

THE PRESENT 2023 PALESTINIAN & ISRAELI CONFLICT

Based on the *Bible*, We Ask, “What Is a **Christian** to Think?”

PART A

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION: THE *BIBLICAL BACKGROUND & TONE*

1. Like the present Palestinians and Israelis, the ongoing history of **nations** revolves around the “**blessing/curse**” motif of Scripture (cp. Deuteronomy 28).

This *contrasting motif* is set into motion in one of two ways. **EITHER** nations & individuals repent with Godly sorrow toward sin and then trust in **Christ** for **forgiveness** **OR** they reject **Jesus**, refuse to repent, and thereby endorse **Satan**’s ways of sin and unbelief. This leaves such **non-Christians** to depend on their own efforts or good works to save them *eternally*.

The majority of both Palestinians [*Muslims*] and Israelis [*Jews*] endorse such salvation by works, not by **faith** in **Christ**. In **Galatians 3:5-11** the apostle Paul asks his audience:

...does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you **by your doing** what the **Law** says, or **by believing what you are hearing**?

Abraham is a good example: He **believed** God, and **it was credited to him as righteousness**. (See **Genesis 15:6**.) You see, then, that **those who believe** are **Abraham**’s real sons, that is, since the Scripture foresaw that **God** would **justify [acquit]** the **nations by faith**.

He announced **the Gospel** to **Abraham** beforehand, saying: “Through you [**Abraham**] **all nations** will be **blessed** [that is, because **Jesus** was to come from **Abraham**’s genealogy].” Paul then continues by saying, “So **those who believe** are **blessed** together with **Abraham**, a man of **faith**.”

The apostle now spells out the contrast: “There is a **curse** on all who depend on doing what the **Law** says, because it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the book of the Law.” It is clear that **no one** is **justified [declared righteous]** before **God** **by doing** what the **Law** says, because the **just [the ones declared righteous]** will live by **faith**.”

Now let’s consider **God**’s *promise* of “**blessings** or **curses**” on the **nations**

In **Genesis 12:3a** **GOD** predicted: “I will **ble**ss those who **ble**ss you, and in you [**Abraham**] **all** the people in the world will be **blessed**” (cp. 2 Corinthians 5:15).

Genesis 12:3b: Then **GOD** also predicted: “I will...**curse** anyone who **curse**s you [**Abraham**, that is, who does not **believe** in your eventual **Offspring, Jesus**],....”

At this point biblical truth-seekers need to remember the words of John the Baptizer as he spoke to **unbelieving** Jews in Matthew 3:9: He said: “Do not think that you can tell yourselves, ‘**Abraham** is our father.’ For I tell you, **GOD** can raise up children for **Abraham** from these stones,” meaning that **unbelieving** Jews could not be saved since they were not **SPIRITUAL** sons and daughters of **Abraham** nor of **GOD**.

Point in fact, neither **unbelieving** *Muslims* nor *Jews* in the present Palestinian & Israeli conflict are to be favored **SPIRITUALLY** by Christians. Individuals from both groups can only be saved by the **Holy Spirit** as **He** operates through Christian evangelism. They cannot be saved for eternity by our *emotions* **OR** by our *cultural and political* preferences. This is a hard truth that will be expanded-on in our **4-PART** study. So hang on, here we go!!!

2. Tension between *Islam* and *Judaism* from the time of Muhammad (AD 570-632) until today has played-out over-and-over again. (**PART D** of our study will contend that *Islam* is the “political” Antichrist of **Revelation 13:1-12** and that *Jews* will still be around to be saved until the end of time (**Isaiah 66:20-22**).

3. Barack Obama’s take on things, as quoted from the Internet (November 5, 2023): “Nobody’s hands are clean.” **Giessler**: **GOD** protects **Christians** against **unbelieving** *Muslims* & *Jews* by often pitting these *Muslims* & *Jews* against one another in order to protect **Christians** from slaughter.

4. The **Balford Declaration** of 1917: The **Balfour Declaration** was a public statement issued by the British government in 1917 during the [First World War](#) announcing its support for the establishment of a “national home for the Jewish people” in [Palestine](#),.... The declaration had many long-lasting consequences. It greatly increased popular support for [Zionism](#) within [Jewish communities worldwide](#), and became a core component of the [British Mandate for Palestine](#), the founding document of [Mandatory Palestine](#). It indirectly led to the emergence of [Israel](#) and is considered a principal cause of the ongoing [Israeli–Palestinian conflict](#), often described as the world’s most ongoing conflict. Controversy remains over a number of areas, such as whether the declaration contradicted earlier promises the British made to [the Sharif of Mecca](#) in the [McMahon–Hussein correspondence](#).

5. The **EXODUS** — The Ship that Launched a Nation
The story of the **Exodus**, the ship that carried 4,500 Jewish refugees from Europe to Palestine in 1947, summarizes the essence of Israel’s creation — a journey, an exodus, from the hellish depths of the Holocaust to independence and nationhood.

6. What is “**Zionism**”? From Wikipedia: “**Zionism** (derived from the name [Zion](#)) is a [nationalist](#) movement that emerged in the 19th century to enable the establishment of a [homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine](#), a region roughly corresponding to the [Land of Israel](#) in [Jewish tradition](#). Following the [establishment of Israel](#), **Zionism** became an ideology that supports ‘the development and protection of the [State of Israel](#).’”

7. American policy based on a **false** assumption: **Exegesis of Genesis 12:1-3:**

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Leave your land, your relatives, and your father’s home, and go to a **land** I will show you. ²I will make you a **great nation**. I will **bless** you and give you a **great name**, and you will be a **blessing**. ³I will **bless** those who **bless** you [Abraham], and **curse** anyone who **curses** you [Abraham], and in you **all the people in the world** will be **blessed**.”

A comment on **Genesis 22:18**: The pre-incarnate **Christ** said to Abraham, “In your **Descendant** all the people on earth will be **blessed**.” (This explains Paul’s **Galatians 3:16** conclusion.)

As we shall see in #8. below, the **unbelieving** **Jews** of **Jesus’s** day and onward are under the **curse** of **Genesis 12:3b**—and the **land** no longer belongs to them, in fact, the **land** of the whole world now belongs to **Christians** (cp. Matthew 28:19: “baptize all **nations**”), **nations** who by **faith** in **Jesus** can be covered by the **blessing** of **forgiveness**.

8. Understand that **Matthew 23:37-39** is spoken *against* the **Jewish spiritual** leaders! (Note the seven [7] repeats of the statement by **Jesus** where in verses 13-29 **He** says, “**WOE** to you, *scribes* and *Pharisees!*”)

In **Matthew 23:33-35a, 36**: **Jesus** said: “You snakes! Brood of poisonous snakes! How can you escape being condemned to hell? That is why I am sending you prophets, wise men, and teachers of the Scriptures [that is, to tell you that you are condemned to hell]. You will kill and crucify some of them. Others you will whip in your synagogs and persecute from town to town. In this way all the innocent blood shed on the earth will come upon you, I tell you the truth, all these things will come upon this generation. (This was *initially* fulfilled when the Romans leveled Jerusalem & its Temple in AD 70.)

b. In **Matthew 23:37-39**, **Jesus** continued: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who murdered the prophets and stoned those who were sent to you, how often I wanted to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! **Behold! Your house is left to you desolate.** For I tell you, you will never see **Me** again until you say, ‘Blessed is **He** who comes in the Name of the **Lord.**’”

c. In the latter passage, **Jesus** “**divorces**” the **Jews** as a **nation**. As a **nation** they had **served their purpose**; through them the *genealogy* of **Jesus** had been preserved. But now **Jesus**—by **Himself**—would generate a “**New Israel**” (namely, the **Holy Christian Church**), not generate a *resurgence* of the present **Jewish nation** or the “**Old Israel**”!

9. Christians should **not** take **SPIRITUAL** sides; however, they can take *political* sides!

WHY?

a. *Israel* is a “parliamentary democracy”!

b. *Islam* (ex. Hamas) is a **Christian** threat (remember America’s “9-11”)

PART B

TO THE HEART AND CORE OF THE PROBLEM

Christians need to understand **Romans 9—11**, especially the *pertinent* verses of **Romans 11:25-27**. The apostle Paul writes:

25 To keep you from thinking too highly of yourselves, my fellow **Christians**, I want you to know this **mystery**: The minds of a part of the *Jews* were closed until the full number of the *Gentiles* comes in. **26** **And in this way all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: The **Savior** will come from **Zion**; He will get rid of **ungodliness** in Jacob. **27** And this will be **My “last will and testament”** with them when I take away their **sins**.

Three [3] views of Romans 11:26a are given by Armin J. Panning in his NPH commentary on *Romans* (p. 193). **View 1**: Premillennialism, is rejected by true *Amillennial* Lutherans. See Article XVII of the Augsburg Confession where conservative-confessing Lutherans denounce “**certain Jewish opinions which are even now making an appearance and which teach that, before the resurrection of the dead, saints and godly men will possess a worldly kingdom and annihilate all the godless.**”

Premillennialism is rejected by **Jesus** when He said to Pontus Pilate, “My Kingdom is not of this world.” (Some Lutherans accept a *limited* form of Premillennialism, and thereby reject the more *drastic* form of Premillennialism, namely, Dispensationalism, as endorsed by Dallas Theological Seminary and Moody Bible Institute. This, however, does not excuse so-called Lutherans [LINO’s] from going against the Lutheran Confessions, teaching that **Jesus** will rule on earth for **1,000** years prior to Judgment day.)

We now cite Panning’s listing of the three [3] prominent views of **Romans 11:26**, in particular the phrase, “**all Israel will be saved!**” (**Views 2 & 3** are seen by true Lutherans as *viable* possibilities; **View 1** is not!)

- a. View 1:** “All Israel” refers to the **nation** descended from Abraham (hence all people of Jewish extraction will eventually be saved).
- b. View 2:** “All Israel” refers to the **Christian Church**, the sum total of all **God**’s elect, both *Jews* and *Gentiles*.
- c. View 3:** “All Israel” refers to **God**’s elect from among the *Jewish nation*, with all of this *Jewish remnant* being saved.

Why is this so difficult to understand? Because it is in the wheelhouse of a **GOD-mystery!!!** (**View 1**, which implies “**partiality**” on **GOD**’s part, is an *impossibility* on the basis of **Romans 2:11**: “for **GOD** does not favor one person over another.” **Think**: If **GOD** were to save all *Jews*, and **not** all *Gentiles*, this would be showing “**partiality**”!!!)
