

2. The Israel Question

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Sub-title: A spirit of Murder against God's Covenant people

Many people today ask themselves whether they should support Israel or the "Palestinians", especially in light of the recent war that was sparked by the Hamas-led attack against Israel on October 7th, 2023.

As believers we should be on the side of:

- Righteousness
- Biblical truth
- Biblical covenants

Last week's main points:

1. Abraham is the Patriarch (Father) of the Jewish People
2. God gave the land of Canaan to Abraham & the Jewish People
3. God dispossessed the Nations that lived in Canaan
4. God made a Covenant with Abraham & promised the Land of Canaan to him & his descendants
5. God promised He would re-gather the Jewish People in their land
6. For Israel, the right to live in their God-given land is about safety and security for their people

1. Persecution of God's Covenant People

- Jewish people have been persecuted for thousands of years
- The "righteous seed" has been persecuted by the "unrighteous seed"
- Satan has assigned a spirit of murder against God's chosen people

John 8:44 (NKJV) *You are of your father **the devil**, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

- Jesus confronted the Pharisees and other religious leaders of the day
- He told them that satan was a murderer from the beginning, and that they were satan's children who carry out his desires (murder & lies)
- Ultimately, it was the religious leaders who condemned Jesus to death

2. Ancient Prophecy about the birth of Jesus Christ

- In the Garden of Eden, God already prophesied the coming of the Jesus Christ the Messiah (Saviour, Deliverer)

Genesis 3:14–15 (NKJV) So **the Lord God said to the serpent:** “Because you have done this ... **15** .. I will put enmity between you and **the woman**, and between your seed and **her Seed; He shall bruise your head**, and you shall bruise His heel.”

- The term “Seed of the woman” is reference to Jesus Christ the Messiah
- God spoke to the serpent, but the prophecy concerning the coming Messiah was to satan who possessed the serpent
- You (satan) shall bruise His heel – reference to Jesus’ crucifixion
- He (Jesus) shall bruise your head - referring to satan’s defeat at the cross

3. Murder of God’s righteous seed (Pre-Jewish period)

- Soon after the prophecy of the “Seed of the woman”, satan stirred up Cain to kill his brother Abel

Genesis 4:8 (NKJV) Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that **Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.**

- Adam and Eve’s first son Cain murdered his younger brother Abel
- This is the first murder in human history
- The “wicked seed” murdered the “righteous seed” (Heb.11:4, 1Jn 3:10,12)
- Satan killed off the “righteous seed” in the hope of preventing the birth of the “Seed of the woman” (Jesus Christ, the Messiah)

4. Salvation is of the Jews

John 4:21–22 (NLT) Jesus replied, “Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. **22** You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for **salvation comes through the Jews.**

- Why does satan hate the Jews more than any other people group?
- Because salvation (The Saviour) comes through the Jews

5. God tells Abraham that all families of the earth would be blessed in him

Genesis 12:3 (NKJV) I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**”

- This is a prophetic statement to indicate that Messiah would come through the line of Abraham
- In Matthew chpt. 1, the genealogy of Jesus Christ begins with Abraham
- From that moment forward, satan has been targeting the Jewish people

6. Pharaoh calls for the murder of Jewish boys

- Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt by his jealous brothers
- While in Egypt, Joseph rose to the position of Prime Minister
- Pharaoh invited Jacob & his family to come & live in Egypt

Exodus 1:8–16 (NKJV) *Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 And he said to his people, “Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; 10 come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land.” 11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. 12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. 13 So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. 14 And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor. 15 Then **the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives**, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; 16 and he said, “**When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.**”*

- After Joseph’s death, a new Pharaoh arose who enslaved the Israelites
- He commanded the Hebrew midwives to kill all baby boys at birth
- This is the beginning of a spirit of murder operating against the lives of Jewish people
- Ever since that time, satan tried to kill the “righteous seed” to prevent the birth of the Messiah in the earth
- Satan has assigned a spirit of murder against the Jewish nation
- He wants to kill God’s covenant people (Genocide, Extermination)

7. Some nations / empires that came against the Jewish people

- During Israel’s ancient history, satan stirred up many nations & empires to persecute, kill and enslave the Jewish people

- (some of these nations came against Israel as a result of God’s judgment because of their disobedience to His covenant [2 Kings 17:23])
- Assyrias (2 Kings 15:29, 17:6) (Present-day Iraq, Syria)
- Egyptians (2 Kings 23:35)
- Persians & Medes (Esther 1:1-3) (Present-day Iran)
- Babylonians (Daniel 1:1) (Present-day Iraq)
- Romans (John 11:47–48)
- Germans (2nd World War)

8. Haman of the Persian Empire tries to annihilate the Jewish people

- Haman rose to the position of Prime Minister under king Ahasuerus
- He tricked king Ahasuerus into authorising a law to call for the killing of all Jews in his kingdom that stretched from India to Ethiopia

Esther 3:8–10 (NKJV) *Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, “**There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people’s, and they do not keep the king’s laws. Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain. 9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed,** and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king’s treasuries.” 10 So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to **Haman**, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, **the enemy of the Jews.***

- It was only by the wisdom God through Mordecai, and the courage of Queen Esther that the Jewish people were saved from sure annihilation

9. Herod tried to kill the Messiah by having all baby boys killed in Bethlehem and its districts

Matthew 2:16 (NKJV) *Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and **he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under,** according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.*

This same spirit of murder that has operated against the Jewish people for thousands of years is now working through the Iranian regime and its proxies, namely Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis.

- Same murderous spirit, working through the “seed of the unrighteous”