

Notes: Shabbat – June 14, 2014

Start: 10 am

Order of Service:

Meet and Greet
Liturgy – Ma Tovu
Introduction (if new people)
Liturgy – Sh'ma
Announcements
Jeri - Drash
Prayer
Praise Reports
Praise and Worship Songs
Message
Aaronic Blessing
Kiddush
Oneg

Introduction: Our Challenges with the Community

This past week, as I was considering the topic for my sermon, a number of things transpired regarding addressing issues of our movement in the eyes of the Jewish community and anti-semitism from outside the Jewish community and how we as a congregation should respond in conjunction with the Jewish community.

What appears to be two very different events yet we are connected by how we respond.

The first thing that happened was in Cincinnati where Congregation Beth Messiah resides. It is led by Messianic Rabbi Michael Wolf.

Several weeks ago, he informed the Rabbi's forum regarding a series of articles that were going to be published by the Cincinnati American Israelite newspaper focusing on Rabbi Wolf and the congregation. This was a significant thing to occur.

A mainstream local Jewish publication sharing information about a Messianic Jewish synagogue to a readership whose majority were not believers.

This was something big. A door had been opened.

Rabbi Wolf emailed the Rabbis Forum this last week informing us of the following:

This is to update you about the article (attached) printed in the Cincinnati American Israelite (our Jewish community newspaper) two weeks ago. The reporter was very gracious and wrote a great article. There were supposed to be three more, but push back by community leaders led instead for the publisher to post an apology to cancel the other three articles, and to remove the original article from the internet archive. Two rabbis even went around to some local delis and tried to confiscate copies. However, thousands read the original article as it arrived at their homes or in the weekly online version of the newspaper, and many responded very positively to it. This week, three negative and three positive letters to the editor were posted (also attached). The positive ones were written by members of the traditional community.

This is the editor's apology:

“I want to apologize to all members of my beloved community. Our article in last weeks issue about an alternative view on religion was strictly for information purposes. It was the farthest thing from my mind to legitimize or promote any view that differs from mainstream Judaism. I am sorry if this has created any confusion in the community and I take full responsibility for having made this error. Please forgive me and the entire staff.”

The apparent backlash from the publishing of the first article led the editor to cancel the three articles that were to follow.

In the comments section the following week, an interesting thing happened. Of the six letters that were published, three were vehemently opposed to any information regarding a Messianic Jewish Synagogue to where the following was written:

“It is certainly an important responsibility of the American Israelite to continue educating the readership about different Jewish beliefs, customs and traditions. The article on Hebrew Christians in the last edition does not do so.”

“Someone who accepts divinity of Jesus is a Christian. The place where people worship Jesus is a church. Beth Messiah is a church and its members are Christians.”

“That they incorporate Jewish rituals and customs in their church does not change the fact they are Christians.”

These comments were by Rabbi Slaton of Beth Israel Synagogue in Cincinnati.

Another gentleman commented...

“That a newspaper directed to the Jewish community would provide a forum to a Christian group which actively seeks converts from that community is an abomination.”

“We have a major demographic problem – This Christian outreach project is a major evangelistic wolf in sheep's clothing. It is their right to do so. We certainly don't need the American Israelite's help in pushing our loses further.”

It is interesting that this responder used the wolf in sheep's clothing analogy. Interesting because this is not found anywhere in the Tenach, not even Proverbs or any of the Psalms, but comes from the Brith Hadosah – Matthew 7:15.

In Yeshua's words, He is warning those He is speaking to:

Mat 7:15 "Beware of the false prophets! They come to you wearing sheep's clothing, but underneath they are hungry wolves!"

Another Rabbi responded with the following:

“The Messianic organizations, attended by Christians are a negation of Judaism, and our entire heritage. The timing before Shavuot added to my confusion and dismay.

This is the mindset of the leadership of the Jewish community and many who are involved.

Based on the church's history regarding the Jewish people, which isn't pretty, is the focal point in most conversations.

When the Ruach ha Kodesh is not present and has not “laid the groundwork” for us, these are the types of responses to expect.

It is the shepherd's responsibility to protect the flock. This is how the Rabbi's might frame their argument against a Messianic congregation.

Yeshua, also dealt with confrontations from those who were the Shepherds of Israel at the time He was with us.

Mat 23:2 "The Torah-teachers and the P'rushim," he said, "sit in the seat of Moshe.

Mat 23:3 So whatever they tell you, take care to do it. But don't do what they do, because they talk but don't act!

Mat 23:4 They tie heavy loads onto people's shoulders but won't lift a finger to help carry them.

Mat 23:5 Everything they do is done to be seen by others; for they make their t'fillin broad and their tzitziyot long,

Mat 23:6 they love the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues,

Mat 23:7 and they love being greeted deferentially in the marketplaces and being called 'Rabbi.'

On the opposite side of the comments, there wasn't resounding support in favor of Messianic congregations, but there was a willingness to receive the information. One response was:

"I want to say that I was pleasantly surprised to see you cover this group with a non-inflammatory information piece."

"I found the article really interesting and I'm probably not alone. Why wouldn't Jews be interested in knowing about this group? The article did not damage the Jewish community. After reading last week's piece, I was looking forward to the next article."

This respondent went on to say - "I think you should have defended yourself"

There is curiosity regarding who we are, yet the challenge from within the Jewish community to actually attend is challenging. Hopefully you remember some of the negative comments from earlier.

In their eyes, we are not Jewish but Christian. No matter from what angle you view us, in their eyes, we are what has been at the root of their persecution for centuries.

Rabbi Wolf, although disappointed that the series was canceled, he was encouraged because of what transpired as a result of the cancellation. He had mentioned doors were being opened as a result of this cancellation. In his own words:

"Many people are discussing the article and ensuing issues in the newspaper with each other. Some Jewish work associates of our people are talking about this constantly with everyone they know. One of them is having lunch with me and the workplace contact in about a week or so. He has a lot of questions. Even the rabbi who wrote the first letter, and who is presently the head of the Board of Rabbis in our city, is being challenged publicly at his synagogue by a friend of ours who attends there. I know there are many others who are being communicated with through friendships, Israeli dance connections, Jewish community organization relationships, etc. Something has broken loose through all of this here, and we're seeking to pray earnestly about it.

The second experience of this past week involved the upcoming Presbyterian church of America's General Assembly.

One of the issues...Voting with regards to BDS and Israel. "Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions"

One of the Messianic Rabbis was informed of this letter and encouraged us to stand in agreement with the Jewish community.

Unfortunately, there was some wording in the letter that prevented me from signing it. The letter starts off...

A Letter of Shalom, from American Jewish Religious Leaders to Our Friends in the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Towards the end of the letter they speak of the direction the Presbyterian church is heading with its Jewish relations:

“...we are deeply disturbed to see an overture calling for the PCUSA to reconsider the Church’s commitment to a two-state solution. Adoption of that stance would be tragic. It is wrong to deny the Palestinian people their right to a state and it is also equally wrong to deny the Jewish people the right to a state. There are two competing claims to the same land and they should be answered by a two-state solution, something with which we have long agreed with the PCUSA.”

and

“But what most reflects and magnifies our sadness is the promulgation of an explicitly anti-Zionist congregational study guide that remains for sale on the Church’s website. Entitled *Zionism Unsettled*, it labels the national movement of the Jewish people, Zionism, and Israel, its expression, as “false theology,” “heretical doctrine,” “evil,” “pathology,” “racism,” and “cultural genocide.” Those characterizations are not only at wide variance with the facts, but are also extraordinarily hurtful and incendiary. No one truly committed to peace and reconciliation should use that kind of vocabulary to describe either side. Nothing, including the assertion that the Israel/Palestine Mission Network speaks “to” but not “for” the Presbyterian Church (USA), can justify the PCUSA leadership’s silence on, and toleration of, *Zionism Unsettled* and the PCUSA’s distribution of it.”

“We are concerned that despite our shared objectives, the Presbyterian-Jewish relationship in America is headed in the wrong direction. We need a new way forward. We are ready for a more constructive relationship. We invite you to join us and start by sending a message that when it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Presbyterian peacemakers work for reconciliation, investment, and understanding of conflicting narratives rather than inciting further conflict. We are ready to join you in this new way. Will you join us?”

But, this is how the letter started...

“We share with you a commitment to peace in the Middle East, particularly toward a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Like you, we long for the leadership and courage that will bring the peoples of the Holy Land to a just two-state solution, when the State of Israel will dwell in peace and security alongside a Palestinian state. We can, no doubt, join together in prayer for a time when Christians, Muslims, Jews and others can fulfill their spiritual destiny in this holy place each sitting “under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid.” (Micah 4:4) ”

Using Micah 4:4 establishing a fulfillment of peace amongst Jews, Christians and Muslims is not an entirely accurate use of this verse. When we look at it in its context, hopefully you see that it is a Prophecy regarding Yeshua.

Mic 4:1 But in the acharit-hayamim it will come about that the mountain of Adonai's house will be established as the most important mountain. It will be regarded more highly than the other hills, and peoples will stream there.

Mic 4:2 Many Gentiles will go and say, "Come, let's go up to the mountain of Adonai, to the house of the God of Ya`akov! He will teach us about his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For out of Tziyon will go forth Torah, the word of Adonai from Yerushalayim.

Mic 4:3 He will judge between many peoples and arbitrate for many nations far away. Then they will hammer their swords into plow-blades and their spears into pruning-knives; nations will not raise swords at each other, and they will no longer learn war.

Mic 4:4 Instead, each person will sit under his vine and fig tree, with no one to upset him, for the mouth of Adonai-Tzva'ot has spoken.

My concern regarding this response from the Jewish community had nothing to do with the anti-Semitism being promoted, because we were in agreement there, but had to do with the wording regarding the last paragraph that I had read, regarding a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a “two state solution”.

The only two state solution I am aware of is where the land is divided. There are now current options where the Palestinians will relocate to land outside of the borders of Israel.

For this reason I responded to the Rabbis' forum, informing them that I could not participate in this letter signing campaign because of how the letter was worded.

“While I am in agreement regarding the erroneous theological position of the Presbyterian Church, the wording regarding support for a "two state" solution concerns me. The two state solution calls for the division of the land - Israel into two nations. I am concerned that many Rabbi's would support dividing the land in the name of peace. What many are unaware of is that this is a problem with no solution. "Land for Peace" is a flawed concept and will not work because the mindset of the people Israel are negotiating with is different than other experiences.”

Unfortunately, based on the amount of literature created by the Presbyterian church regarding their position on Israel seems to indicate that this ship has sailed. When an entire leadership ignores the Word of Adonai as it sets its own policy, a red flag should be waving. When such a passage from the New Covenant writings is intentionally ignored:

Act 13:16 So Sha'ul stood, motioned with his hand, and said: "Men of Isra'el and God-fearers, listen!

Act 13:17 The God of this people Isra'el chose our fathers. He made the people great during the time when they were living as aliens in Egypt and with a stretched-out arm he led them out of that land.

Act 13:18 For some forty years he took care of them in the desert,

Act 13:19 and after he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Kena`an he gave their land to his people as an inheritance.

One must ask if they are reading the same scriptures we are.

No less concerning are the countless number of Rabbi's that have signed this paper - Have our own people forgotten Torah?

As much as we want to support our own people, we need to consider a much bigger picture. There are many within our communities that don't recognize us because of what we believe. We are the ones, in their eyes that are traitors and wolves in sheep's clothing. Publicly stating support for a two state solution is a betrayal of Adonai, the rightful deed holder of the land who has already spoken.

As much as I want to support and be part of the Jewish community, there are some things that I will not compromise on. One is Messiah. Another is publicly supporting a "two state solution" aka...a division of the land in the name of peace.

In my opinion, trying to work with an organization like the Presbyterian church, who ignores scripture is a losing proposition.

As a movement, we have many challenges that face us on a daily basis. Support for our people in the land should not be compromised, even if it opens a door to the Jewish community, for which I believe it will not. Land given by Adonai as an inheritance should not be used as a carrot to dangle. Thus incorporating a point of agreement regarding a two state position in their petition when trying to deal with the issue of anti-Semitism is counterproductive.

Tom Howe emails me the Koenig Report by Tom Koenig.

In relation to the current Presbyterian General Assembly being held this week, these were his comments, unrelated to the Presbyterian church, but in light of the broader church.

According to Tom Koenig:

Most important time in biblical history with the least amount of interest in the church

Approximately 100 million U.S. church attendees — and 1 billion worldwide — have no understanding of the biblical significance of the modern state of Israel.

Leaders of these replacement theology church organizations continue to state publicly that they believe Israel has no right to make biblical claims to the Land of Israel.

The Vatican, the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches continue to make statements, take positions and sponsor peace conferences that are in total opposition to the Bible. This error continues to spawn Jewish persecution and anti-Semitism, which is alive and active in Europe and gaining in other parts of the world.

They stand with the U.S., the U.N., the EU and Russia rather than standing with Bible-believing evangelical leaders and members who understand that the God of Israel has an everlasting covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants — a covenant pertaining to the Land of Israel that no earthly leader has the right to divide.

Moreover, the horribly flawed peace process would never have begun if the church had been unified on God's Word and told the international community to back off. Israel would be living in safe and secure borders, and its enemies would not have become so dangerously empowered by the flawed peace process.

The Armageddon lobby is from the other part of the church

Furthermore, isn't it ironic that the leaders from Replacement Theology organizations call those who support Israel's right to the Land "the Armageddon lobby" — when, in fact, *they* are the "Armageddon lobby" whose support of the land-for-peace process is leading Israel and its neighbors rapidly toward Armageddon — the final battle for Jerusalem?

The challenges are many in how we respond to positions.

As I had stated earlier, there are two things I will not compromise on in relation to any position of support conveyed by Kehilah Portland:

1. My position regarding Yeshua
2. Any actions that promote anti-Semitism
3. Our position regarding a “two state solution”

I was encouraged that on Thursday, the MJAA, in conjunction with the IAMCS, UMJC and IMJA published a press release pertaining to the Presbyterian church...

Next week I will talk about Israel's rite to exist.

Headline: Messianic Jewish Leaders Oppose Presbyterian Divestment from Israel

Philadelphia, June 12, 2014. As the Presbyterian Church (USA) prepares to discuss divestment proposals designed to influence Israeli policy at its General Assembly in Detroit, June 14-21, leaders of the international organizations speaking for the Messianic Jewish community respond with a strong statement of support for Israel.

International Messianic Jewish community

statement of Support for the State of Israel

Amid continuing efforts to pressure and marginalize the state of Israel through boycotts and economic sanctions, the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly, meeting in Detroit, June 14-21, will consider proposals to pressure Israel through financial divestment. Amid reports of growing worldwide anti-Semitism, the church's Israel/Palestine Mission Network offers "Zionism Unsettled," a study guide that explicitly delegitimizes Israel as a Jewish state. In the face of such actions, the international Messianic Jewish community expresses its unwavering support for the Jewish homeland in Israel.

The international Messianic Jewish community supports the right of the state of Israel to exist within safe and secure borders, and the right of all Israelis to freely live and travel without the threat of terrorism.

We affirm the historic connection between the Jewish people and the land of Israel, as well as God's promise to give the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob the land of Israel as an eternal inheritance. As Scripture states:

"I will establish My covenant with you as an everlasting covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and to your descendants after you; and I will be their God." (Genesis 17:7-8)

We further recognize that the return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel in modern times was foretold by the prophets:

“Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes. For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land.” (Ezekiel 36:23-24).

In addition, the historical sufferings and persecutions of the Jewish people, culminating in the Holocaust of World War II, demonstrated to the community of nations that the Jewish people have an inherent need for their own homeland. The establishment of the Jewish State justly protects Jewish continuity and safety.

We also affirm the current and future aliyah (Jewish immigration to Israel) as a fulfillment of Scripture, as it is written:

“The days are coming, declares the Lord, when men will no longer say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought Israel up out of Egypt’, but they will say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where He had banished them’. For I will restore them to the land I gave their fathers.” (Jeremiah 16:14-15).

We, therefore, support the right of Jewish people to immigrate to their historic homeland.

In light of the vision of peace conveyed by the Jewish prophets, and as followers of Messiah, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:5-6), we look toward a future in which the current suffering of both Jews and Arabs in the Middle East will be replaced by true peace. This vision of the future compels us to work and hope for peace today. Therefore we applaud all genuine efforts toward peacemaking between Israel and Arab parties in the Middle East.

Throughout the Scriptures, Israel as a people is called to be a light and example to the other nations of the world (Ex. 19:5-6, Deut. 4:5-8, Is. 2:2-4; 60:2-3). We believe the modern state of Israel is an heir to this calling, which is reflected in her thriving democracy, where civil rights are enshrined in law. Therefore, we encourage the equal application of Israel’s laws to all of her citizens, and the preservation, continuation and growth of human rights for all of Israel’s minority groups.

We also encourage our congregations outside of Israel to work for the welfare of the state of Israel, to pray for the land and its safety, and to visit the land, thereby expressing support for the nation and its inhabitants. In addition, we express our particular solidarity with the Messianic Jewish community in Israel.

Finally, we remind all believers in Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah from every nation of these words of blessing found in the book of Psalms, “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May they prosper who love you’” (Ps. 122:6).

John Fischer, President

Paul Wilbur, Executive Director

International Messianic Jewish Alliance

Kirk Gliebe, President

Russell Resnik, Executive Director

Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations

Paul Liberman, President

Joel Chernoff, General Secretary

Messianic Jewish Alliance of America

Frank Lowinger, Chairman

International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues

Koenig's Newsletter excerpt:

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Who is the Armageddon lobby?

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The Vatican, the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches continue to make statements, take positions and sponsor peace conferences that are in total opposition to the Bible. This error continues to spawn Jewish persecution and anti-Semitism, which is alive and active in Europe and gaining in other parts of the world.

They stand with the U.S., the U.N., the EU and Russia rather than standing with Bible-believing evangelical leaders and members who understand that the God of Israel has an everlasting covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants — a covenant pertaining to the Land of Israel that no earthly leader has the right to divide.

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The church is rapidly dying in Europe, but it still has time to chastise Israel

The church is rapidly dying in Europe, but a few pastors — such as **Steven Sizer, the incumbent of the Anglican parish of Christ Church, Virginia Water, in Surrey, England — is obsessed with chastising Christian supporters of Israel, continues to call on Israel to leave the "occupied land,"** and supports an Arab state in Judea-Samaria with a capital in East Jerusalem.

Sizer is doing this through his books, videos and speeches in Europe and the United States. He is also one of the co-sponsors of the Christ at the Checkpoint conferences with Bethlehem Bible College.

Rather than addressing the very serious level of Christian persecution in the Middle East and attempting to stop the collapse of the Christian church in his country, Sizer continues to interfere with God's land and His plan for the Jewish people.

The following are several of the main points of the **["Christ at the Checkpoint Manifesto"](#)** that are completely inaccurate.

- Any exclusive claim to land of the Bible in the name of God is not in line with the teaching of Scripture.
- For Palestinian Christians, the occupation is the core issue of the conflict.
- Any challenge to the injustices taking place in the Holy Land must be done in Christian love. Criticism of Israel and the occupation cannot be confused with anti-Semitism and the delegitimization of the State of Israel.

The World Jewish Daily wrote in **"Vatican Synod: Jews are not chosen and have no Promised Land"** that **Monsignor Cyril Salim Bustros, Greek Melkite archbishop of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Boston, Mass.,** said at a Vatican press conference on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010:

"The Holy Scriptures cannot be used to justify the return of Jews to Israel and the displacement of the Palestinians, to justify the occupation by Israel of Palestinian lands. We Christians cannot speak of the 'promised

land' as an exclusive right for a privileged Jewish people. This promise was nullified by Christ. There is no longer a chosen people — all men and women of all countries have become the chosen people."

The archbishop, speaking at a conference of Middle East Catholic clergy convened by the pope, also called for the return of Palestinian refugees and the nullification of Israel's Jewish character.

The *Times of Israel* wrote in the article "At interfaith meeting in Jerusalem a grim picture of Jewish Christian relations" that Jewish-Protestant relations are currently undergoing a severe crisis after senior leaders of mainline Protestant churches in the U.S. in October 2012 accused Israel of "widespread" human rights violations and urged Congress to reconsider military aid to Jerusalem.

"I am completely pessimistic in terms of believing that I, we, are going to overturn 2,000 years of erroneous theology that has manifested itself in all kinds of diatribes and anti-Semitic factions," said the Rev. Paul Wilkinson, the associate minister at Hazel Grove Full Gospel Church, a small pro-Israel congregation in Stockport, England.

"I believe we'd be fooling ourselves if we believed that we can overturn and change what I perceive to be a Goliath of theology in the church. The Goliath we face is the Goliath of replacement theology, the Goliath of Christian Palestinianism that taunts Israel, that goads Israel, that accuses Israel, that condemns Israel and those Christians who stand with Israel," said Wilkinson.

"That Goliath cannot be felled with a stone and a sling as in the days of King David, because the problem isn't political, the problem isn't sociological, the problem isn't about lack of education or lack of dialogue," Wilkinson said.

"The problem is a spiritual one. The problem is that there is an adversary of God, of Israel, of Christians."

Wilkinson was speaking on Monday, Nov. 4, 2012, at the opening session of a consultation organized by the B'nai B'rith World Center in Jerusalem and the Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel (ETRFI). Founded in 1966 by Jerusalem-based clergymen and theologians, ETRFI seeks to promote Jewish-Christian relations.

Anti-Semitism is increasing at an alarming rate in Europe and spreading to the United States. Why are the European Churches silent?

Obama's spiritual advisor was part of the Christ at the Checkpoint event in Bethlehem in 2012 and a board member of the National Evangelical Association.

By claiming that the Jewish people "occupy" Judea, Samaria, and East Jerusalem, the global Christian organizations have sided with the Islamic worldview.

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS) has targeted Israel. Anti-Semitic Protestants in Europe are behind the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS). And European, U.S. and Canadian governments are funding anti-Israel activism in mainline churches.

BDS strategists view the churches as a key target for promoting the BDS agenda. The World Council of Churches (WCC) plays a key role in mobilizing the church's BDS effort globally. The WCC has asked the EU to honor its position on boycotting Israeli settlements.

The enormous cost to Israel from the 'peace process'

- Iranian-backed Hezbollah is in control in Lebanon, and Iran is close to completing its nuclear weapon — with a history of threatening to use it on Israel.
- Israel spends billions of dollars each year to defend itself — money that could be spent on other more productive investments such as education, infrastructure, social needs, etc.
- Israel has received \$106 billion in U.S. aid since 1949 — a large part of that military aid over the past 40 years. The United States contributes \$3 billion a year in military aid (a lot of that is spent in the United States, however, prior to delivering military equipment and planes to Israel).
- The Palestinians and many Arab countries don't acknowledge Israel as a Jewish state or Israel's right to exist.
- Israel is being told to participate in the "land for peace" process or face further isolation by the international community.
- There are world leaders who believe an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal could lead to Middle East peace and even world peace.

- There is seldom a mention of the corrupt Palestinian leaders — who have stolen tens of millions of dollars in foreign aid from the U.S., EU, Japan and others.

Improving Christian-Jewish relations

To improve Christian-Jewish relations, it is time for the major church organizations to repent for their positions that are in direct opposition to the Bible and stand for Israel's right to the land God gave Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants in an everlasting covenant.

Genesis 15:18 (KJV) says: In the same day Yahweh made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.'

Genesis 17:7 (KJV): "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee."

Joel 3:2 (KJV): "I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land."

In closing, the Abrahamic Covenant is an everlasting agreement that the God of Israel made with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants, and no earthly political leader or church leader has the right to divide the Promised Land.

As I showed in *Eye to Eye: Facing the Consequences of Dividing Israel*, those who have attempted to divide or conquer the Land of Israel have suffered enormous consequences and will continue to do so in the future.

'Jesus Was a Palestinian': The Return of Christian Anti-Semitism – Melanie Phillips

[Commentary Magazine](#)

Within the Protestant world, many churches are deeply hostile to the State of Israel. They present the Palestinians as victims of Israeli oppression while ignoring the murderous victimization of Israeli citizens at their hands. This much is generally known. What is less known is the even more disturbing fact that this perverse animus is increasingly fed not by the politics of the present moment but by theology.

This is all the more striking because millions of evangelical Christians are among the most passionate supporters of Israel in America and elsewhere. These Christian Zionists believe the Hebrew Bible's account of how God chose the Jewish people to form a kingdom of priests and promised them the land of Israel.

That religious belief has turned Christian Zionists themselves into a key target for evangelization on the part of those churches that have Israel in their crosshairs — and those evangelists are bearing fruit.

The Christian world likes to forget it, but the history of its relationship with the Jews is terrible. In medieval Europe, the Catholic Church used blood libels to incite the population against the Jews, converted them at knife-point, and murdered them in great number.

To continue reading, click here: [Commentary Magazine](#)

Koenig's perspective: Melanie Phillips does an excellent job of identifying the major problems. I have documented much of this over the years. Her information is current, concise and informative.