

"Israel and the People of God"

The questions:

What does the Bible teach about modern Israel?
What is a Christian view of the Israel and Palestine?

Some things you may not know:

Israel is officially a secular state, not a religious one
Evangelizing Jews with the Gospel is illegal in Israel
Most Christians (and Nazarenes) in Israel are Arabs

There are very good reasons to be allies of Israel:

Jews have been historically oppressed
Until recently, it was the region's only democracy
Without our support, Israel would likely be destroyed

Some reasons for cautious thinking:

Israel has been guilty of ungodly policies and acts
Which is always against the will of God
Israel has not returned to its covenant with God
Which was the reason for God's first judgment
Israel shows no indication of a faith in Christ
Which is the only way to real salvation

What does the Bible really teach?

God has a very special love for "His" people
But He also loves all people completely
God never gives up on the people He loves
But his kingdom demands faith and faithfulness
God's salvation in Christ was first for the Jews
But is also fully for the Gentiles
God's plan is the salvation of Israel
But His salvation is also for all creation

So what do I really believe?

I believe God's is always on the side of righteousness
I do not presume to have it all figured out
I am glad it is all in His powerful hands!
I ask not for God to be on my side, I seek to be on His

Romans 11:25-36

25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

"The deliverer will come from Zion;
he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.
27 And this is my covenant with them
when I take away their sins."

28 As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, 29 for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. 30 Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. 32 For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counselor?"

35 "Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay him?"

36 For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

NIV

Sermon Notes

"You Asked for It" Series

September 18	"Safe in the Arms of God"	
September 25	"Jesus Loves the Little Children"	
October 2	"When Discouragement Takes Over"	
October 9	"Christian Families in a Secular World"	
October 16	"Keeping a Holy Day"	
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October 30	"Israel and the People of God"	
November 6	Revelation #1	Guarding God's Truth
November 13	Revelation #2	Facing God's Wrath
November 20	Revelation #3	Knowing God's Plan

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Acts 2:16-18

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of God"***

Pastor Philip C. Rogers

Middletown
Church of the Nazarene
Middletown, Indiana

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