



## BLACK CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ON ISRAEL RELATIONS

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### WHY '*UNFINISHED BUSINESS*'?: THE BACKSTORY TO DR. KING'S MASS HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE OF 1967

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., along with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was planning the first-ever mass Holy Land pilgrimage of hundreds, possibly thousands of Black Americans. The trip was scheduled for November 1967. This is all revealed in private letters between Dr. King and Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, as well as then-former Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion. Those letters were exchanged between January and May of 1967. However, in June 1967, Israel fought its third battle for its existence since independence in 1948 (the Six-Day War), defeating multiple Arab armies and reclaiming the Holy City of Jerusalem for the first time in nearly 2,000 years. With the intense controversy after the Six-Day War, Dr. King, who continued to support Israel and work towards peace, chose to postpone the Holy Land pilgrimage until 1968. He was assassinated on April 4<sup>th</sup> of that year.

For Black American supporters of Israel, Dr. King's Holy Land tour represents unfinished business.

In November 2026 – what would have been the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. King's journey -- the Black Christian Council on Israel Relations will lead 500 Black American and African pastors and Christian leaders to the Holy Land. This group of Christian leaders will include music ministers and recording artists, professional athletes and coaches, co-pastors and spouses, social media influencers, and heads of para-church organizations. The pastors will be selected based on several criteria gathered from a survey. Beyond the 500 invited and sponsored Christian leaders, others will be able to register and join a parallel trek for a competitive rate. Those individuals will also tour the Holy Land and participate in some of the same events as the 500 Christian leaders. If you are a Black American or African Christian leader and would like to be considered as part of the 500, please click the survey link here. If you would like to register and join the accompanying tour, please click the registration link here.

Black Americans and Africans are reclaiming their heritage, a long legacy of standing with Israel and the Jewish people, dating back to the Queen of Sheba visiting King Solomon in Jerusalem 3,000 years ago. This Holy Land tour is a prophetic moment, and we look forward to experiencing it with you.

## The Black Christian Leadership Council on Israel Relations

Pastor Dumisani Washington  
Dr. Michael Anthony Stevens, Sr.  
Rev. Reginald W. Gibson,  
Dr. Brandy Frances Gibson  
Pastor Roger Cheeks

### NOTE:

Each tour participant is responsible for his/her round-trip flight or transportation to JFK Airport in New York City, and for 3-4 lunches in Israel. All other expenses, including round-trip flight to Israel, hotel accommodations, breakfast, most lunches, and dinner, are covered by the Council and our partners.