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Huckabee: Birthplace of America Was Actually Jerusalem

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"The birthplace of America was actually Jerusalem"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

America was not born in Philadelphia, according to the man who represents the United States in Israel. It was born in Jerusalem. That was the claim US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee made on Sunday at the 2026 Jewish Leadership Conference in New York City, telling the audience that "the birthplace of America was actually Jerusalem". Huckabee, a former Baptist pastor and governor of Arkansas, was speaking at the Tikvah Fund's flagship gathering, where he was presented with the 2026 Herzl Prize.

His argument ran in a straight line from the Bible to the founding of the United States. "Without a Jewish foundation, there is no Christian faith," he said. "Without a Judeo-Christian foundation, there is no Western civilization, and without that, there is no America."

Then came the line that has travelled furthest: "The birthplace of America was actually Jerusalem. People think that's crazy to say something like that. And I did say it in a speech in Jerusalem not quite a year ago."

Mike Huckabee Jerusalem Speech At Jewish Leadership Conference

Huckabee was not making a history claim so much as a faith claim. He was telling a room full of Jewish leaders that the partnership between the United States and Israel is not a matter of strategy or convenience, but of identity - that America owes its existence to what happened in the land of Israel. "I'm grateful to God that He has given me this exceptional opportunity to serve my fellow Americans," he said, "not only to represent our interests to the state of Israel, but I hope to be able to represent why the partnership between the United States and Israel is so very consequential and absolutely essential not just to Israel but to the United States of America and to every American."

The ambassador used the platform to defend Israel against its critics on several fronts. He vehemently rejected claims that Israel is committing genocide in its war against Hamas in Gaza, calling the accusations "part of a global campaign to discredit not just the state of Israel but the Jewish people". He pointed to the aid flowing into Gaza - between 600 and 800 trucks every single day carrying humanitarian and medical supplies - and highlighted Israel's efforts to vaccinate children in Gaza against polio.

Faith is not a footnote to a nation's story, Huckabee was arguing - it is the first chapter. Strip away the Jewish foundation, and in his telling there is no Christian faith; strip away the Christian faith, and there is no Western civilisation; strip that away, and there is no America left to defend.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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