


Slide 1

THE BIBLE AND VOTING  
Part 11



Dr. Andy Woods

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Slide 2

**Introductory Remarks**

- A stewardship issue (1 Cor. 4:2)
- A biblical issue (2 Tim. 3:16)
- Biblical principles rather than partisanship

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Slide 3

**The Bible and Voting**

1. Economic issues
2. Social issues
3. Foreign affairs



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Slide 4

### The Bible and Voting

- Economic issues
- Social issues
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Slide 5

### Economic Issues

- Ownership of private property? (Deut. 19:15)
- Pursuit of economic self interest? (Gen. 8:21)
- Proper definition of compassion? (2 Thess. 3:10)
- Who provides charity? (1 Tim. 5:3-8)
- Family is the building block of society? (Deut. 6:6-7)
- Wealth retained within the family? (Prov. 13:22)
- The earth experiences cyclical patterns? (Gen. 8:22)
- Environmental stewardship rather than earth worship? (Rom. 1:22-23)
- Opposition to runaway debt? (Prov. 22:7)
- Limitations upon the government? (Acts 5:29)

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Slide 6

### The Bible and Voting

- Economic issues
- Social issues
- Foreign affairs



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Slide 7

**Social Issues**

1. Legal protection for the unborn? (Gen. 25:23)
2. Legal protection for the elderly? (Lev. 19:32)
3. Hetero-sexual monogamous marriage as the standard for society? (Gen. 2:18-25)
4. Advocacy capital punishment? (Gen. 9:6)
5. The right to restrict alcohol, pornography, & gambling? (Lev. 10:9; Matt. 5:27-28; Prov. 13:11)
6. Parental authority over children? (Eph. 6:4)
7. Public expressions of Christianity? (Mark 16:15)
8. Right to keep and bear arms? (Luke 22:36)

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Slide 8

**The Bible and Voting**

1. Economic issues
2. Social issues
3. Foreign affairs



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Slide 9

**Foreign Affairs**

1. Favor national sovereignty above global governance? (Gen. 11:1-9)
2. Favor the reality and enforceability of our national borders? (Acts 17:26)
3. Support for the nation of Israel? (Gen. 12:3)
4. Pursuit of peace though strength? (Jer. 17:9)

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Slide 10

Foreign Affairs

1. **Favor national sovereignty above global governance? (Gen. 11:1-9)**

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Slide 11

Foreign Affairs

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Slide 12

Foreign Affairs

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Slide 13

Overview

- I. The Divine Purpose for Israel
- II. The Divine Protection of Israel
- III. The Proper Perspective Concerning Israel



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Slide 14

Overview

- I. The Divine Purpose for Israel
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Slide 15

Genesis 12:3

“And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” (NASB)



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Slide 16

Israel's Three Blessings to the World  
(Gen 12:3b)

1) Scripture (Rom 3:2)

2) Savior (John 4:22)

3) Kingdom (Isa 2:2-3)



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Slide 17

**Abrahamic Covenant**

<b>ABRAHAMIC</b> Genesis 15		
<b>LAND</b>	<b>SEED</b>	<b>BLESSING</b>
<b>LAND</b> Deuteronomy 29-30	<b>DAVIDIC</b> 2 Samuel 7:12-16	<b>NEW</b> Jeremiah 31:31-34
		

*Unconditional* covenant with a conditional blessing (Deut. 28; Lev. 26)

# Slide 18

The map shows the region of the Middle East, specifically the area around the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. A legend indicates that the hatched area represents 'The Promised Land' and the solid black area represents 'What Israel Initially Possessed'. The solid black area is located in the southwestern part of the Promised Land, near the Red Sea. The map is titled 'The Promised Land' and 'What Israel Initially Possessed'.

Thomas L. Constable, *Notes on Numbers*, p.99

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Slide 19

Overview

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Slide 20

Genesis 12:3

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Slide 21

Zechariah 2:8

"For thus says the LORD of hosts, "After  
glory He has sent me against the nations  
which plunder you, for he who touches  
you, touches the apple of His eye."



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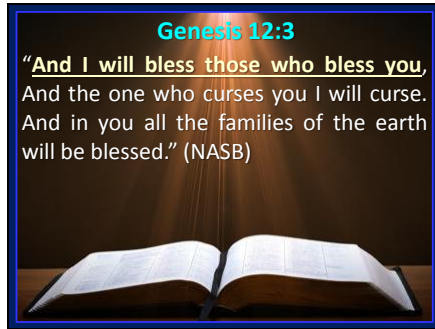
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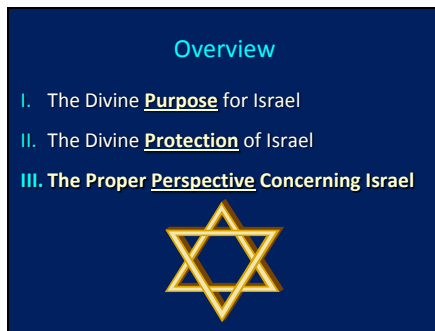
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Slide 23



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Slide 24



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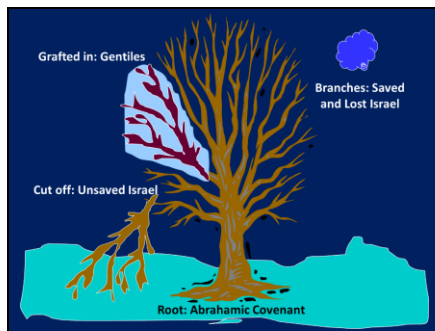
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### III. The Proper Perspective Concerning Israel

- A. Attitude
- B. Angelic conflict
- C. Apostate condition?
- D. Practical reasons



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Slide 27

## Christian Anti-Semitism

"First, their synagogues should be set on fire...Secondly, their homes should likewise be broken down and destroyed...Thirdly, they should be deprived of their prayer books and Talmuds..."

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### Christian Anti-Semitism

"...Fourthly, their rabbis must be forbidden under threat of death to teach any more...Fifthly, passport and traveling privileges should be absolutely forbidden to the Jews...Sixthly, they ought to be stopped from usury (charging interest on loans..."

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Slide 29

### Christian Anti-Semitism

"Seventhly, let the young and strong Jews and Jewesses be given the flail, the ax, the hoe, the spade, the distaff, and spindle, and let them earn their bread by the sweat of their noses...We ought to drive the rascally lazy bones out of our system..."

Martin Luther, *Concerning the Jews and Their Lies*, cited in Michael Brown's *Our Hands Are Stained with Blood*, pp. 14-15.

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Slide 30

### Christian Anti-Semitism

"...Therefore away with them... To sum up, dear princes and nobles who have Jews in your domains, if this advice of mine does not suit you, then find a better one so that you and we may all be free of this insufferable devilish burden—the Jews."

Martin Luther, *Concerning the Jews and Their Lies*, cited in Michael Brown's *Our Hands Are Stained with Blood*, pp. 14-15.

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Slide 31

## Deicide?

- Weeping Jewish remnant (John 12:19)
- Edomite Herodian Dynasty
- Roman soldiers executed Christ (John 18:30-31)
- Christ partially blamed the Gentiles (Matt. 20:18-19)
- Christ died for the world's sin (John 3:16)
- The Father is responsible (Isa 53:10)
- Christ is responsible (John 10:17-18)
- "A" culprit vs. "the" culprit (Acts 2:23)

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### III. The Proper Perspective Concerning Israel

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## Biblical Reality of the Angelic World

- Job 1:12
- 2 Kings 6:15-17
- 1 Chron 21:1
- Dan 10:12-13, 20
- Matt 16:21-23
- Eph 6:12



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### Revelation 12:1-5

<sup>1</sup>And a great **sign** appeared in heaven: a **woman** clothed in the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars; <sup>2</sup>and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor pain to give birth. <sup>3</sup>And another sign was seen in heaven: and behold, a great red **dragon**, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems. (NASV 1995)



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### Revelation 12:1-5 (cont'd)

<sup>4</sup>And his tail swept a third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman that is about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he may devour her child. <sup>5</sup>And she gave birth to a **son**, a man child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. (NASV 1995)



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### Revelation: 12 Symbols

- Son = Messiah (Rev 12:5; Ps. 2:9; Acts 1:9)
- Dragon = Satan (Rev 12:3, 9)
- Woman = Israel (Rev 12:1; Gen 37:9-10)

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**Genesis 37:9**

Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, "Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.



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**Genesis 37:10**

He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?"



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**2 CYCLES OF SATANIC PERSECUTION**  
(Revelation 12:13-16)



1. "Pursues the woman" = persecution of Israel 12:13-14
2. "Flood from his mouth" = tries to destroy Israel 12:15-16

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### Descriptions of Satanic Hatred

(Revelation 12:12-17)

- Wrath 12:12
- Persecution 12:13
- Sweep away 12:15
- Enraged 12:17
- War 12:17



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### Matthew 23:37-39

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. <sup>38</sup> Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! <sup>39</sup> For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"



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### III. The Proper Perspective Concerning Israel

- A. Attitude
- B. Angelic conflict
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- D. Practical reasons



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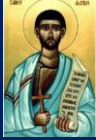
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“But I and every other **completely orthodox** Christian feel certain that there will be a resurrection of the flesh, followed by a thousand years in the rebuilt, embellished, and **enlarged city of Jerusalem** as was announced by the prophets Ezekiel, Isaiah, and the others.”

Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho*, 80.

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Slide 44

Every Geographical Location in Acts/Epistles



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Slide 45

**Ezekiel 36:24-28**

“For I will take you from the nations, **gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.** <sup>25</sup> **Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean;** I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> Moreover, I will give you a new heart and **put a new spirit within you;** and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. <sup>28</sup> You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.”



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**Ezekiel 37:7-11**

So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; **but there was no breath in them.** <sup>9</sup>Then He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.'" <sup>10</sup>**So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life** and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. <sup>11</sup>Then He said to me, "Son of man, **these bones are the whole house of Israel;** behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.'"



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Slide 47

**Zechariah 12:10**

**"I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn."**



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Israel's Two Regatherings	
THE PRESENT (FIRST) REGATHERING	THE PERMANENT (SECOND) REGATHERING
Return to part of the land	Return to all the land
Return in unbelief	Return in faith
Restored to the land only	Restored to the land and the Lord
Sets the stage for Tribulation (discipline)	Sets the stage for Millennium (blessing)

*Adapted from: Price, Jerusalem in Prophecy, 219*

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**Romans 11:28-29**

“From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of *God’s* choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;<sup>29</sup> for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”



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Slide 50

**III. The Proper Perspective Concerning Israel**

- A. Attitude
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**Transforming David Into Goliath?**

	Neighbors	Israel
<b>Number of nations</b>	22	1
<b>Size</b>	640 Times Israel’s Size	1/19 <sup>th</sup> Size of California
<b>Population</b>	250 million (1.4 billion Muslims worldwide)	13 million
<b>Type of government</b>	Dictatorships	Democracy
<b>Wealth</b>	Most of the world’s oil	Some potential oil discoveries

[http://www.mefacts.com/cached.asp?x\\_id=10190](http://www.mefacts.com/cached.asp?x_id=10190)

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Transforming David Into Goliath?		
	Neighbors	Israel
Peaceful co-existence?	Limited desire for peace (except for Egypt and Jordan)	Desire for peace
Religious freedom	Christianity persecuted	Christianity growing
Holy book	Koran commands worldwide submission	Torah promises small allotment of land
Mention of Jerusalem in Holy book	Koran = 0	OT = 1000x

[http://www.mefacts.com/cached.asp?x\\_id=10190](http://www.mefacts.com/cached.asp?x_id=10190)

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Quran Surah\* 24:55  
(\*chapter)

“Allah has promised those who have believed among you and done righteous deeds that He will surely grant them succession *[Caliphate]* upon the earth just as He granted it to those before them and that He will surely establish for them [therein] their religion which He has preferred for them and that He will surely substitute for them, after their fear, security, [for] they worship Me, not associating anything with Me. But whoever disbelieves after that - then those are the defiantly disobedient.”

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Slide 56



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Slide 58

**NATIONAL BESTSELLER**

"This book is a historical event in itself." —*Barbara Tuchman*

"An absorbing book... The understanding of what is happening in the Middle East, one must begin with the past, which Mark Peters traces to the present with remarkable skill." —*Theodore H. White*

# FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL

THE ORIGINS OF THE ARAB-JEWISH CONFLICT OVER PALESTINE

JOAN PETERS

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"... A desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds... a silent mournful expanse.... a desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action.... we never saw a human being on the whole route.... there was hardly a tree or shrub anywhere. Even the olive tree and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country."

Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad*, Complete, 1st ed. (A Public Domain Book, 1899), 267–268, 302. These quotes can be found in chapters 47, 49, 50.

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### Why?

COUNTRY	GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT
Israel	\$123 billion
Egypt	\$81 billion
Syria	\$26 billion
Lebanon	\$21 billion
Jordan	\$12 billion

Source: CIA World Fact Book, 2005

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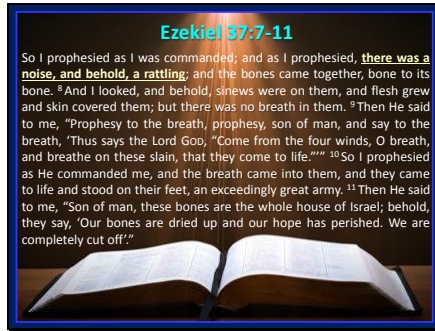
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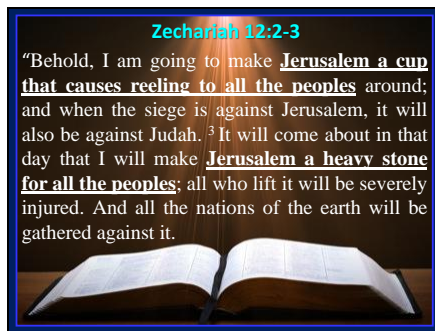
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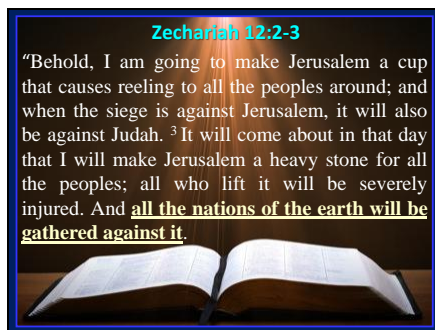
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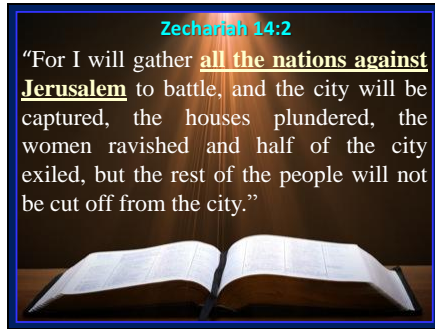
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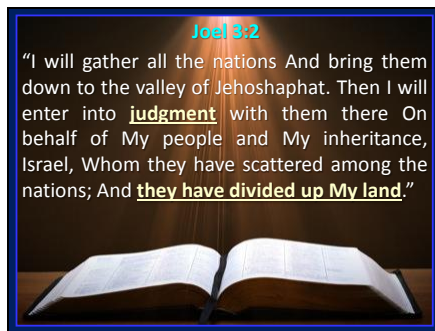
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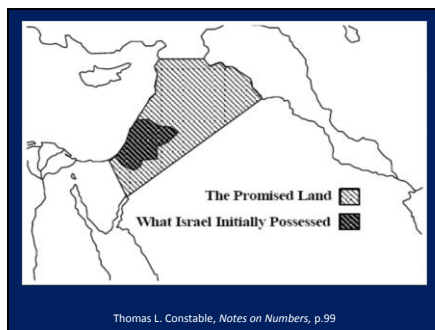
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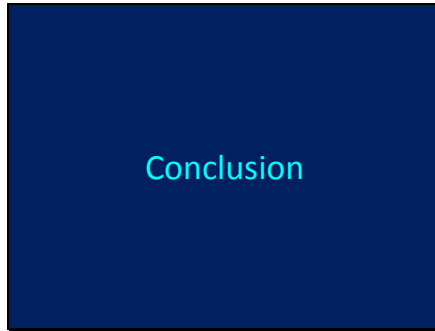
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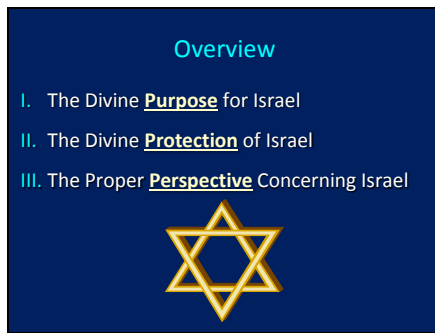
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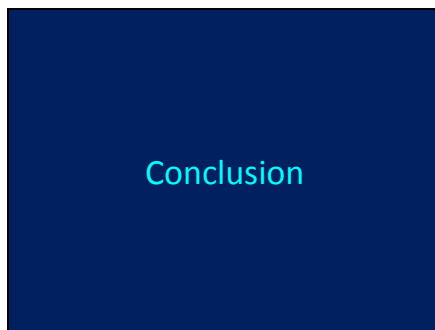
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## Why Christians Support for Israel

### 1. The Divine Purpose for Israel

Gen 12:3- And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who <sup>[a]</sup> curses you I will <sup>[b]</sup> curse. **And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed**

### 2. The Divine Protection of Israel

Gen 12:3- And I will bless those who bless you, **And the one who <sup>[a]</sup> curses you I will <sup>[b]</sup> curse.** And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed

Zech. 2:8- For thus says the LORD of hosts, “After <sup>[e]</sup> glory He has sent me against the nations which plunder you, **for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye.**

Gen 12:3- **And I will bless those who bless you,** And the one who <sup>[a]</sup> curses you I will <sup>[b]</sup> curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed



### **3. The Proper Perspective Concerning Israel**

#### **a. Attitude**

Rom. 11:17-20, 23-24-But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the <sup>[h]</sup>rich root of the olive tree, <sup>18</sup> **do not be arrogant toward the branches**; but if you are arrogant, *remember that* it is not you who supports the root, but the root *supports* you.<sup>19</sup> You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.”<sup>20</sup> Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear;<sup>23</sup> And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.<sup>24</sup> For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural *branches* be grafted into their own olive tree?

John 12:19-So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are not doing any good; look, **the world has gone after Him**.”

Matt. 20:18-19-“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be <sup>[a]</sup>delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death,<sup>19</sup> and will hand Him over to the **Gentiles** to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up.”

Isa. 53:10-But **the LORD was pleased To crush Him**, <sup>[a]</sup>putting *Him* to grief; If <sup>[b]</sup>He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering,

He will see *His* <sup>[c]</sup>offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the <sup>[d]</sup>good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

John 10:17-18-For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. <sup>18</sup> No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.

Acts 2:23-this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, **you nailed to a cross** by the hands of <sup>[a]</sup>godless men and put *Him* to death.

### **b. Angelic conflict**

Matt. 23:38-39- Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! <sup>39</sup> For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’”

### **c. Apostate condition**

Ezek. 36:24-26-For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup> Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. <sup>28</sup> You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

Ezek 37:1-14- The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out <sup>[a]</sup>by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, *there were* very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, *they were* very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord <sup>[b]</sup>GOD, You know.” <sup>4</sup> Again He said to me, “Prophecy over these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.’” <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, ‘Behold, I will cause <sup>[c]</sup>breath to enter you that you may come to life. <sup>6</sup> I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.’” <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a <sup>[d]</sup>noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then He said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.”’” <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. <sup>11</sup> Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are <sup>[e]</sup>completely cut off.’” <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophecy and say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My

people. <sup>14</sup> I will put My <sup>[f]</sup>Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it,” declares the LORD.””

In a conversation on religious questions, Fredric II, King of Prussia (1740-1786) asked Joachim von Zieten, General of the Husars, whom he esteemed highly as a Christian for his plain and uncompromised views, “Give me proof for the truth of the Bible in two words!” To which Zeiten replied, “**Your majesty, the Jews!**”

#### **d. Practical considerations**

The website "**Middle East Facts**" puts things into proper perspective when it says:

"Unlike Islam's *Koran*, which commands Muslims to force the entire planet to submit to literal control by Islam, the Jewish *Torah* promises the children of Israel a modest and reasonable allotment of land. Israel...is a democratic nation 1/19th the size of California, surrounded by 22 hostile Arab/Islamic dictatorships with 640 times her size, 60 times her population and ALL the oil. How dare Arab propagandists call Israel "expansionist!" And how dare anyone believe them! How can Israel, which occupies one-sixth of one percent of the lands called Arab, be responsible for the political dissatisfaction of 22 Arab countries? How can the 13 million Jews in the world (almost 5 million fewer than they were in 1939!) be blamed for the problems of the 250 million Arabs, who have brotherly ties to 1.4 billion Muslims worldwide? Israel is an oasis of Western Democracy and Judeo/Christian morality in the middle of an otherwise totalitarian Arab/Muslim Middle East. For over 55

years since she became a nation in 1948, Israel has sought peaceful coexistence with neighbors dedicated to her destruction. Thus far only Egypt and Jordan have formalized a peace treaty. In reality, these two peace treaties are questionable."

[http://www.mefacts.com/cached.asp?x\\_id=10190](http://www.mefacts.com/cached.asp?x_id=10190)

"Glory be to Him Who made His servant to go on a night from the Sacred Mosque to **the remote mosque** of which We have blessed the precincts, so that We may show to him some of Our signs; surely He is the Hearing, the Seeing."— *Qur'an, Sura 17:1*

In 2000, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud **Barak** offered to withdraw from 97 percent of the West Bank and 100 percent of the Gaza Strip. In addition, he agreed to dismantle 63 isolated settlements. In exchange for the 3 percent annexation of the West Bank, Israel said it would give up territory in the Negev that would increase the size of the Gaza territory by roughly a third. Barak also made previously unthinkable concessions on Jerusalem, agreeing that Arab neighborhoods of East Jerusalem would become the capital of the new state. The Palestinians would maintain control over their holy places and have "religious sovereignty" over the Temple Mount. According to U.S. peace negotiator Dennis Ross, Israel offered to create a Palestinian state that was contiguous, and not a series of cantons. Even in the case of the Gaza Strip, which must be physically separate from the West Bank unless Israel were to be cut into non-contiguous pieces, a solution was devised whereby an overland highway would connect the two parts of the Palestinian state without any Israeli checkpoints or interference. The proposal

also addressed the Palestinian refugee issue, guaranteeing them the right of return to the Palestinian state and reparations from a \$30 billion fund that would be collected from international donors to compensate them. Arafat was asked to agree to Israeli sovereignty over the parts of the Western Wall religiously significant to Jews (i.e., not the entire Temple Mount), and three early warning stations in the Jordan Valley, which Israel would withdraw from after six years. Most important, however, Arafat was expected to agree that the conflict with Israel was over at the end of the negotiations. This was the true deal breaker. Arafat was not willing to end the conflict...The prevailing view of the Camp David/White House negotiations—that Israel offered generous concessions, and that Yasser Arafat rejected them to pursue the war that began in September 2000—was acknowledged for more than a year. To counter the perception that Arafat was the obstacle to peace, the Palestinians and their supporters then began to suggest a variety of excuses for why Arafat failed to say “yes” to a proposal that would have established a Palestinian state. The truth is that if the Palestinians were dissatisfied with any part of the Israeli proposal, all they had to do was offer a counterproposal. They never did.

Mitchell Bard, “Myths and Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict,” online:

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/myths3/MFpeace.html>, accessed 27 May 2015.

*After all, it was William **James**, the father of modern Psychology, who pontificated, "There is nothing so absurd but if you repeat it often enough people will believe it." Cited in David*

Barton, *Myth of Separation* (Aledo, TX: Wallbuilder Press, 1992), 46.

Canadian lawyer Jacques Paul **Gauthier** recently finished a twenty-year project in which this Gentile Christian researched at the University of Geneva political science department and international law school, the legal issues relating to the ownership of Israel and Jerusalem. Gauthier's PhD thesis was completed in 2007.

For example, in 1867, **Mark Twain** visited Israel. He wrote about his experiences in his book *Innocents Abroad*. In this book, he hardly describes the vibrant and prosperous Israel of today, but rather a desolate country that was devoid of both vegetation and human population. He observed:

"..... A desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds... a silent mournful expanse.... a desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action.... we never saw a human being on the whole route.... there was hardly a tree or shrub anywhere. Even the olive tree and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country."

Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad, Complete*, 1st ed. (A Public Domain Book, 1869), 267, 285, 302. These quotes can be found in chapters 47, 49, 52.

Lev. 26:32- I will make **the land desolate** so that your enemies who settle in it will be appalled over it.



Ezek. 36:34-35- **The desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation** in the sight of everyone who passes by. <sup>35</sup> They will say, ‘This desolate land has become **like the garden of Eden**; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified *and* inhabited.’

Joel 3:2-I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of <sup>[b]</sup>Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; And **they have divided up My land**.

Lev. 25:23- The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for **the land is Mine**; for you are *but* aliens and sojourners with Me.

Deut 11:12- a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the <sup>[a]</sup>beginning even to the end of the year.

### **Conclusion**

Num. 6:24-26-The LORD bless you, and keep you;<sup>25</sup> The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.’