

Hartford Bible Students

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War Between Israel and Hamas: Will Israel Survive?

There is no doubt that you have heard of Hamas's brutal, unprovoked October 7, 2023, attack on Israel that resulted in the murder of over 1,200 Israeli citizens and the kidnapping of about 240 from Israel to the Gaza Strip. As a result of this attack, Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has declared war against Hamas. Since then, it has been reported that over the first 90 days of the war, about 23,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, had been killed.

This terrible and tragic loss of life on both sides has led people and nations to express their opinions about who is right and who is wrong and what needs to be done to make things right and bring in lasting peace.

The Hamas Solution: Jihad

It is no secret that since its creation in December of 1987, Hamas, an extremist fundamentalist Islamic organization operating in the territories under Israel's control, has invoked militant interpretations of Islam to spearhead a Sunni-extremist movement committed to destroying Israel.

The Hamas covenant (the Covenant of Islamic Resistance Movement) is a comprehensive manifesto made up of 36 articles which promote the goal of destroying the State of Israel through "jihad," Islamic holy war.

Is Peace a Possibility for Hamas?

When it comes to the possibility of a negotiated peace settlement, Article 13 states, "The initiatives, the so-called peace solutions, and the international conferences for resolving the Palestinian problem stand in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement... Those conferences are no more than a means to appoint the infidels as arbitrators in the lands of Islam..."

It goes on to say, "There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except by Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are but a waste of time, an exercise in futility." As Hamas plainly states, the only solution to the current crisis is the total destruction of the Jewish people and their nation and the creation of a Palestinian state in all the land of Israel. Will they achieve their goal to eliminate Jews from Israel?

What does the Bible Say?

Prophecy indicates the contrary. "...For behold, your enemies make an uproar; those who hate you have raised their heads. They lay crafty plans against your people; they consult together against your treasured ones. They say, 'Come, let us wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Israel be remembered no more!...Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek your name, O LORD.'" (Psalms 83:2-4, 16 ESV)

God chose Israel out of all other nations to be a channel of His blessings to the world. God calls Israel the apple of His eye, His firstborn, His inheritance. (Zechariah 2:8; Exodus 4:22; Isaiah 19:25) God has not abandoned His oath-bound covenant to Israel through their father Abraham. "...Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins." (Romans 11:25-27)

Israel is fulfilling Bible prophecy! Her regathering as a nation was one of the signs of Christ's return to establish his everlasting Kingdom. (Matthew 24:32) "...I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David...That the residue of men might seek after the Lord..." (Acts 15:16, 17)

God's Kingdom, with Christ as His honored agent, will be one of righteousness, unselfishness, and peace beginning in Jerusalem and then spreading to the entire world. Though Israel is now at the center of trouble and terrorism in the world today, God's peace plan will make her a praise in all the earth. (Isaiah 62:7)

Jerusalem will become the capital of the world and the center for lasting world peace, not only for the Jews, but for all who humble themselves and learn to love the righteous laws of God. "Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem... In those days it shall come to pass that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you." (Zechariah 8:22, 23)

God says he will "gather the nations" to devour them with the "fire of my jealousy." (Zephaniah 3:8) And while that sounds painful, there is hope beyond the trouble. As a surgeon who must remove a cancerous tumor, God only wounds to heal. Out of the midst of the turmoil surrounding the globe at this time, God has a plan which will most certainly bring healing and everlasting joy! (Isaiah 35:1-10)

Continuing in Zephaniah's prophecy, after the fire of that day, God will then "turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent." (verse 9) The "pure language" is truth.

Once the chastening hand of justice quenches the fires of anarchy, God turns this "pure language" to the people — which indicates they did not have it before. "The people" referred to will be the untold billions of mankind who have never heard this "pure language." And, because of the troubles they have experienced, they will now be ready to listen to God's pure truth, untainted by the erroneous and evil doctrines of men.

Mankind will learn to freely serve God with "one consent." The *New American Standard Bible* translation puts this "one consent" as "shoulder to shoulder." Instead of brother fighting against brother, mankind will learn to cooperate in building a peaceful

society. The desire of every young soldier on the field of battle will be realized. "...They shall beat their swords into plowshares. and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Micah 4:3)

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