

# PRAY for the PEACE of Jerusalem!

Psalm 122:6



## ISRAEL & THE CHURCH STUDY

July 8-August 5, 2024

Mondays @ 10:00am (5-Week Study)

Presented by Dr. Carol Peters

Israel is a "hot topic" whether it is on the agenda at the United Nations or the reason for a college protest or the subject of conversation among friends. This class will examine what God's Word says about Israel — both its past history and in prophecy. We will cover the fascinating story of how Israel became a nation again after nearly 2,000 years. We will also look at the ongoing struggle for peace since 1948 and at the ways churches are responding — from boycott/divestment to Christian Zionism — and how we can, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." (Psalm 122:6)





# ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH

Summer 2024

## PART I ISRAEL IN SCRIPTURE

1800 B.C. – 135 A.D.

*"If you look at Israel through political eyes, you will hate the Jews or the Arabs or Israel. If you look at Israel biblically, you will love Arabs and Jews."* Statement made during a panel discussion, May 2018

The promise to Abraham

Genesis 12

"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you, I will curse" (see Numbers 24:9)

Genesis 13:14-17

Genesis 15 The Covenant

Genesis 17:6-8

The promise to Abraham was \_\_\_\_\_,  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

The promise was re-affirmed:

Genesis 26:1-3

Genesis 28:13-15

Genesis 35:9-12

Exodus

3:7-10

23:22-33

Israel's relation to the Lord

Exodus 19:5,6

Deuteronomy 7:6-8; 32:9

I Chronicles 17:20-22

The first threat of exile

The first promise of restoration

King David (c. 1000 B.C.)

Jerusalem – II Samuel 5:6-10

Psalms 48; 50:1-2; 51:18-19; 53:6; 87

Psalm 132:13-14 The Lord has chosen Zion “My resting place forever”

Some history

Israel and Judah

Psalm 137 “If I forget you, O Jerusalem...”

Promise of a return from Babylon

Psalm 126

Alexander the Great and Hellenism 332 – 142 B.C.

Judas Maccabeus 167 B.C.

Rome conquered Israel 63 B.C.

Rebellions in 66 A.D. and 132 A.D.

135 A.D. Palestine

Some Jews remained

But...extraordinary promises

Isaiah 43:5-7; 49:22

Jeremiah 31:35-37;

Also Jeremiah 33:20-26

Isaiah 60

Amos 9:14-15

Ezekiel 36 & 37 Valley of Dry Bones

A "last days" scenario  
 Psalm 83:1-8, 11-12  
 Zechariah 12 – 14

**PART II ZIONISM AND ERETZ ISRAEL**

**135 A.D. – 1967**

*"In Israel, in order to be a realist, one must believe in miracles."* David Ben-Gurion, 1<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister

Some more history

- 313 The conversion of Constantine
- 638 Muslims conquered Palestine
- 1099 Crusaders conquered Palestine
- 1187 Saladin defeated the Crusaders
- 1517 – 1917 The Ottoman Empire
  - 1577 One of the first Hebrew printing presses – Galilee
  - 1800's Population of Palestine in decline

Three significant events

1. England: Sir Henry Finch (1558 – 1625)
  - Thomas Brightman (1562 – 1607)
2. Russian persecution (pogroms) of the Jews 1881
  - 1882 – 1908 "Lovers of Zion" – 1<sup>st</sup> Aliyah ("to go up")
3. The Dreyfus Affair 1893

Theodore Herzl (1860 – 1904) and Zionism

1896 "The Jewish State – An Address to the Rothschild's"

1897 First Zionist Congress

## Zionism

Its aim was to establish a Jewish State in Eretz Israel

William Hechler (1845 – 1931)

1903 “The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion”

Exposed as fraudulent in 1921, but...

1904 – 1914 2<sup>nd</sup> Aliyah

*“For centuries before the British captured it in 1917, the city [Jerusalem] was a Turkish backwater, a place of poor sanctuaries, poorer pilgrims, dirt streets, and garbage dumps.”*

National Geographic, April 1983

Kibbutz

The British Mandate 1917 – 1947

The Balfour Declaration 1917

“His Majesty’s Government views with favor the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people.”

The Faisal – Weizmann Agreement January 3, 1919

Endorsements of Balfour

1920 San Remo Conference

1922 Lodge – Fish Resolution (U.S. Congress)

1922 The Palestine Mandate (The League of Nations)

1919 – 1929 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Aliyahs

## “White Papers”

1<sup>st</sup> one 1922

2<sup>nd</sup> one 1930

1929 – 1939 5<sup>th</sup> Aliyah

1937 The Peel Commission

1938 Kristallnacht

3<sup>rd</sup> one 1939

## Post World War II

The United Nations Partition Plan 1947 Resolution 181

State of Israel is born May 14, 1948

Attacked by Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq

Why did so many Arabs flee?

Miraculous victory

“Above and Beyond”

Refugee problem

## The Palestinians

1959 Yasser Arafat (1929 – 2004) formed Fatah

1964 Palestinian Liberation Organization was founded

Goal?

1967 6 Day War

“Al Naksa” (the “setback”)

Basic question: Will the Palestinian people formally accept the independent sovereign Jewish State of Israel as a legitimate and permanent member of the family of nations?

## **PART III ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS**

**1968 – Present**

Four different groups of Arabs

1. Arab citizens of Israel
2. Arabs living in Gaza and the West Bank
3. Arabs who fled in 1948 and their descendants
4. Citizens of Arab League nations

1970's, 1980's – time of terrorism

1973 Yom Kippur War

1978—1979 Peace with Egypt

1982 War with Lebanon

1987—1988 First Intifada



1993—1994 Oslo Accords (Yitzhak Rabin, Arafat, President Clinton)

The Palestinian Authority

“Hebron Agreement”

1994 Peace with Jordan

2000 June – July Camp David (Arafat, Ehud Barak, President Clinton)

September 2000 Second Intifada

December 19, 2000 Taba, Egypt

*“The Palestinians were not interested in having a state of their own next to Israel. They were interested in having a state of their own instead of Israel.”* Benjamin Netanyahu

2002 – 2004 West Bank Protection Barrier

Problems with the P.A.

2003 President Bush’s “Road Map for Peace”

December 2003 Unilateral withdrawal from Gaza

2004 Arafat’s death Mahmoud Abbas (his deputy) takes over

2006 Hamas is voted into leadership in Gaza

First use of “human shields”

2006 Second war with Lebanon

U.N. Resolution 1701

2008 Peace talks

November 2009 President Obama

2013 *“Palestine from the river to the sea, from the north to the south, is our land, and we will never give up one inch or any part of it.”* Khaled Mashaal, Hamas leader

2014 Operation Protective Edge

2018 Hamas wages “low tech” war -- *U.S.A. Today*

2018 Abbas tries to block deal between Israel and Hamas -- *The Week*, September 7, 2018

2020 Abraham Accords -- U.A.E., Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan (President Trump)

2021 Operation Guardian of the Walls

What about the U.N.?

2021 Commission of Inquiry – Agenda item 7

**PART IV KEY ISSUES**

- 1. For Palestinians: West Bank Jewish settlements
  
- 2. For Palestinians: Final borders must return to 1967
  
- 3. For Palestinians: Return of the refugees to their land
  
- 4. For Israel: Acceptance of a permanent independent Jewish State
  
- 5. For Israel: End to terrorism

*“One man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter.”*

*“The extremists like Hamas...don’t have to win to win – all they have to do is not lose. In other words, if they are still standing at the end of the battle, they will claim they stood up to Israel and then rally recruits for another fight on another day.”*

John McLaughlin, former director of the CIA, 8/1/2014

- 6. For both sides: the status of Jerusalem

**PART V THE CHURCHES’ POSITIONS**

- 1. Successionism or Replacement Theology      Matthew 21:43  
The Church is the New Israel

Concern for social justice is foremost

Kairos Palestine 2009

BDS campaign \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Roman Catholic

3. Christian Zionism

Holeger Paulli (1644 – 1714), Danish

The watchmen Isaiah 62

Christian Zionism today (Luke 21:24)

1973 – a turning point

The mysterious “red heifer” (Numbers 19:1-10; 31:21-23)

4. Mainstream evangelicals

5. Messianic Jews

Maoz Israel Jews for Jesus

6. Palestinian Christians

Tass Saada & Hope of Peace Foundation

**PART VI      OCTOBER 7, 2023**

Goals of Hamas

Reactions

Campus Protests

International Criminal Court (ICC)

## PART VII TOWARD FORMULATING AN OPINION

Acknowledge that the Jews *remain* God's chosen people Romans 11

"The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable"

Acknowledge our debt to the Jews Genesis 12:3; 28:14

"Salvation is from the Jews" -- Jesus' words in John 4:22

Recognize the place of Israel in prophecy

Understand the bond between the Jewish people and Eretz Israel

Listen to the concerns of the Palestinians and be aware of their suffering

What can we do?

Be informed.

Pray! Psalm 122:6

Befriend your Jewish and your Muslim neighbors

Speak up!

***"I will bless those who bless you..."*** Genesis 12:3

Notes:

## FROM NEWS SOURCES AFTER OCTOBER 7

**10/31/2023, L A Times: "Battling antisemitism on college campuses"** by Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the U.C. Berkeley School of Law. "As a 70-year-old Jewish man, nothing in my life has prepared me for the last three weeks." [His observations and comments in this article sounded as shocked as Herzl was hearing the cries of "Death to the Jews" at the Dreyfus trial.]

**11/1/23, U.S.A. Today: "My father, Elie Wiesel, survived Auschwitz. He'd ask these questions about the Israel/Hamas war"** by Elisha Wiesel. "When you chant that Palestine should be free "from the river to the sea," what does that mean? What happened when Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005? What is the stated goal of Hamas? How should Israel defend its population when Hamas hides behind civilians? What would happen to Israel if it pulled completely out of the West Bank tomorrow as it did with Gaza? Ask these hard questions and others. And be smart enough to know when someone is telling a half-truth. Do your research."

**11/6/23, afternoon news on CNN: A replay of interviews with Hamas leaders on Jordanian TV.** Question: Why spend so much on tunnels for Hamas and yet no bomb shelters for the civilians? We need the tunnels to protect Hamas. The majority of the Gazans are refugees. It is the responsibility of the U.N. to take care of refugees.

Question: What about the thousands of civilians being killed? Martyrs! We are a people who are ready to be martyrs. We are a nation of martyrs ready to die for the cause. Other nations have sacrificed many thousands of civilians in their righteous causes. That is what we are doing. A final comment: We will rise up again and again. October 7 was only one attack. There will be another and another and another.

**11/10/23, L A Times: "There is only one answer for what happens next in Gaza"** by Daoud Kuttab, former Princeton professor of journalism. "The idea of including Hamas or someone appointed by Hamas to be part of a solution to the current cycle of violence might seem anathema to many, but it is the only effective and logical way forward after a cease-fire. It ought to be demanded by the international community and even by Israel as a means to guarantee the stability needed for rebuilding Gaza and for entering serious negotiations that can produce an independent Palestinian state."

**11/17/23, L A Times: Forensic doctors trying to I.D. the dead and how they died.** Dr. Chen Kugel, head of the forensic center: "Perhaps you had the belief that one day you could make a compromise for peace. But when you see this, you understand it is not the leadership. It is not politics. It is real hatred...We don't bomb Gaza to teach them a lesson. We do it because we learned our lesson. We cannot survive like this. Everyone felt the threat to their existence."

**Letter to the Editor, L A Times, reacting to an 11/19 piece, "What the Gaza killings look like to a scholar of genocide"** by Raz Segal. "The implication is that Israel is the bad guy since it has killed more people than Hamas. But body counts do not define who is the aggressor and who is the victim. If they did, it would mean that the Germans were the victims in World War II, the North Koreans were the victims in the Korean War..."

**11/23/23, L A Times, citing various chants of the Pro-Palestinian protestors:**

"Resistance is justified if Palestine is occupied."

"From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

"We don't want 2 states; we want '48." (LA Times, 12/21/23)

**From Bibi, My Story, pages 40-41.** An Englishman, an American, and an Israeli were captured by a tribe of cannibals. When they were in the pot, each one was allowed a last wish. The Englishman asked for a whiskey and a pipe and got them. The American asked for a steak and got it. The Israeli asked the chief to give him a good kick in the backside. The chief was confused, but he did it. At once the Israeli pulled out a gun and shot all the cannibals. The Englishman and the American asked him, "If you had a gun all the time, why didn't you shoot them earlier?" He answered, "Are you crazy? And have the U.N. call me the aggressor?"

**Feb. 2024, L A Times:** Palestinians in Gaza are starting to turn against Hamas but not because of Oct 7 that brought Israeli retribution, but because Hamas had not stockpiled enough supplies to provide for the people's needs, given everyone knew Israel would retaliate. They are angry because Hamas should have planned better.

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5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85203  
Office hours: Mon-Thurs, 8am-4pm  
480-830-5024 | [hello@victorylutheran.com](mailto:hello@victorylutheran.com)  
**VictoryLutheran.com**