

Review: *Against All Odds: Israel Survives*, Questar, 2011

Runtime (min): 540

A well produced docudrama series about the modern state of Israel with the lead character a skeptic investigative journalist Michael Greenspan. Greenspan acts as a foil to the strange stories uncovered but with each episode denial of the supernatural seems more unreasonable.

Action is fast paced with the history dispelling misconceptions about Israel's army-in each of the Arab-Israeli wars victory looked impossible. One day after the 1948 Balfour Declaration seven Arab armies attacked- Israel had no air force, one tank, three armoured vehicles and five cannon yet won.

Some material is repeated across the series and could have been rationalised (the goal behind disc six). Selected accounts include:

1. British surprise victory at Michmash in WWI over the Turks. Battle tactics were inspired by Jonathan and his armour-bearer's victory over twenty Philistines ~2,000 years earlier (cf. I Samuel 13.11-23,14.14)¹.



[above] cliffs of Michmash

2. An Israeli freedom fighter named Ezra miraculously escapes detection by the British during the Mandate period (1923- 1948).

3. The holocaust, including the turning away of refugee-laden ships from Palestine by the British.

4. Shula Kishak-Cohen, the Lebanese/Jewish spy for Jews in Mandate Palestine. Her arrest in 1961 and seven-year torture ordeal before release after the 1967 Six-Day war in a prisoner exchange.

5. May 14, 1948 Israeli Declaration of Independence. One day later the combined forces of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq invaded but were defeated. Israel had no air force, one tank, three armoured vehicles and five cannon. In one encounter an Abrahamic apparition saved Israeli soldiers out of ammunition against a superior Jordanian force (the Ira Rappaport account).

6. Israel's swift victory in the 1967 Six-Day War. Includes David Yaniv and fellow soldier's encounter with Jordanian soldiers where an Abrahamic apparition appears [for a second time] frightening them off.

7. 1973 Yom Kippur War: Minefield escape of Israeli soldiers when a sudden wind exposed thousands of mines, some up to thirty centimetres deep in sand, allowing escape; Avigdor Kahalani's seven tank defense of the Golan Heights against the Syrian tank armada; President Nixon's 11th hour assistance to Golda Meir delivering decisive military assets.

8. Return home² of the Jews from Ethiopia, Eastern Europe, the U.S., etc. Revival of the Hebrew language.

9. Miracle of Entebbe: a moving account of the hijack of Air France Flight 139 in Greek airspace and its incredible rescue from Uganda, ruled by the complicit Muslim Idi Amin. At night, Israeli special forces mounted a 90min, 8,000 km return trip to the country and rescued the hostages.

The viewer should keep in mind God's rationale for bringing back Israel, which has nothing to do with their godliness, quite the opposite:

“Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not *this* for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.”

Ezekiel 36.22

And before his crucifixion by the Jewish people under Pilate Jesus said:

“Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye

shall not see me, until *the time* come when ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” Luke 13.35

Thus, the time of Israel's desolation is linked to their acknowledgment of Jesus as Messiah.

Interestingly, the production company Questar Entertainment for its 'A' has a five-pointed star within a capstone-less pyramid, symbols of the Illuminati. Also, they chose a thirteen part series as the final product-given the three programs per disc they placed the thirteenth (plus extras) to fill a fifth one. Adding a movie gives six discs in total.

¹The back cover says *Saul* and Jonathan, however it was his armour-bearer.

²What is known as the *Aliyah*.