

Mishkan is a quarterly journal dedicated to biblical and theological thinking on issues related to Jewish Evangelism, Hebrew-Christian/Messianic-Jewish identity, and Jewish-Christian relations.

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Mishkan's editorial policy is openly evangelical, committed to the New Testament proclamation that the gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus (Yeshua) the Messiah is "to the Jew first."

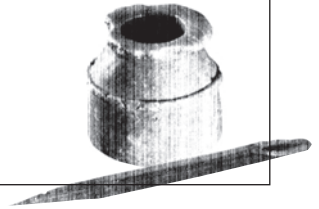
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Mishkan is the Hebrew word for *tabernacle* or *dwelling place* (John 1:14).

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

The Land and Different Interpretations

By Kai Kjær-Hansen



I am genuinely pleased the Jews got a national homeland in 1948 – and still have it. Like so many others, I wish that there was peace between Israel and her neighbors, and although there is not much cause for optimism, I have not given up the hope of an improved relationship between the two parties. But I do not believe in an improved situation without political concessions from both sides.

I do not believe in paradisiacal conditions; we shall have to settle for less. The State of Israel has a responsibility to find a solution in this ongoing conflict; the Arabs/Palestinians have theirs. I have a fundamental solidarity with Israel, which I share with most Jews. This solidarity is not uncritical, however, but also in this I am no different from many Jews.

In this issue of *Mishkan*, the land of Israel is brought into focus and viewed from a Bible-theological perspective. Rather divergent views are expressed in the articles. One of the contributors, Jan Mortensen, reflects on the background of such disagreement:

"If the disagreement had only followed the fault lines that separate the conservative and liberal camps of the church, it would somehow be easier to deal with, but the truth is that the split runs straight through the evangelical camp. The subject is highly charged, but we can't and must not avoid it. It is of utmost importance. And we must strive to let 'Scripture alone' answer the question for us – rather than deducing divine truth from 'facts on the ground,' political preferences, emotional attachment, or self-declared prophetic voices beyond the word of God in the Bible."

I believe that this, in principle, is a good starting point. And then we have to come to terms with the fact that shared presuppositions may result in different interpretations. That is the way it is in this world.