

THE BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO THE ISRAELI HAMAS CONFLICT IN GAZA

Reference: miscellaneous Scripture
Pastor Larry Webb

Global anti-Semitism is increasing at an exponential rate but the current epicenter of anti-Semitism is located on a small strip of Middle Eastern real estate called Gaza. That's because since 2007 an organization called Hamas has governed Gaza. Hamas claims to represent the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian people.

Hamas is considered a terrorist organization according to Israel, United States, United Kingdom, European Union, Egypt, Jordan, Japan and Australia. Hamas is committed to establishing an Islamic state in what is now modern day Israel, the west bank and the Gaza strip.

Israel is the only Jewish state in existence and that begs the question: and who is a Jew?

Someone can be defined as Jewish if he or she meets one of three criteria:

- Someone _____ Jewish. If that person practices Judaism or not is irrelevant as long as that person is genetically from Jewish descent
- Someone who has at least some Jewish _____ background
- Someone who has no Jewish ancestral background but who has _____ to Judaism (a Jewish proselyte)

Consider some important reasons the United States as a nation and Christians as individuals should support the Jewish people and the Jewish state of Israel during this recent and continuing Gaza conflict.

REASON ONE...because Israel is the most frequently mentioned _____ in the Bible next to God Himself. The Bible mentions Israel a total of _____ times.

REASON TWO... because God has chosen Israel to be special, more so than all the other _____

Reference: **Deuteronomy 7:6**, "*For you (i.e. the Jewish people that together constituted the nation of Israel) are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, (notice) a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.*"

More references: **Isaiah 41:8; 43:1; 44:1; 45:4; 48:10**

Replacement theology erroneously teaches that the church has replaced Israel in God's program. The church is said to be the new Israel.

REASON THREE... because God has _____ Himself with Israel

The Bible refers to the phrase "Lord God of Israel" _____ times, to the words "the God of Israel" _____ times, and to the phrase "the Holy One of Israel" _____ times

REASON FOUR... because God has given Israel land that he calls His _____

This fourth point presents a problem because most of the political arguments about the land Israel occupies either ignore, forget or purposely reject the fact that the GOD of Israel has given to the literal descendants from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, a special land; in fact, it is a land that God calls his own land.

Reference: **Leviticus 25:1, 2, 23**

verse twenty-three, "The land (i.e. promised land) shall not be sold permanently, for **the land is Mine**; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me..."

There are two categories of covenants: conditional covenants and unconditional covenants:

- Conditional or _____ covenants are agreements that are binding on **both** parties for its fulfillment.
- Unconditional or _____ covenants are agreements between two parties, but only **one** of the parties is required to do something

The Abrahamic covenant is an unconditional unilateral covenant; that means God made promises to Abraham that required nothing from Abraham. The Abrahamic covenant is first found in:

Genesis 12:1-3 (See screen)

Notice that God promised Abraham four principle things:

- a great _____ (**verse 2a**)
- a great _____ (**verse 2b**)
- a great _____ (**verse 2c** and **verse 3c**)
- a great _____ (**verse 1b**) promised to Abraham and his Jewish descendants

The specific dimensions of the land God promised the Jewish people are mentioned in **Genesis 15:18-21** and **Ezekiel 48:1** and **28**.

The land God promised to Abraham and his descendents was intended to be a permanent possession.

Genesis 17:7 and **8**

verse seven, "And I (God) will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendents after you in their generations, **for an everlasting covenant**, to be God to you and your descendents after you.

verse eight, "Also, **I give to you and your descendents after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.**"

There's no question, but that God promised Abraham and his descendents the land of Canaan as their possession in perpetuity.

Five reasons that Israel has the right to its own land and statehood:

1) the _____ reason

This is the one we just mentioned but let's expand on that some.

Reference: **Genesis 13:17** and **18**

verse seventeen, "Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.

verse eighteen, "then Abram moved his tent and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, **which are in Hebron**, and built an altar there to the Lord."

2) the _____ reason

Each archaeological dig in Israel supports the fact that Israelis have had a presence there for more than 3,400 years.

3) the _____ reason

4) the _____ reason

5) the _____ reason