

ISRAEL, ISLAM, & THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS



Introduction

No other geographic location on earth is more volatile than the MIDDLE EAST. The center of this turmoil is Israel and its spiritual capital, Jerusalem. No other place in the world is as controversial as this small piece of real estate.

Many explanations are given by secular scholars and media as to why this area is so troublesome. On the surface these rationalizations seem reasonable. However, when you consider all the other larger, more populous regions on the planet, one must wonder why is so much attention continuously focused on this small, seemingly insignificant place? Israel and Jerusalem are of more concern to the people of the world than any other place...but, why? Throughout civilized history, no human politicking has ever been able to resolve the intricacies associated with this land and its people and NONE EVER WILL! But why?

This brief series will attempt to answer this and other like questions by using the Holy Bible and the simple facts of documented history. It is only through the Bible that one can truly understand what is happening with and in Israel and the Middle East. This is a conflict that began before _____ was even present!

KEY POINTS FOR THIS STUDY

- This study is NOT about our _____ toward Jews or Arabs. It is NOT about being pro-Israeli or pro-Arab or the anti of either – Jer. 31:3; Gen. 12:2-3, 17:20.
- It is NOT about our opinions, preferences, or desires concerning Jews, Arabs, or the land of Israel.
- This study is about, **“What the Bible says”** concerning the events in the Middle East yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
- The Bible is our final authority in all matters. It is perfectly true, perfectly accurate, and perfectly preserved!

ISRAEL: THE PEOPLE, THEIR RELIGION, AND THEIR MESSIAH

- The People - (Generally known as “JEWS” or “_____”)
 - Their Ethnicity:

Hebrew - It means to “cross over.” To pass over from the other side. Likely the Canaanites called Abraham Hebrew because he “crossed over” the Euphrates river to get to Canaan or what we now call Israel – Gen. 14:13; Joshua 24:2-3.

Jew - From the name “Judah,” one of Jacob’s 12 sons. Possibly from the Hebrew term which means “People of God.” – 2 Kings. 16:6; 1 Kings. 9:1-7.

Semite - Comes from the name “Shem,” one of the three sons of Noah. The term is applicable to all Asians, Arabs, and Jews though primarily refers to Jews. (Semitic or anti-Semitic) – Gen. 10:1; 11:10, 23-26.

Zionist - While it is negatively used by Arabs, a Zionist is a person who supports Zionism. Zionism is a movement that began in the late 1800’s to establish a Jewish State in the Middle East which now seeks to help maintain and develop the State of Israel.

("Palestinians" say Zionists are settlers who have invaded their land.) – Ps. 87:1-3; Heb. 12:22.

Jewish populations - Worldwide = 15.7 million. Israel = 7.2 million (_____%). USA has second largest population at over 6.3 million (_____%). *Some sources list a higher number of Jews in USA than Israel.*

- Who or What is a Jew?

[**NOTE:** *Shifting definitions and political correctness have made these terms hard to define while keeping the BIBLE as the Final Authority. These 4 terms are for our understanding.*]

By Religion: A Hebrew/Israelite that traces their beliefs back to the traditional Faith of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob. Anyone can convert (Proselyte). There are many different interpretations of worship.

By Race: Dating back to Abraham & Sarah: Race is a genetic distinction and refers to people with shared ancestry and shared genetic traits. Must be born of a Jewish Mother. In the 1980s, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Jews are a race.

By Nation: Historically Israelites were a distinct group of people with a common language and culture unified in the Promised Land – Ex. 19:6.

By Ethnicity: Refers to cultural factors, including nationality, regional culture, ancestry, and language as Jews Biblically (Historically / Presently) are spread all over the world.

- Their Religion

- What do Hebrews believe? (Conservative or Orthodox Hebrews)
 - God exists and created the universe.
 - God is one and unique.
 - God is incorporeal (spiritual; not seen).
 - God is eternal.
 - Prayer is to be directed to God alone and to no other.
 - God made a covenant with _____ and his descendants Isaac and Jacob.
 - The words of the prophets are true.
 - Moses' prophecies are true and he was the greatest of the prophets.
 - The written Torah (the first FIVE books of the Bible) and Oral Torah (teachings now contained in the Talmud and other writings) were given to Moses.
 - There is and will be no other Torah.
 - God gave man free will and responsibility for his actions.
 - God knows the thoughts and deeds of men.
 - God will reward the good and punish the wicked.
 - The Messiah WILL come.
 - The dead will be resurrected (except Sadducees which likely to not exist anymore).

- Their Long-Awaited Messiah – Dan. 9:24-27.

- Their Anointed One – Ps. 2:1-2, 6-7; John 1:41; 4:25-26, 42; Acts 4:25-27; 16:31.
- Their **King:** God would bring the King of Israel through Jacob's son " _____ " and his lineage – Gen. 49:8-12; Luke 3:23, 33-34; Matt. 1:1-2.
- Their **King:** (from the seed of Abraham and lineage of David) will not only rule Israel, but also the entire earth – Is. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; Matt. 9:27; Heb. 1:8.
- Their Anointed Messianic King is JESUS CHRIST the LORD – Rev. 17:14; 19:16.

- He first PAID the price for all our SINS. Gospel: crucified, dead, buried, rose on third day and ascended to heaven - 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Acts 1:9.
- He will come again in the future to establish his physical Kingdom by _____ – Matt. 1:21-23; Luke 1:31-33, 68-75; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Rev. 19:11-16.

Important Note: On that day, the Bible says, the Hebrews will be back in the land promised by God to their "father" Abraham after being scattered throughout the earth for almost 2,000 years - Luke 21:24; Is. 11:10-11. This is the _____ covenant – Deut. 29-30:10.