



THE ISRAEL - HAMAS WAR OF 2023

A SUMMARY OF FACTS

PART ONE: Pages 2 - 6

History of Israel and Palestine

PART TWO: pages 7 - 14

Israel – Hamas War of 2023

The lion graphic on this page signifies a logo for the teaching materials on the praisesongministries.com site.

The lion signifies God of the Old & New Testament (Hosea 5:14 & Revelation 5:5)

The phrase "Roaring Fire / Burning Desire" was created for this site to represent a two-fold message: God's "fervent love" for all people and the Believers' "passionate desire" to know God & His Truth

INTRODUCTION

This paper was written because of my desire for others to know the facts about Israel and Palestine's history and about the Israel-Hamas War. There has been so much misinformation and purposeful deception regarding these topics. As a result, I did some introspective and investigative work that would expand and elaborate on certain knowledge about the war and its history. Some of this information might be elementary to the reader, but some may find it “new” material. I attempted to reach both groups.

Because the history of Israel and Palestine is very complex, I tried to only highlight events. Some statements in this essay may be debatable to you, so I encourage you to dive deep into various reliable sources to search out the facts. Having sound information is essential since so much misinformation and deception is rampant.

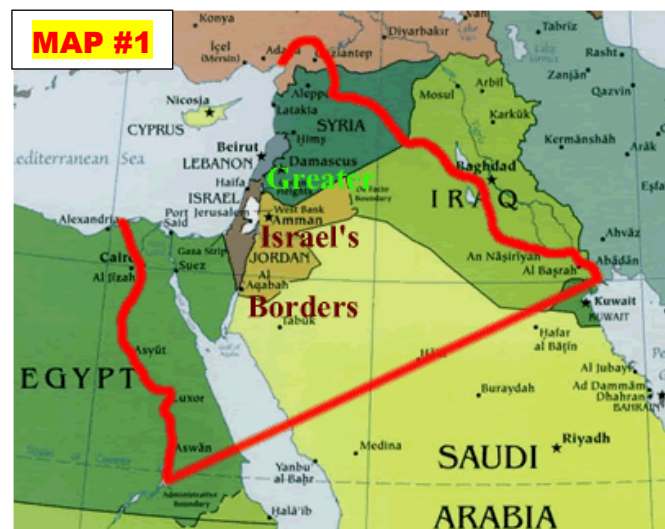
THE ISRAEL - HAMAS WAR OF 2023

PART ONE: HISTORY OF ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

TWO MAPS OF THE PROMISED LAND'S BOUNDARIES



¹Numbers 13:1-33 and Numbers 34:1-29 in the Bible cite the boundaries of the Promised Land. **MAP #1** on the right → depicts the Promised Land boundaries indicated with the **bold-faced red lines**.



MAP #2: on the left ← shows the Promised Land in **green**. **NOTE:** compare maps #1 and #2: Map #1 reveals a larger area of the Promised Land. Now look at Map #4 and #7 on page three and six, respectively. From all of these maps, one can soundly deduce that Israel has not taken possession of the entire

promised land stated in the Bible.

¹ Six maps will be included within this paper. All of these maps can be found on-line; however, the original illustrators of the maps are difficult to find. Many of these maps are copied and frequently used for several different teaching resources throughout the internet. Original map illustrators were not found by this author.

HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT ISRAEL AFTER THE ISRAELITES TOOK THE PROMISED LAND: Joshua's generation took over most of the promise land area – mainly from the Canaanites, which is shown on the map on right →. **(MAP #3)** There were seven nations of

Canaan: the Hitties, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites. The Philistines² were also a tribe which inhabited a small section of the Land of Canaan – the southwestern portion, which is indicated by the yellow arrow on the map. The term *“Palestine”* is derived from the name *“Philistine”*.



After fighting the Canaanites from around 1400 – 1393 BC, the 12 tribes of Israel took possession of the land³. **MAP #4:** ← Refer to the map on the left, which reveals the 12 tribes' land boundaries.

ISRAELITES CHOSE TO HAVE KINGS TO RULE OVER

THEM: About 400 years later, the Israelites chose to have kings instead of being under God's authority and power. Saul was Israel's first king, then David, then Solomon. After Solomon's reign, the kingdom split into 2 parts: the Northern Kingdom, called Israel and the Southern Kingdom, called Judah. The Northern Kingdom consisted of 10 of the twelve tribes and the Southern Kingdom consisted of the other 2 tribes (Judah and Benjamin). The Northern kings (all 19 of them) were evil. By 722 BC Assyria took over the Northern Kingdom. Judah's kings

(Southern Kingdom) had 7 Godly kings out of their 23 kings. By 586 BC Babylon took over Judah, which, at this time, dispersed **all** of the Jews to different areas. They did not have a homeland anymore and lived within different cultures; consequently, they were even more deeply integrated into heathen values, including worshipping other gods. However, no matter where the Israelites were placed, **there was always a remnant of Jewish people**⁴

² The Philistines covered the area on or near the western coast of modern day Israel. They had dominance of this land for 150 years.

³ The Sacred Calendar by Jim Liles: <https://www.thesacredcalendar.com/book-of-joshua-conquest-of-canaan/> website by Nine Planets copyright 2006-2017

⁴ For centuries, even when expelled from their land, the Jewish people still celebrates and honors the 7 feasts each year commemorating God's provision and protection of the past and for the future. To this day the practicing Jews and Messianic Jews (those Jews who have converted to Christianity) strongly believe in observing the faith through the feasts, Sabbaths, etc. Also the teachings the Old Testament is prominent in both the Jewish and Christian faiths.

that continued to practice their faith in the Lord God, Adonai. The Jewish race persevered throughout the beginning of time. There are two genealogy listings in the Bible: 1) from Abraham to Jesus in Matthew 1:1-17, this includes 42 generations; and 2) from Adam to Jesus in Luke 3:23-38, which denotes 77 generations. These scriptures are exact and prove the resilience of the Jewish faith.

HISTORY OF “PALESTINE”



Today the term “Palestine” refers to the Gaza strip and the West Bank. Review **MAP #5**: on the left ←. Prior to 1948 the whole area of Israel, including the Gaza Strip and the West Bank was called “Palestine”. The word “Palestine” is not Arab or Middle Eastern in origin and dates back some 1,900 years, when it was derived from a people who were not native to the region: the Philistines, a people from the Aegean Sea, were closely related to the ancient Greeks. Known as a seafaring nation, the Philistines were a non-Semitic people who left Crete and settled in Canaan⁵ in the beginning of the 12th century B.C. This race assimilated into the culture, worshipping the Canaanites’ deities. The faith of the Palestinians, **Islam**, started years later around 600 AD⁶. The Philistines inhabited the Mediterranean coast of Canaan during the period of the Book of Judges (1400 BC – 1000 BC). King David defeated the Philistines around 998 BC⁷. This conquest subdued the military strength of the Philistines and eventually the Assyrians completely defeated them by 600 B.C. The Philistines were then assimilated into the surrounding cultures and ceased to exist as a separate nation. **There are currently no living people who are ethnically Philistine**. Many Palestinians truly believe they are direct descendants of the Philistines, which is debatable since the Philistine race ceased to exist many years ago and the genealogy of this race is disseminated, unlike the Jewish lineage which continues to this day.

In spite of all of this, the term “Palestina” taken from the Philistine race became “fixed” when the Romans conquered this region (known as Israel today) in the second century AD. The Romans reestablished the term “Palestine”, to spite the Jews as a means to reduce the Jewish association to the land of Israel. Resource: The Jewish Virtual Library

A REVIEW: The name “Palestine” can be confusing for it has two meanings: 1) before 1948 “Palestine” meant the whole land of Israel and 2) after Israel became a state in 1948, the

⁵ Refer to map #3 on page 3.

⁶ The Palestinians, whose name was derived from the land of Philistine, are associated with the Muslim faith of Islam not the Canaan deities, which the Philistines worshipped.

⁷ **AN INTERESTING FACT:** About 25 years before this conquest, David, as a young boy, killed Goliath, the giant. Goliath was a very tall (about 10 feet) **Philistine** man.

West Bank and Gaza became “Palestine”. In 1948 the Jewish people reclaimed their land, which was recognized as the State of Israel. At this time the Palestinians did not want to be associated with the Jewish people so refused to assimilate into the Jewish state. Since the Palestinians had no land to call their own, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank became their areas of residence. As the unrest between the Palestinians and the Jewish people increased through the years, the possession of certain land areas has always been a continuous contention between the Jews and the Palestinians.

HISTORY OF ISRAEL FROM 1517 TO TODAY

- 1) In **1517**, the **Ottoman Empire** conquered the region of Palestine (Israel today), ruling it until the **British conquered** and took over the region in **1917**.
- 2) Before **1948**, **Palestine was home to a diverse population of Arabs, Jews, and Christians**, as all groups had religious ties to the area, especially the city of Jerusalem. **This region was ruled under the British Mandate** from **1920-1948**.
- 3) On November 29, 1947, the United Nations approved a plan to separate the British Mandate territory of Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab. Terms were difficult to agree upon, consequently the **1947-1949 Palestine War** began.
- 4) **A REVIEW:** The Jewish people retook their land as a result of the 1947-1949 Palestine War. The **State of Israel was established on May 15 1948⁸** and admitted to the United Nations; however, **a Palestinian State was still not established**.
- 5) “From **1948 till 1967 Jordan and Egypt, respectively,**”⁹ took over the administration of the Palestinians (**Gaza and West Bank**)
- 6) Palestine, along with some neighboring Arab nations, began a conflict in **1967** with Israel, called the **Arab Israel War**. It is better known as the **“Six-Day War”** since it only took 6 days for the Israelites to contain the uprising. Because of this uprising, the Israelites had to take **military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza**, the “Palestinian” territories. Still peace did not come easily. **Israeli military control lasted from 1967 to 1993**.
- 7) In **1994** Israel began to transfer of their governmental authority to the **Palestinian National Authority**. This officially recognized Palestine as a state in these two regions of Israel, the **Gaza Strip and the West Bank**
- 8) In **2006 the Palestinians elected Hamas**, a militant Sunni Islamic organization, to govern their land. Hamas has been “governing” and is the leadership of Palestine for the past 17 years.

⁸ **INTERESTING NOTE:** It was at this time after the Holocaust in 1945, 140,000 Jewish survivors relocated in Israel and 96,000 survivors came to America. See the footnote on the next page regarding the Holocaust.

⁹ Resource: UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development – unctad.org)

THE ISRAELITES ARE CONTINUALLY PERSECUTED. WHY?



MAP #6 ← on the left is a map of the Middle East.

Now look at an insert of this map on the right → **MAP #7**. Israel is the brown area. Compare Israel's size to the other Middle Eastern countries on the left. It is just a tiny sliver next to Jordan. *That "sliver" of land has been a contentious*



area for centuries. The Israelites are continually persecuted, why?

Could it be because they are God's chosen people? Satan is ruler of this world¹⁰ and will do anything to annihilate the Jewish people. Are you aware of the Holocaust? Some people are deceived and actually believe that the Holocaust¹¹ never happened. Review the footnote below regarding what actually happened during the Holocaust.

ISLAM VERSES THE JEWISH FAITH: Both of these faiths initially stem from Abraham in the Bible. However, they both branch out into two separate faiths. The Islamic faith follows the first born of Abraham, Ishmael (Genesis 16). Hagar was Ishmael's mother. The people of the Jewish faith have a covenant with God which originated from Isaac, the only son of Abraham and his wife, Sarah (Genesis 17). Please read and study these two chapters (Genesis 16 and 17) which will help you understand. God blessed both sons of Abraham (Ishmael and Isaac) but His covenant was with Isaac. This covenant continues today with the Jews and also with the Christians who have been "grafted" into the Jewish faith. The birth of Ishmael and Isaac caused conflict and tension within the family of Abraham: 1) Hagar and Sarah (Genesis 16:1-9) and 2) Ismael and Isaac (Genesis 21:1-21). By 2064 BC Hagar and Ismael were banished from Abraham and his family. I believe at that time a spiritual conflict had come to a peak, which continues today with the Arabs and the Jews. This conflict is intensely established with the "extreme" sector of the Islamic faith, which has a strong hatred towards the Jews and Christians. This hatred is so deep that the extreme believers of Islam desire the complete destruction of the Jewish race. It is completely demonic. The Hamas Terrorists have proven this.

¹⁰ **Ephesians 2:1-2** "And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience." NKJV

¹¹ **The Holocaust** was the genocide of European Jews during World War II. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically murdered some six million Jews across German-occupied Europe, around two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population. (Britannica Dictionary source)

PART TWO: ISRAEL - HAMAS WAR OF 2023

FACTS ABOUT THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR:

- This was the biggest Jewish persecution since the holocaust in the 1940s.
- In the early morning of the Sabbath on **10/07/23** Hamas attacked only Israel's civilian population, not Israel's military.
- On this day Hamas terrorists slaughtered and/or tortured innocent civilians (over 1300 were brutally killed). The ages of these civilians were from infants to the elderly people.
- Hamas took over 200 hostages to Gaza as a means of leverage for the upcoming war they started with Israel. The Red Cross should be able to evaluate the hostages' situation in Gaza to determine if the rules of war are being followed. Hamas, at the time of this writing, refuses to let the Red Cross assess this situation. The whole international stage, except for the United States and England, are silent regarding Hamas and its barbarism. The majority of the international sphere is not denouncing Hamas' brutality and unprovoked attacks. This situation has exposed the vast anti-Semitism in the world.
- Hamas's acts of violence are so evil, they are hard to even imagine, let alone, verbalize. These actions of Hamas break ALL the "rules of war", listed on page 9. Initially, when writing this paper, the evil was not well-defined in this paper. Now as time unfolds, many in the international sphere, including some leadership in our nation, are more focused on Israel keeping in line with the rules of war than Hamas' atrocities – an obvious anti-Semitism bias against Israel. Consequently, it is necessary to bring to light some of the facts of Hamas' abominations that clearly broke all those rules of war. Briefly, here is a list of some of the butchering Hamas engaged in when defiling the innocence of all age groups, even at times infants: burning individuals alive, raping, dismemberment of body parts... all of these instances, along with many others, were witnessed by survivors and/or are well documented through videos. Autopsies of the bodies also tell the horrific stories of how people died under the hands of Hamas. Without question, the Hamas terrorist group is pure evil...
- **Denial and Deception:** Some people deny that Hamas butchered and tortured Israel's civilians on October 7th, even though Hamas took videos of these events – just like some deny the Holocaust happened even though there were pictures taken of the concentration camps. Deception is a main weapon Hamas uses for disinformation. They are good at spewing out lies to accuse others of doing the evil, even though they are the ones responsible for the events.
Terrorists are deceived people who basically believe "right is wrong and wrong is right". They feel what they are doing is a decree from above to do the evil. Many of the terrorists

and other deceived individuals rejoice in the inhumane attack on the innocence and even celebrate it. Deception is powerful...

IMPORTANT NOTE: There are moderate Islamic believers who desire peace. However, the extreme sectors of Islam, the terrorists, are much more visible and verbal regarding their beliefs. Please pray for the moderate Islamic believers for boldness and protection.

END TIMES: DECEPTION IS ESCALATING RAPIDLY:

General facts about deception:

- Satan deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and has been since. He is called the Deceiver, The Father of Lies¹².
- In the End times Deception is prominent¹³

Please note: When one is deep into deception, he truly cannot hear the truth anymore. It takes a miracle to change his mind to the truth. Jesus can do this.

HAMAS AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

- 1. INDOCTRINATION:** Indoctrination is when a person or organization speaks lies to another person for a prolonged time. Palestinians, from a very young age, are indoctrinated to believe that the Jews are evil and need to be killed. Israel is the “Little Satan” and we, the United States, are the “Big Satan”.
- 2. DECEPTION: ISRAELIS ARE THE CAUSE FOR THE PALESTINIANS’ SUFFERING:** It is true that the Palestinians have been suffering, but not under the rule of the Israel, but from the Hamas government, which has ruled the Gaza Strip and West Bank since 2006 until the beginning of this war. As stated before: Hamas was voted in as leadership by the people of the Gaza Strip.
- 3. TRUTH: HAMAS’ NEGLECT TOWARDS THE PALESTINIAN:** For years now Hamas, Palestinians’ government, spends governmental monies to expand their warfare abilities: tunnels, equipment, weapons, and training, instead of using the monies for humanitarian aid to the Palestinians in need.
- 4. DECEPTION: THE JEWS ARE CAUSING A “PALESTINIAN” GENOCIDE:** This is NOT happening. The war is between Hamas and the Israelis, **not the Palestinians.** It is true that Palestinians civilians will be in the cross fire of Hamas and Israelis, but the difference is: Hamas hides within the civilian population for their own protection and

¹² **John 8:44** “He (Satan) was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. NKJV

¹³ **Matthew 24:4-8; 23-25** “⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one **deceives you**. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these *are* the beginning of sorrows... ²³ “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe *it*. ²⁴ For false “christs” and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.” NKJV

Israeli military warns the Palestinians in advance to leave the area in which they will be fighting Hamas. Here is an example: before the ground war started in Gaza, there was a pause. At this time the Israelis had fliers flown and dropped over the northern part of the Gaza Strip, telling the civilians to move to the south since they would start fighting in the north. The Israel military, IDF (Israel Defensive Forces) have a moral compass they follow. The Israeli military will expose their plan of attack to protect and warn the innocent. They follow the international humanitarian law, Hamas does not. Hamas' way of operating is hiding in civilian's homes, hospitals and underground tunnels, using innocence as human shields.

5. TRUTH: HAMAS USES CIVILIANS AS HUMAN SHIELDS: There needs to be an emphasis that Hamas uses the Palestinian civilians as human shields in the war, even children. This is a war crime. Hamas terrorists *literally* will hide behind children when they are in the midst of a battle. Another example is Hamas has a central station of tunnels underneath the main hospital in Gaza City. It is a war crime to bomb a hospital. In both instances, the innocent are being used as shields to protect the Hamas soldiers.

6. TRUTH: LACK OF MORAL CODE: Hamas does not have a moral code to guide them. A moral code includes: integrity, honor, compassion, courage, and respect for innocent life. This does not describe Hamas, for Hamas has no moral code. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) "rules of war", also known as "international humanitarian laws" are used when a nation goes to war. Those nations or groups that do not want to follow the rules are not civil, rational people.

Please read the 10 rules of war and decide if Hamas is being guided by them.

The "rules of war" are:

1. Protect those who are not fighting, such as civilians, medical personnel or aid workers.
2. Protect those who are no longer able to fight, like an injured soldier or a prisoner.
3. Prohibit targeting civilians. Doing so is a war crime.
4. Recognize the right of civilians to be protected from the dangers of war and receive the help they need. Every possible care must be taken to avoid harming them or their houses, or destroying their means of survival, such as water sources, crops, livestock, etc.
5. Mandate that the sick and wounded have a right to be cared for, regardless of whose side they are on.
6. Specify that medical workers, medical vehicles and hospitals dedicated to humanitarian work cannot be attacked.
7. Prohibit torture and degrading treatment of prisoners.
8. Specify that detainees must receive food and water and be allowed to communicate with their loved ones.
9. Limit the weapons and tactics that can be used in war, to avoid unnecessary suffering.
10. Explicitly forbid rape or other forms of sexual violence in the context of armed conflict.

Hamas on October 7th broke all of these rules. They are responsible for many war crimes. They actually were proud of what they did and bragged about how ruthless and evil they

were to civilians. Hamas made videos of their horrific acts and sent them to the victims' families as another means to torture the victimized families and friends. Hamas soldiers also sent the videos to their own friends and families at home to receive praise of their acts. Many in the Middle East are anti-Semitic due being indoctrinated at an early age and joined the celebration of what Hamas did on October 7th.

As a huge contrast, the Israelis follow the rules. They desire that innocent people should not be harmed during the war. They work hand-in-hand with the Red Cross and other nations to help the Palestinians. Be informed and educated about how Israel and Hamas has been responding to the war and how they treat innocent civilians. It is a very big contrast.

HAMAS TERRORISTS ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT CAN BRING PEACE RIGHT NOW:

Peace could be obtained if Hamas releases its hostages and surrenders: the war could be over and all innocent, the hostages and the Palestinian civilians, could be saved. Sadly, this is very unlikely since Hamas has sworn they will continue to kill the Jews as long as they are free to do so. Surrendering, initially, was never an option for Hamas. Recently things have changed. Hamas soldiers are surrendering daily due to the pressure of the Israeli military. President Benjamin Netanyahu stated yesterday (November 10th) that the war is now at "the beginning of the end". We need to recognize that Israeli soldiers are dying, not only for Israel, but for all decent, freedom-loving people. Please pray for peace to come soon.

THE HAMAS TERRORIST GROUP DECEIVES WORLDWIDE MEDIA

Hamas are deceivers and are now leading the world into deception regarding Israel's role in the war. Deception turns the truth upside down. Hamas terrorists create a perception of lies for the worldwide media. Many countries, including even some people from the United States Congress and demonstrators, are being used to spread Hamas' propaganda.

PRO-PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATIONS VARIES IN THEIR BELIEFS

Being Pro-Palestinian can mean many different things. All people who desire to demonstrate MUST be educated and learn about what they are protesting. Demonstrating is a privilege and should always be peaceful and not destructive. If the demonstrators destroy property and harm others, then they are not there to peacefully express their views, but are there to cause chaos and confusion. Most of these people are full of hate and anger.

Demonstrators need to be ready to defend what they are supporting. If one participates in a pro-Palestinian demonstration, be aware of the many different reasons why people are pro-Palestinian, which are:

- 1. PRO-GENOCIDE OF THE JEWS:** The chant "From the river to the sea, the Palestinians must be free." means that the Palestinians want the Jews to be all killed,

a genocide, so they can have the land from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, which is Israel's present day boundaries. Anyone chanting this message and holding up signs saying this is in favor of the genocide of the Jews. These demonstrators are not pro-Palestine but are **anti-Semitic** demonstrators. At this time it should be noted that many of the Palestinians are anti-Semitic due to the indoctrination process.

2. PRO-HAMAS: This means you are in favor of the slaughter of the innocent on October 7th. Some demonstrators believe the Jews “deserved” the killings. Again, these demonstrators are not just pro-Palestinians but are actually **anti-Semitic** people.

3. “CEASE FIRE” TO STOP THE WAR... Those that desire “cease fire” to end the war might not know the events that led up to the war. Hamas promises that they will not stop killing all Jews, so Israel has to defeat the terrorists to have peace in their land. The square mileage of New Jersey is comparable to the square mileage of Israel. Israel is a “sliver of land” (refer to map #7 on page 6) and cannot live side-by-side with terrorists who desire to exterminate them. October 7th was a very difficult lesson learned regarding this fact. There will be no peace in Israel as long as Hamas has no moral compass. If cease-fire means to stop the war, then these people demonstrating are either “uninformed” or they support the terrorist, being Pro Hamas and anti-Semitic.

4. ANTI-HOSTAGE: Those who tear down the posters of the hostages are trying to impede the hostages' rescue and are helping Hamas. The hostages are innocent sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, grandfathers, and grandmothers. Anti-hostage demonstrators are really pro-Hamas and anti-Semitic.

5. ANTI-SEMITISM: This is similar to pro-Hamas since both the anti-Semitism demonstrator and Hamas desire to harm the Jews and take away land of Israel from the Jews. Some also want complete extermination of the Jews, like it was during the Holocaust. Anti-Semitism is on the rise here in the United States, especially on some college campuses. It is amazing that educated people support this cause. Either they are misinformed, indoctrinated or completely unaware.

CONCLUSION: There are many different reasons why one might go to a pro-Palestine demonstration. Just know that you will be among people that you may not agree with. Make good choices. Also look at the other side of the issues. The pro-Israel demonstrations have been peaceful and rationale. These demonstrators are a stark contrast to the pro-Palestinians demonstration regarding their message and behavior.

THE ONLY DEMONSTRATIONS THAT SUPPORT THE JEWS ARE:

6. PRO-“CEASE FIRE” TO RELEASE THE HOSTAGES: This is a favorable thing with the Israelis; however, there cannot be a long cease fire since Hamas wants a very long “cease fire” to regroup, reorganize, and refurbish their troops. Hamas took innocent

civilians as hostages to gain control over how the war would be conducted. At the end of November 24th to December 1st 105 of the 230+ hostages were released. We now are discovering the horrible treatment the hostages experienced.

7. **PRO-ISRAEL:** These people welcome and recognize the state of Israel. They believe that Israel has a right to exist and that the Jews have a right to live. The pro-Israel demonstrations have been peaceful, thoughtful and articulate, which is the opposite of the first five types of demonstrations mentioned.
8. **PROTECT ALL INNOCENCE:** This demonstration would include all civilians, Israeli and Palestinians. People who chant this and hold a sign with this message are standing up for the 10 rules of war (refer to pages 9), which Israel desires to do with the help of other countries. Hamas has not followed these rules and have continually committed war crimes.

REFLECT ON THESE QUESTIONS:

1. The "State of Palestine" has been officially recognized by the United Nations as a Non-Member Observer State. This status was granted on November 29, 2012. If Palestine (Gaza and the West Bank) is considered a state in the Middle East, why doesn't the rest of the Middle East countries get more involve with their situation? Can they house any of the Palestinians desiring to escape the war? Some Middle East countries that have Palestinians living on their land, supply refugee camps for them to live in; however, it appears that they do not recognize the Palestinians as being part of them since they "set them apart" from their own citizens. Why do you think that is?
2. Do you think many of the Palestinians have gone through indoctrination? If they have been indoctrinated, do you think this would hinder other Middle Eastern countries from "taking them in"? If those indoctrinated believe that people who do not embrace the beliefs of extreme Islam are their enemy, would these other "non-extreme Islamic" cultures be at risk allowing them to come into their land? Can a person cover up their indoctrination beliefs? How does a nation "vet" the Palestinians regarding their intrinsic views? What is the solution to this? One cannot erase a mindset that is under complete deception.

WHAT IS THE CHRISTIANS' DUTY REGARDING THIS CONFLICT?

- Be educated of the recent events in the Middle East. Be educated of the history of the Palestinians, terrorist groups and Israel.
- When one hears the news, investigate the facts. As mature and responsible Christians, we need to be educated. Media deception is on the rise.

- Be prepared to expose the lies of deception and to state the truth.
- Pray for Israel, the Palestinians, the hostages and all of the unbelievers.
- Pray for many to convert to the Christian faith, especially those who have been indoctrinated into the terrorist organization.

Personal Note: I have heard of testimonies from people who have been indoctrinated by the extreme Islamic faith convert to Christianity. They have come to Jesus through dreams of Him and through the prayers of the faithful. **PRAY!!!!**

PAUL AS AN EXAMPLE OF A DRAMATIC CONVERSION FROM HORRIBLE EVIL

Before Paul's Damascus conversion, he could be considered a "terrorist" to the people of the "Way" (Christianity). Paul brought "terror" to the new converts of the Way, but not to the demonic, extreme, degree that Hamas has done to the Israelis. There are four scriptures where Paul writes about his past. Please read these verses and the Strong's definition of the main words in these specific verses below:

Galatians 1:13 ¹³ "For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted¹³⁷⁷ the church of God beyond measure²⁵⁹⁶ and *tried to destroy*⁴¹⁹⁹ it."

1377 "In any way whatever to harass, trouble, molests one, to persecute"

2596 (general term) "bring down exactly, complete"

4199 "to destroy to overthrow and make havoc"

1 Timothy 1:13 ¹³ "although I was formerly a blasphemer⁹⁸⁹, a persecutor¹³⁷⁶, and an insolent⁵¹⁹⁷ man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief."

989 "speaking evil, slanderous, reproachful, railing, abusive"

1376 "one who hunts down"

5197 "a violent insolent man, one who is uplifted with pride, either heaps insulting language upon others or does them some shameful act of wrong" "someone *"damaging"* others by lashing out with a nasty spirit. This kind of individual is insolent (delights in wrong-doing) – finding pleasure in hurting others (G. R. Berry). NAS version "violent aggressor"

Acts 22:4 ⁴ "I persecuted¹³⁷⁷ this Way to the death, binding¹¹⁹⁵ and delivering into prisons both men and women"

1377 "in any way whatever to harass, trouble, molests one, to persecute"

1195 "put in chains"

Acts 26:11-12 ¹¹ "And I punished⁵⁰⁹⁷ them often in every synagogue and compelled *them* to blaspheme⁹⁸⁷; and being exceedingly⁴⁰⁵⁷ enraged¹⁶⁹³ against them, I persecuted¹³⁷⁷ *them* even to foreign cities."

5097 "to take vengeance on one – to punish"

987 "to speak reproachfully, rail at, revile, calumniate (to utter maliciously false statements, charges or imputations about)"

4057 "beyond measure, extraordinarily, magnificently, greatly"

1693 "to rage against, to be exceedingly mad against" "behave as a maniac" – properly, "locked in the frenzy of rage (fury), and used only in Ac 26:11. Here Paul describes his pre-conversion behavior as deranged (acting *completely irrational*). INT Bible version states "furiously against"

1377 "to pursue"

From these definitions, Paul uses powerful terms to describe how he was before his conversion. I want to emphasize again that Paul was not as extreme as the Hamas terrorists; however, he did promote stoning and imprisonment of believers in Yeshua (Jesus). One might use these descriptions of how Paul behaved when persecuting the people of the Way as: hunting down others, arrogant, lack of respect to others, being a violent aggressor, furiously against another, being completely irrational. Paul was deceived for he truly believed that the people of the Way were completely wrong and were blasphemers. Stoning was the punishment for this. Paul felt he was doing what was right. "Right was wrong and wrong was right".

Terrorists are very passionate about their beliefs, even when their beliefs are pure evil, as with Hamas terrorists. The impassioned Paul was converted to the Way through a powerful encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. After this he became very zealous of this new faith and wrote most of the New Testament. If a Hamas terrorist experiences a powerful encounter of our Savior and converts to Christianity, think of how impassioned this terrorist would be towards his new found faith.

PRAY FOR POWERFUL ENCOUNTERS OF OUR FAITH TO THE UNBELIEVERS!

AUTHOR'S FINAL COMMENT:

Whether a person is a Christian or has other spiritual affiliations, I pray all would agree that innocent lives need to be protected and treasured. I would hope and think everyone would agree to this, but unfortunately some don't. Any groups that get caught up in hatred toward people of other faith, other than their own, can possibly find themselves participating in evil. Hamas terrorists' beliefs come from an extreme segment of the Islam faith. They believe in the complete annihilation of the Jews or anyone who does not share their beliefs the same way. May God have mercy on all of us and change the hearts that need to be changed. Please pray, pray, pray.... God Bless you all...

J. Zadak December 11, 2023
praisesongministries.com