



**iEngage** Israel's Milestones and Their Meanings  
The Legacy of the Past and the Challenge of the Future

# Israel's Milestones and Their Meanings

## A Shalom Hartman Institute Video Lecture Series

Memory is a central element in defining modern Jewish identity. As we look to Israel's future, we need to engage anew with our past and explore its meanings and consequences. Through the consideration of major historic moments, this iEngage Project series grapples with the different ideas and values that shape the meaning of modern Israel, Zionism, and Jewish identity today.

This innovative new course explores the pivotal events of 1947 and 1967 - following the 1917 Balfour Declaration - as key moments when Zionism unleashed new thinking about the meaning of Jewishness for generations to come. The course engages Jews in an open and pluralistic discussion about issues of Jewish identity, peoplehood, ethics, and theology, as they relate to nationhood, land, sovereignty, Jerusalem, occupation, and moral red lines.

Each session in this eight-unit course includes a 20-35 minute video lecture and a 20-30 minute roundtable video discussion with senior Hartman faculty, as well as primary sources and background readings.

Temple Judah's *Israel's Milestones and Their Meanings* course will starting on **August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm**, following this class we will meet monthly, on the third Thursday of the month through **March, 2020**. The cost for the class will be \$20 per person or couple for materials. The other side of this page has more details and the exact date of each session.

If you are interested in joining us for this unique opportunity, please let the Temple office know by August 1<sup>st</sup>. You can either call, 319-362-1261, or email, [office@templejudah.org](mailto:office@templejudah.org).

## Central Themes of the Video Lecture Series

### **1. 1917 - The Balfour Declaration: The Idea of a Homeland for the Jewish People**

This unit explores the conceptual framework underlying the Zionist idea of a homeland for the Jewish people and delves into two core principles of Jewish identity: the Judaism of Belonging and the Judaism of Becoming. 1917 marks a turning point in the balance between these two pillars of Jewish Peoplehood, and the implications of this shift continue to play out in modern Israel today. (August 22, 2019)

### **2. 1947 - The United Nations Partition Plan: The Jews in the World**

The Partition Plan offered the unprecedented seal of legal status and international recognition for the Zionist aspiration. This unit examines the consequences of world acceptance as well as the conceptual and ideological implications of the Jewish people's acceptance of the Partition plan. Finally, the Arab responses to the Partition Plan raised critical questions for us as a People. Can we hear the other's narrative without having to delegitimize our own? (September 19, 2019)

### **3. 1967 - The Six Day War: Power, Land and God**

The victory in 1967 dramatically reshaped the meanings and experiences of Jewish and Israeli identity. In this unit, we explore the deep cultural conflict over Israel's identity, shaped by the events of 1967, through the transformation of the way in which we think about God, Power and Land. (October 17, 2019)

### **4. Judea and Samaria: Occupation or Liberation**

The word, "occupation," is loaded with significance for the Jewish people. In this session, we will explore a spectrum of legal positions regarding Israel's status in Judea and Samaria. Our goal is not to choose a position on this divisive issue, but to enhance our understanding of one another and to grasp the complexity of the situation before us. (November 21, 2019)

### **5. One State, Two States: Moral Red Lines**

Over the last few decades, the consensus around "the Two-State Solution" has diminished. In this unit, we explore how Israelis can forge a shared vision for the future directions of the State with the deterioration of this consensus. As we look back 50 years since 1967, is there a possibility of creating a new shared moral discourse around Israel despite our political disagreements? (December 19, 2019)

### **6. Jerusalem of God, Prayer and Peoplehood**

The Six Day War will always be remembered as the moment when we regained sovereignty over Jerusalem. Since the time of King David, Jerusalem has captured the Jewish imagination. Jerusalem today continues to mean different things to different people. In this unit, we will explore the multiple faces of this unique city, and how the events of 1967 impacted the Jerusalem of God, Prayer and Peoplehood. (January 16, 2020)

### **7. Jerusalem of Responsibility, Loss and Hope**

In this session, we continue to delve into the diverse ways that our tradition understands Jerusalem. We will focus on the ways that Jerusalem can shape our behavior as both individuals and as a nation, by exploring the Jerusalem of Responsibility, the Jerusalem of Loss, and the Jerusalem of Hope. (February 20, 2020)

### **8. The Jubilee Year and Beyond: Milestones and their Meanings**

This final unit examines the way in which we relate to the passing of time. What are our responsibilities as individuals and a people who are now capable of shaping our own future? How can we, in the shadow of the debates over the meaning of our shared past, embark on a path which will enable us to maintain a shared future? (March 19, 2020)