



# ISRAEL, HAMAS & END TIMES

WITH PASTOR GARY HAMRICK



CORNERSTONE CHAPEL

STUDY GUIDE

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Pastor Gary Hamrick • October 15, 2023

Why is Israel important? Israel is central to the story of the Bible. The Bible records Israel's past and prophesies about its future. The Jews are God's chosen people through whom He provided a Savior to rescue mankind from their sins. This Savior—Jesus—was born in Israel, died in Israel, rose from the dead in Israel, and is coming again to Israel.

On October 7, 2023, the terrorist organization Hamas broke through the security fence separating Israel from Gaza, and brutally murdered Jewish men, women, and children. The event has been referred to as "Israel's 9/11." Proportionally, the loss is actually 30 times worse than what the United States endured on September 11, 2001 in terms of population and casualties.

Why did Hamas attack Israel? What is the history of the Palestinians, Israelites, and the land both groups claim? How does the current conflict relate to Biblical prophecy? What does all this mean for us?

## 1. Who/what is Hamas?

- a. Hamas is a terrorist organization comprised of Sunni Muslims.
- b. The name is an acronym which in English translates to "Islamic Resistance Movement."
  - i. In Arabic, the word Hamas translates to "strength" or "zeal."
  - ii. In Hebrew, the word Hamas translates to "violence."
- c. The organization's intent is to destroy the nation of Israel.
- d. Hamas does not care about the Palestinian people but uses them as human shields.
  - i. Hamas is preventing the Palestinians from leaving Gaza City before Israel invades, despite Israel's repeated warnings for the people to evacuate.
  - ii. When Hamas came to control Gaza, they used their money to build underground tunnels and purchase munitions.
    1. Hamas is to blame for the Palestinian people's poor living conditions and isolation.
- e. The Hamas Covenant (1988)
  - i. Opening paragraph: *"Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it."*
  - ii. Article 7: *"The Day of Judgment would not come until the Muslims fight and kill the Jews."*

## f. Hamas timeline

- i.** 1987 – Hamas was founded in Gaza by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a Palestinian cleric, as an offshoot of the Egyptian-based Muslim Brotherhood.
- ii.** 1988 – Hamas published its charter calling for the destruction of Israel and the establishment of an Islamic state in its place.
- iii.** 1991 – Its military wing, the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, was established.
- iv.** 1993 – Hamas began suicide bombings in Israel just prior to the Oslo Accords (which gave the Palestinian Authority autonomy and limited authority in Gaza and the West Bank).
- v.** 1997 – Hamas was designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. and dozens of other countries in response to the group’s Iran-supported use of explosives and rockets, along with suicide bombings and kidnappings used to target Israel.
- vi.** 2000 – Deadly intifada (“uprising”) of Palestinians against Israelis.
- vii.** 2005 – Israel evacuated all their troops and settlers from Gaza and built a security fence around Gaza for national security.
- viii.** 2006 – Hamas won a surprise victory in Palestinian parliamentary elections and then seized full control of Gaza, overthrowing forces loyal to PA President Mahmoud Abbas.
- ix.** As a result, much of the international community cut off aid to Gaza because they did not want to finance a terrorist-sponsored territory.
- x.** October 7, 2023 – Hamas terrorists penetrate the security fence around Gaza and 1500 terrorists enter Israel and attack, slaughter, and abduct Jews in the worst mass murdering of Jews since the Holocaust.

## 2. Why is Hamas so intent on destroying Israel and the Jewish people?

### a. Spiritual element

**i.** Both the Jewish and Islamic people are from the line of Abraham. The Jewish people are descendants of Abraham’s son Isaac, and the Islamic people are descendants of Abraham’s son Ishmael. The two people groups have been against one another since conflict first arose between the two brothers as recorded in Genesis.

**ii.** Satan incites antisemitism.

**1. Revelation 12:4b** – *“And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.”*

**a.** The dragon is Satan, the woman is Israel, and the Child is Jesus.

2. Satan has always tried to destroy the redemptive plan of God.

a. God chose to set apart the Jewish people as the means through which He would bring Jesus into the world to be the Savior who could rescue people from their sins.

3. Antisemitism is satanism.

b. Populist element

i. Hamas believes that Israel and the Jews are occupying land that belongs to the Palestinians.

### 3. What is the history of the Palestinians and the land of Israel?

a. The Jews are the indigenous people in Israel.

i. They lived in the land for 2100 years before the terms “Palestine” or “Palestinian” existed.

ii. They lived in the land for 2600 years before the religion of Islam existed.

iii. A 13th century BC Egyptian stele (stone slab used to record information) mentioned the country of Israel.

iv. A 9th century BC Canaanite stele mentioned King David of Israel.

v. The Jews were displaced, oppressed, and murdered from the time of their conquer by Babylon in 586 BC until they reclaimed their homeland in AD 1948.

1. Jews who stayed in the homeland during the nation’s displacement were ruled by other empires.

2. In AD 135, the Roman Emperor Hadrian overcame a Jewish revolt and renamed Israel “Palaestina” as a nod to the Philistines, the Biblical enemy of the Jewish people.

3. Both Jews and Arabs born between AD 135-1947 were known as “Palestinians.”

b. God gave the “title deed” of Israel to the Jews.

i. **Genesis 15:18** – *“On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: ‘To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.’”*

ii. The Jews have never fully occupied the full amount of land God intended for them.



*The striped area marks the nation of Israel as God determined in Scripture.*

iii. The closest Israel has ever come to possessing all God intended for them was during the reign of King David.



*The dotted line denotes Israel's borders during the reign of King David.*

iv. Following Britain's defeat of the Ottoman Turks in WWI, the British decided to return a portion of the land back to Israel through the Balfour Declaration of 1917.





The dashed line denotes the area Britain intended to return to Israel through the Balfour Declaration.

iv. In 1922, the Hussein family objected to the Balfour Declaration, and Britain rescinded the offer to Israel and split the territory into Transjordan and Palestine. In 1946, Transjordan became simply Jordan, and in 1948, the land comprising Palestine was returned to the Israelites, becoming what we know as modern-day Israel.



The white area became Transjordan, and eventually Jordan. The black area became known as Palestine, until it was returned to Israel in 1948.

c. Israel is entitled to the land—the Jews are not colonialists or occupiers.

#### **4. Why are so many American youth and young adults supporting the Palestinian cause today?**

- a.** Much of the younger generation has a compassionate heart toward the disadvantaged; they desire to come against injustices such as human trafficking, world hunger, etc.
- b.** This attitude of compassion is vital but must be balanced with a correct understanding of facts.
  - i.** There are 22 Arab states today.
  - ii.** There are more than 50 Islamic states today.
  - iii.** There is one Jewish state (Israel).
- c.** We do not have to defend every action taken by the Jewish people in their history to understand that they are entitled to the land of Israel.
- d.** Suggesting that the Israeli people took land that was not their own is intellectually dishonest.

#### **5. How might any of this fit into Bible prophecy about the End Times?**

- a. Ezekiel 38:1-6** – *“Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you.’”*
  - i.** “Magog,” which represents Russia, will join with five other nations from the north to come against Israel.
  - ii.** One of those nations is Persia, which is today known as Iran.
    - 1.** Hamas is financed and supplied arms by Iran.
  - iii.** No other nations will come to Israel’s aid.
- b.** Israel’s conflict with Hamas came from the south, and Israel presently has the United States’ support in its efforts to defend itself, indicating that we are not yet in the events described in Ezekiel 38.
  - i.** If the northern nations begin to engage in battle and the U.S. backs out of the conflict, those events may signal that the prophecy in Ezekiel 38 is coming to pass.
    - 1.** The language toward Israel among world leaders is shifting.
      - a.** The UN refuses to call Hamas a terrorist organization and is putting pressure on Israel to not be “too harsh” in their response to the Hamas attacks.

2. As the U.S. faces other threats from within and without, it may be “stretched too thin” to continue supporting Israel.

c. The next major event in Biblical prophecy, between Ezekiel 38 and 39, is the rapture.

## Pray for the Peace of Israel

**Psalm 122** *“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the LORD.’ Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! Jerusalem is built as a city that is compact together, where the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, to the Testimony of Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD. For thrones are set there for judgment, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, prosperity within your palaces.’ For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, ‘peace be within you.’ Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good.”*

Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV).



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