

3. The Israel Question

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Sub-title: God is zealous for Zion

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. Persecution of God’s Covenant People (the Jews)
 2. Ancient Prophecy about the birth of Jesus Christ
 3. Murder of God’s righteous seed (Pre-Jewish period)
 4. Salvation is of the Jews
 5. God tells Abraham - all families of the earth would be blessed in him
 6. Pharaoh calls for the murder of all Jewish boys
 7. Various nations / empires that came against the Jewish people
 8. Haman of the Persian Empire tries to annihilate all Jewish people
 9. Herod tried to kill the Messiah by having all baby boys killed in Bethlehem and its districts
- Same murderous spirit, working through the “seed of the unrighteous” today

1. God is on the side of Israel (by covenant)

Zechariah 8:1–2 (NKJV) *Again the word of the Lord of hosts came, saying, 2 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor I am zealous for her.’*

- God says: *‘I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor I am zealous for her’*
- Evidently, God is a Zionist!
- “Zion” is the name of a place (160 references in the Bible), referring to:
 - Literally, Mount Zion (a hill located in Jerusalem)
 - Figuratively, Jerusalem as a city
 - By extension, Israel as a whole

- “Zionism” is the name of a movement towards the creation & establishment of the modern State of Israel in the biblical land of Israel
- “Anti-Zionism” is the opposition to the creation of the modern State of Israel in the biblical land of Israel

Zechariah 8:3–8 (NKJV) *“Thus says the Lord: ‘I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the Lord of hosts, the Holy Mountain.’ 4 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. 5 The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.’ 6 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, will it also be marvelous in My eyes?’ says the Lord of hosts. 7 “Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; 8 **I will bring them back, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem.** They shall be My people and I will be their God, in truth and righteousness.’*

- The Lord says: I will return to Zion & dwell in the midst of Jerusalem
- This is reference to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, when He returns to earth to set up His 1,000 Year Reign (Rev. 20:4,6)
- He will return to Zion (Mt. Olives - Zech. 14:4) & dwell in Jerusalem
- Jerusalem is destined to be the capital of Christ’s 1,000 Year Kingdom
- He will sit on the throne of David (Isaiah 9:7)
- He will rule the nations with a rod of iron (Revelation 19:15)
- He calls Jerusalem:
 - City of Truth
 - Mountain of the Lord of hosts
 - Holy Mountain

Isaiah 24:23 (HCSB) *The moon will be put to shame and the sun disgraced, because the Lord of Hosts (Jesus Christ) will reign as king on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, and He will display His glory in the presence of His elders.*

2. God’s enemies are usually anti-Zionists & enemies of Israel

- In light of God’s eternal plan for Jerusalem & Israel, it is no wonder that satan would do his utmost to thwart, corrupt and oppose God’s plan
- Arguably, Jerusalem is the most contended piece of real estate in the whole wide world

- The hatred of many anti-Zionists runs very deep:
 - They hate the God of the Bible (Jehovah, Jesus Christ)
 - They hate Judaism & Christianity
 - They hate Jews & Christians
 - They hate Israel, and it's status as a legitimate nation
- Common terms used by Israel haters are: "The Zionist Entity", "the Zionist Regime" or "Occupied Palestine"

Psalm 129:5 (NKJV) *Let all those who hate Zion be put to shame and turned back.*

NLT ... *be turned back in shameful defeat.*

3. Palestinian Incursion into Israel's Territory on October 7, 2023

- On October 7th, up to 6,000 terrorists from Gaza breached the border & infiltrated Israel's southern region
- (3,800 were Hamas fighters & another 2,200 were Gazan "civilians" who also entered Israel)
- (Question: How many innocent people are there in Gaza?)
- The border fence between Gaza & Israel was breached in over 100 places
- Some terrorists used motorised paragliders to cross the border fence
- On the same day, 4,300 rockets were fired into Israel
- (2,200 rockets were fired in 20 minutes beginning at 6.30am)
- The terrorists committed crimes of unspeakable cruelty
 - Murdered innocent and unarmed civilians, including children
 - Over 1200 deaths (deadliest day since Israel's Independence Day)
 - Extreme brutality, torture & mutilations
 - Rape & sexual violence of unspeakable proportions
 - Burning of babies
 - Other terrible atrocities hardly fit to mention among civilized people
- Over 250 hostages were kidnapped and taken to Gaza
- Dead bodies of Israelis taken back to Gaza & paraded in the streets
- Some of the terrorists attacked at the Supernova outdoor Music Festival in the Negev desert – more of the same – rape, murder, unspeakable violence
- Some of the first responders who attended the scenes after all these hideous crimes committed suicide because they could not cope with the trauma of what they have seen and heard
- Many of the atrocities were recorded by the terrorists' body cameras & cell phones, and also by security cameras of homes they broke into

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/28/world/middleeast/oct-7-attacks-hamas-israel-sexual-violence.html>

<https://nypost.com/2023/10/08/horrifying-images-show-victims-of-hamas-attack-at-nova-music-festival/>

<https://www.dw.com/en/latest-videos/s-62391524>

<https://themedialine.org/top-stories/horrific-footage-of-hamas-atrocities-revealed-by-idf-shakes-global-media/>

4. Israel is at war with terrorists

- Hamas – Arabic acronym for “the Islamic Resistance Movement”
- Hezbollah – a Lebanese Shia Islamist political party & paramilitary group
- Houthis - Islamist political and military organization in Yemen
- Iran – officially, the Islamic Republic of Iran (
- The enemies of Israel have sworn they will continue to fight towards the complete destruction & annihilation of the State of Israel
- Without a doubt, Israel is fighting for its very existence

Zechariah 2:6–13 (NIV) *“Come! Come! Flee from the land of the north,” declares the Lord, “for I have scattered you to the four winds of heaven,” declares the Lord. 7 “**Come, Zion! Escape, you who live in Daughter Babylon!**” 8 For this is what the Lord Almighty says: “After **the Glorious One has sent me against the nations that have plundered you—for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye**—9 I will surely raise my hand **against them** so that their slaves will plunder them. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me. 10 “Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you,” declares the Lord. 11 “Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. 12 **The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem.** 13 **Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.**”*

- An angel speaks of God assigning him against Israel’s enemies
- God says to Israel – whoever touches you, touches the apple of my eye
- He says: I will surely raise my hand against them (Israel’s enemies)
- Vs. 13. Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling