed to helping Israelis and Palestinians achieve a peace agreement, and I had a meeting this morning with President Abbas and can tell you that the Palestinians are ready to reach for peace. I know you’ve heard it before. I am telling you – that’s what I do. They are ready to reach for peace.”

He also discussed the connection between the Jews and Israel, saying that “the ties of the Jewish people to this Holy Land are ancient and eternal. They date back thousands of years, including the reign of King David. “I call upon all people – Jews, Christians, Muslims,— to draw inspiration from this ancient city, and to give all children the freedom and hope and dignity.”

Trump spoke about his visit to the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Yad Vashem. “It is a privilege to stand here in this national museum, in the ancient city of Jerusalem, to address the Israeli people—and all people in the Middle East who yearn for security, prosperity, and peace.

“Jerusalem is a sacred city. Its beauty, splendor, and heritage are like no other place on earth. The ties of the Jewish people to this Holy Land are ancient and eternal. They date back thousands of years, including the reign of King David whose star now flies proudly on Israel’s white and blue flag.



President Donald Trump speech at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem - May 23, 2017

“Yesterday, I visited the Western Wall, and marveled at the monument to God’s presence and man’s perseverance – I was humbled to place my hand upon the wall and to pray in that holy space for wisdom from God.

“I also visited and prayed at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, a site revered by Christians throughout the world. I laid a wreath at Yad Vashem, honoring, remembering, and mourning the 6 million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust. I pledged there what I pledge again to those here today: NEVER AGAIN.

“Israel is a testament to the unbreakable spirit of the Jewish people. From all parts of this great country, one message resounds: and that is the message of hope.

“Down through the ages, the Jewish people have suffered persecution, oppression and even those who have sought their destruction. But, through it all, they have endured – and they have thrived. I stand in awe of the accomplishments of the Jewish People, and I make this promise to you: **My Administration will always stand with Israel.**

He said the conflict would not last forever. “I am personally committed to helping Israelis and Palestinians reach that mutual commitment to a comprehensive peace agreement,” he said, noting that both the Palestinians and Netanyahu want peace.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9).

Reporting for CFI Jerusalem,
Lonnie C. Mings

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email: prayer@cfijerusalem.org