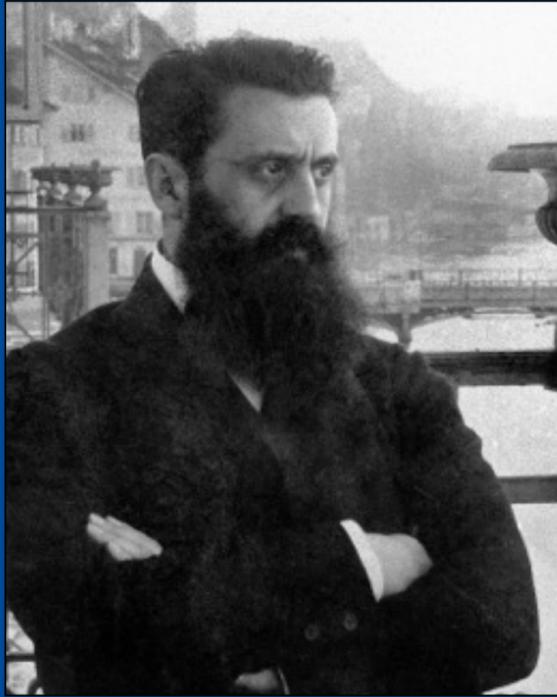
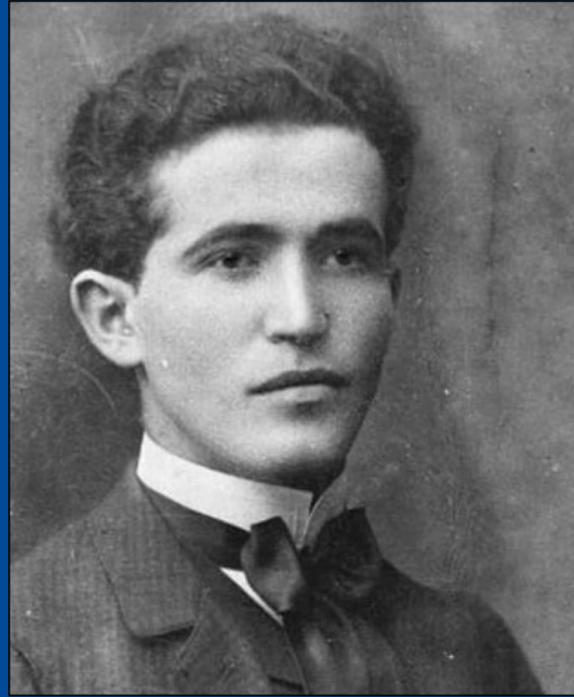


“When we return to Zion, we will be like *dreamers*.” - Psalm 126



Theodor Herzl



David Ben-Gurion



Yitzhak Rabin

#### Paris, France, April 2, 1895 - Theodor Herzl

“I have been occupied with a work of infinite grandeur. At the moment I do not know whether I shall carry it through. It looks like a mighty *dream*. But for days and weeks it has possessed me.”

#### Plonsk, Poland, 1896 - David Ben-Gurion

One day during prayers in the synagogue, in the same year that Herzl's book *The Jewish State* was published, a young David Ben-Gurion overhears something that cast a binding spell on him. The people in shul were saying that in a certain town a messiah had appeared - a miraculous tall man with beautiful features and a long black beard. This episode mesmerizes him and he retells it constantly until he convinces himself that he is destined to become this 'messiah's' alter ego. So much so that eight years later, upon learning of Herzl's death while studying at the university in Warsaw, he writes a friend, “God or nature (whichever is the true power) brings into existence an intermediary... with the power to give such creations to the world. I trust in the future ahead of me, in my imagination I see it outlined... great and sublime dreams...” Fifty-two years later, his *dream* is realized - a Jewish State is born.

#### Declaration of Statehood - May 14, 1948

“The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained... Statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled... the people... never ceased to pray and hope for their return... In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodor Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country. This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917 and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations... the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel...

The... massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear... urgency of solving the problem... by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State...

On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel... to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations...

Accordingly... by virtue of our natural and historic right... hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel.

The State of Israel... will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel... it will safeguard the holy places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations...

... Placing our trust in the Almighty, we affix our signatures to this proclamation... on the soil of the Homeland, in the city of Tel-Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the 5th day of Iyar, 5708 (14th May, 1948).”

#### The Six-Day War, June, 1967 - Yitzhak Rabin

Nineteen years later, during the Six-Day War following Jordan's sudden bombardment of Jerusalem, Yitzhak Rabin, then the army's chief of staff, draws up a plan to retake the Old City. Within hours, Israeli troops make their way to the Kotel. Rabin later revealed his secret: “For years, I secretly harbored a *dream* I had that I might play a part not only in gaining Israel's independence, but in restoring the Western Wall to the Jewish people, making it the focal point of a hard-won independence. Now that *dream* has come true, and suddenly I wondered why I, of all men, should be so privileged. I know that never again in my life would I experience quite the same peak elation.”