The Vatican has expressed its official recognition of a Palestinian state in a new treaty that was recently concluded between the two parties. Although the Vatican City first recognized a Palestinian state over two years ago, after the Palestinian Authority was granted non-member state '

observer status

' at the United Nations General Assembly, this is the first time a written agreement will refer to the state of 'Palestine' rather than to the 'Palestinian Liberation Organization'...

Quote: "On Wednesday the Holy See announced that it was preparing to sign its first treaty with Palestine, two years after officially recognizing it as a state. A bilateral commission is putting the final touches to the agreement, on the Catholic Church's life and activities in Palestine, which then "will be submitted to the respective authorities for approval ahead of setting a debate in the near future for the signing," the Vatican said on Wednesday.

This document is a culmination of fifteen years of effort by the Vatican to secure the Catholic Church's position as custodian of the religious sites in the holy land following the establishment of a Palestinian state. I have no doubt that the highly symbolic gesture, granting a Palestinian state the Catholic Church's official 'stamp of approval', was intended to sweeten that deal. Israel expressed its <u>disappointment</u> at the development on the grounds that it would actually harm the prospects of a peace agreement being reached between Israel and the Palestinian Authority by removing any incentive for them to return to direct negotiations. But the Palestinian Authority will be delighted with this agreement, because they desperately need the support of the Catholic Church in order to survive.

The whole Palestinian Arab Muslim identity is a essentially based on deception. Israel is well-known around the world as the land of the Bible. The Bible is a Jewish book, both Old and New Testaments, and contains the history of the Jewish people. It refers to the city of Jerusalem by name around seven hundred times. On the other hand, the Qur'an does not mention the city of Jerusalem even once. There is only one spurious verse about Mohammed ascending into heaven from the 'farthest mosque', which translates as 'Al-Aqsa' in Arabic. This is assumed to be the mosque that now stands on the Temple Mount. The problem is, this mosque didn't even exist until around forty years after Mohammed's death. We are often told that Jerusalem is considered to be the third holiest place in Islam. With no mention of this in the Qur'an, it can only be because of its Jewish heritage. Israel is also famous around the world

because of the Jewish Messiah. Millions of Christians visit Israel every year to see the places where the Lord walked. Bethlehem, Nazareth and Capernaum, where He dwelt, were all Jewish towns. He was given a Jewish name, Yeshua, which means God's salvation. He taught in the synagogues and in the Jewish Temple. He kept the Jewish feast days (John 2:13). He was born "King of the Jews" (Matthew 2:2), and this was also the superscription that was written on His cross (Matthew 27:37).



Were it not for the land's Jewish heritage, there would be no point to creating a Palestinian state. There is no 'Palestinian' ethnic identity, no language, no culture and no history in the land. Certainly there have been many different people groups that conquered the land throughout history. But at no time has it ever been an independent state other than when the Jewish people were in control. Nobody talks about giving the land back to the Crusaders, or the Turks, or the British Empire. Only to Arab Muslims. Why is that? Because the whole Palestinian Arab Muslim identity is based on a deception, and in order for that deception to continue, it must exterminate the true history and culture and people of that land. The existence of the Jewish people contradicts the Palestinian Arab Muslim narrative. And that is why establishing a Palestinian state will never bring peace, and why the Palestinian leadership will never be satisfied with a 'two-state solution'.

It makes me very sad to say these things. I do hope and pray that Muslims will have their eyes opened, to know the truth and to put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. And also that Jewish people will come to know their Messiah too. There is hope when people acknowledge the truth and come to know the God of Israel as their Saviour. There will never be a Palestinian state, but God does care for all the people that live in His land, and Zephaniah 3:12 says that they shall trust in the name of the Lord. Have you trusted in the name of the Lord? Have you been washed in the blood of the Lamb? God loves you so much, He sent His only Son Jesus Christ into the world to be your Saviour. He bore the penalty for your sins when

He died upon the cross. And all who trust in Him for salvation can know their sins forgiven and have everlasting life in heaven. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation today.

John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Source <u>YNet News</u>, <u>YNet News</u>