

## **A Bible Perspective on the War of Israel, October 2023, FAQ's**

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These questions, and various forms of them, have been posed to me in the past days by both believers and unbelievers. This study is in detailed outline form.

1. What is with the barbarism of Hamas?
  - a. Evil heart is at the root of it, Cf. Jeremiah 17:9; Genesis 6:5
  - b. Barbarism is as old as humanity and we shall never progress past it entirely on this earth, Cf. Hosea 13:16; Nahum 3:10
  - c. Torture and then murder, This was done to Jesus the Innocent Savior
  - d. Motivation in this case is aggressive jihad based on Sura 9:5 (when interpreted to murder infidels) and 8:12 (to behead them)
2. Was the recent six billion dollar payment to Iran by the United States a factor in the attack?
  - a. Yes. In Middle Eastern Culture, such payments are seen as tribute money (a sign of servitude, subservience, and weakness). Cf. 2 Samuel 8:2,6; 2 Kings 16:8, 18:14, 23:35 (as there, in this case, taxes are levied upon the US citizens to pay this tribute)
  - b. It emboldens and incentivizes more hostage taking, as this was a 5-for-5 hostage trade which resulted in tribute paid
3. Does Israel have a right to possess the land which they now possess?
  - a. Yes. The Land Covenant is unconditional. Deuteronomy 30:1-10.
  - b. This is the only land deeded to a specific nation. Genesis 13:14-17; Psalm 24:1, therefore any other "land acknowledgements" are not of any divinely legitimate origin
4. Should we have sympathy for the "Palestinian State" and/or the "Palestinian People?"
  - a. Only as human beings created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27)
  - b. No such things as Palestine, nor a Palestinian, as these are artificial terms and constructs created by Rome after the 132 AD Bar Kochba Revolt, for the purpose of destroying Jewish national identity (the term is derived from the ancient Philistines, who are long extinct)
  - c. Though Palestine like Rome, Haman, and Hitler have sought to destroy the Jew, the only way to do it is found in Jeremiah 31:35-37
5. Should we individually and nationally support Israel, and if so, what form(s) should that take?
  - a. Yes and Yes. Genesis 12:1-3 provides the theological basis. Ezekiel 16:60 affirms the eternal duration of the covenant, a Jew is a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel), Cf. Genesis 32:28
  - b. Prayer, Cf. Psalm 122:6; Romans 1:16, 10:1
  - c. Evangelistically, Romans 10:21
  - d. Material support, command and rationale, Romans 15:27, 3:2, 10:14-21

- e. National support should be unwavering based on 5a (Genesis 12:1-3), the support must be not only in word but also in deed
  - f. UN pressure on Israel incentivizes her enemies, US membership in that body draws us into the entangling alliances with the world system of the kind that George Washington warned us about at our founding
6. Is this a sign of the end times?
- a. Matthew 24:4-8, 36-39 answers this question
  - b. The regathering of believing Israel is the immediate precursor of the Millennial Kingdom following the Second Coming (as Deuteronomy 30:1-10, Cf. Daniel 12:11-12 teaches us), not of unbelieving Israel which dwells in the land today, so although we know Jesus' return is imminent we must be careful not to pigeon hole any or every specific world event into a prophetic scheme