

The Theology of the Palestinian-Israeli War Which Began October 7, 2023

Comments by Dave DeWitt

1. This War Is Not an “End-Times” Prophetic Event

The war in Israel that began October 7, 2023, is not what Jesus predicted in Matthew 24 when He said, “*you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars*” (24:6). Nor is it what He referred to as *the beginning of birth pangs* (24:8). Jesus’ comments in Matthew 24 are about His Second Coming. [Matthew 24:4-14 describes the first 3½ years of the tribulation. Verse 15 is the middle of the tribulation. Verses 16-26 are the second 3½ years of the tribulation. Verses 27-30 describe the Second Coming. Verses 30–chapter 25 are about what happens after the Second Coming.] There is no observable connection between this war and prophetic end-times’ sequence of events in the Bible. There is a clear end-times’ sequence of events described in Daniel 2; 7; and 9; in Matthew 24–25; and the book of Revelation. Each adds some details, but all describe the same sequence. This war is not in that sequence.

There is also nothing in our current situation that would indicate this war is part of end-times’ prophecy. For example, there is no global government, no global religion, no economy where we purchase things with the mark of the beast. There is no global antichrist leader, and we are not seeing the global judgments of God upon the earth. Yet. We can see that we are moving toward those things, but we are not there yet. We do not need to force-fit things into what the Bible says. What the Bible says will unfold just as it says, by the hand of God.

Could this war lead to war with Iran, which could lead to war with Russia, which could lead to the war described in Ezekiel 38–39? Of course, we do not know what will lead to what. But if it sounds like this war involves the same places as the Ezekiel war, remember that basically all the wars of Israel since 1948 involve similar places.

2. The Jews Are Hated Because They Are the People Who Gave Us the Bible

Here is an interesting thing, which no one is talking about. There are liberal progressives, all over the world, who support the Palestinians and oppose Israel. Why do we see gatherings, like liberal campus groups, demonstrating in support of the Palestinians, even in support of Hamas? The answer they give is along the lines of Palestinians being oppressed by the Jews. In other words, they transport their woke theory to the Israel/Hamas conflict. But there is another very puzzling question in this whole debate. **Why do liberal progressives oppose Israel, the only ones who are liberal progressives?**

For example, in America there are four liberal Democratic women in Congress who call themselves the “Squad.” Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a representative from New York, is usually the main speaker of the “Squad,” and she is not a Palestinian or a Muslim. The liberal progressive political views of the “Squad” align with most liberal progressive Jews in New York, whose views are nearly identical with the liberal progressives in Israel. This is true of the liberals demonstrating against Israel all over the world. Their views align with most of the Jews, in both America and Israel (pro-homosexual, pro-abortion, pro-feminism). For example, some say Tel Aviv is the homosexual capital of the world. Also, Israel was among the first to put women in the military, resulting in a high rate of pregnancy, with abortion available if they wish to continue on as soldiers. [pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov]

The Palestinians, on the other hand, are extremely opposed to all of those same things. For example, in some cases, Palestinian Muslims (and certainly those under the leadership of Hamas or Hezbollah) do not allow women to go out in public without being covered and accompanied by a man. They do not allow a woman to drive a car or receive higher education. So why are the “Squad,” and the liberal campus groups all over the world, supporting the Palestinians and opposing Israel, the nation who is aligned with their liberal beliefs?

The young women, demonstrating for the Palestinians on college campuses, would be imprisoned or killed if they went to a Palestine territory controlled by Hamas or Hezbollah. They go out in public without having their head covered, they are not accompanied by a man, they are driving cars, and pursuing higher education, supporting abortion, LGBTQ rights, and feminism. They would be immediately eliminated in the Palestinian territories controlled by the Hamas they are demonstrating for. I know of no other example of liberals demonstrating against liberals who believe the same as they do, and supporting the group that would violently eliminate them. The only place these liberal women would be safe, in the Middle East, is in Israel.

The answer is clear. Why is this war carried by TV stations, YouTube, and the social media, 24/7, and no one will admit the obvious? This is a religious war. This is about the Quran opposing the Bible. The liberals hate Israel because they are the people who gave us the Bible. It seems that the liberal progressives of our world hate the Bible so much, they are willing to overlook all their views to support those who oppose the Bible.

Although the Jews often refer to the Bible as their claim to the Land, most people involved in this war do not think it is about the Bible. Many civilians have no idea at all about the philosophy or theology behind the war. But some do, and the Hamas leaders yelling “Allahu Akbar” do, and Satan does. Paul reminds us,

Ephesians 6:12, *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

2 Corinthians 4:4, *...in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

There is only one answer that makes any sense, and that answer always makes sense when understanding the liberal progressive agenda. There is only one thing liberal progressives and Palestinian jihadists have in common—they hate the Bible. And that hatred dominates everything else.

3. We Should Support Israel as a Nation Because They Are God’s Chosen People, Not Because They Are Good People or a Better People

There are four reasons we should support the Jews in their possession of the Land:

1. God gave the Land to Abraham, not the Canaanites (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:4-6), Isaac, not Ishmael (Genesis 17:19-21; 21:12), and Jacob, not Esau (Genesis 28:13-14). The first people who immigrated into the Land (as far as we know) were the Canaanites, who were the descendants of Canaan, the cursed grandson of Noah (Genesis 9:25). But God called Abraham out of all the people of the earth, after the scattering of the tower of Babel, and led him to Canaan, saying He would give him the Land.
2. God promised Abraham He would multiply his descendants. Abraham believed God (Genesis 15:6) and proved it by being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. God stopped him and provided His own sacrifice. Then God said,
Genesis 22:16-18, *“By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”*
3. God selected this place for His people (Genesis 15:1), as *a land for which the Lord your God cares* (Deuteronomy 11:12). After 430 years in Egypt, God led the Israelites (via a stint in the wilderness

for disobedience) into what Moses called *the place in which the Lord your God will choose for His name to dwell* (Deuteronomy 12:11).

4. God has plans for Israel that include their future in the Land. Through Jeremiah God told Israel, **Jeremiah 29:11 & 14**, *'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope...I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.'*

We must understand, not that Jews are individually saved by being Jewish, or that individual Jews are better than individual Gentiles (Matthew 8:10), or that Jews treat Palestinians well. We only need to understand that God has a future planned for Israel as a nation, and it is a good idea to remember that He told Abraham, *"I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse"* (Genesis 12:3).

4. The Jews Involved In This War Are Not the Jews Involved at the Second Coming

Since there has been a dispersion of the Jews (by the Romans in A.D. 70 and finally in A.D. 132) and a regathering of Israel as a nation (in 1948), many preachers are saying these Jews are that regathering. This is often done referring to Jesus' statement:

Matthew 24:34, *"...this generation will not pass away until all these things take place."*

I suspect Jesus' words, *this generation*, are a reference to the human race or possibly the Jews alive during the tribulation before the Second Coming (the immediate context of Matthew 24). But the Jews who returned and formed a nation in 1948 are not the return of the remnant of the Jews involved at the Second Coming. We know this because the Jews involved at the Second Coming are not atheists, secularists, or progressives. Unlike today's Jews, those who return when Christ returns are repentant of their sin. They are believers in Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Through Zechariah, God said,

Zechariah 12:10, *"I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn."*

Jesus said that at His Second Coming,

Matthew 24:31, *"...He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."*

The Jews involved in the return of the remnant to Israel at the Second Coming are repentant believers, not prideful, militarily aggressive secularists, progressives, and atheists, as is the case with many of the Jews who occupy Israel today. We can then conclude that the war of October 7---, 2023, is not an end-times' event.

5. This War Is about Muslims, Not Palestinians

The recordings on the news of the early killings and kidnappings were done by men yelling "Allahu Akbar." Many of the pro-Palestinian demonstrations in Muslim countries are chanting "Allahu Akbar." The phrase "Allahu Akbar" is usually translated "God is great." But it actually means, "Allah is great." It is not that the Jewish God or the Christian God, or any other god is great, but only Allah, the god of Islam, is great.

This war is not about Israel opposing Palestinians. Israel has many Palestinian citizens. I have a Palestinian friend in Israel who says, "I am just as Israeli as Netanyahu." About 20% of Israel's citizens are Palestinians. [imeu.org] Of the 120-member Israel Knesset, 10 are Arabs. [Wikipedia.org] The liberals are complaining about how the Jews treat the Palestinians. It is true. The Jews treat the Palestinians as inferior. They treat everybody, who is not a Jew, as inferior. They put Jewish settlements in the West

Bank. They are militarily aggressive. But let's ask the question, "Where in all the Middle East do the Palestinians live in the best conditions?" The answer is: in Israel. It is not in Gaza or the West Bank. And the surrounding Arab countries do not want them. True, the Jews will treat them as second-class citizens. Nonetheless, the best conditions a Palestinian can have are the ones many Palestinians already have, to be part of Israel. But the reason that is not going to happen, with jihadists like Hamas, is because for them this war is about religion.

Many of the demonstrations in Muslim countries and territories are not just demonstrating for Palestinians, they are demonstrating for Hamas. They are supporting the jihadi terrorists. Muslim jihadist military aggression has been going on since the birth of Islam in the A.D. 600s. For example, the crusades of 1099-1291 were a response to 400 years of Muslim attacks on southern Europe. Muslim aggression is not new, and there is no end to it. They will not stop until all the world is Muslim. The reason is, fundamentalist Muslims will read Muslim literature that says,

- The Messenger of Allah said, "The Last Hour will not come until the Muslims fight against the Jews, until a Jew will hide himself behind a stone or a tree, and the stone or the tree will say: 'O Muslim, there is a Jew behind me. Come and kill him.'" [Hadith Book 18:13]
- "Slay them wherever ye find them and drive them out of the places whence they drove you out, for persecution is worse than slaughter." [Quran, Sura 2:191]

This is not about the Arab people. Many (Christians) refer to Genesis 16:12, where the descendants of Ishmael, the Arab people, are described as being in continual conflict with everyone.

Genesis 16:12, *He [Ishmael] will be a wild donkey of a man, his hand will be against everyone, and everyone's hand will be against him; and he will live to the east of all his brothers.*

But this prediction is about Arabs, not Muslims. Genesis 16 has nothing to do with the October 7---, 2023, war. Only about 15 percent of the estimated 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide are Arabs [pbs.org]. For example, all evidence points to the involvement of Iran-backed terrorism. But Iranians are Persians, not Arabs. This involves Turkish Muslims, Russian Muslims, Indian Muslims, Indonesian Muslims, Chinese Muslims, and American Muslims. This is about the global dominance of the Islamic religion.

Conclusion

For Bible-believing Christians, it is important to understand what the October 7---, 2023, war is, and is not. It is not about the Jews being a better people or having a more just cause in this war. We should support the Jews because they are genealogically the chosen people of God. There are many practical reasons for this war: territorial disputes, long-term hatred, Palestinian militant aggression against the Jews, Israel confining Palestinians in a starvation situation in Gaza. But this is all the consequence of one basic issue. It was declared loud and clear by the killers and kidnappers yelling "Allahu Akbar." This is a religious war, part of the global dominance of the Islamic religion.

But there is an even more basic question here. Why do liberals support Islamists, who are diametrically opposed to nearly everything the liberals teach? Answer: Jesus said, "...you are seeking to kill Me a man who has told you the truth" (John 8:40). What the world hates is the truth of the Word of God. What the Muslims have in common with the rest of the world is they hate the Bible. In the end, like all of Satan's battles, it is all about the Bible.