

Ministers of Justice: The Civil State Defends

The Purpose and Means of Civil Government

Q: What is the **purpose** of civil government?

A1: The civil government is God's _____ of justice (Rom 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17)

Q: How does civil government minister God's justice?

A1: The civil government wisely _____ God's standard of justice (Rom 13:1-7)

A2: The civil government _____ transgressions with the _____

A3: It justly bears the sword to _____ the life and property of its citizens

Israel

The history of Israel & the Promised Land	
	Canaanites dwelled in the land (Gen 10:15-19)
2100-1600s	The Promise to Abraham (Gen 15:18-21; 17)
1400-1200 BC	Initial & partial fulfillment under Joshua (Joshua 1:2-6; 13:1-7)
1010-931 BC	Land expansion under King David & Solomon
580s BC	Babylonian rule
530s BC	Persian rule
333 BC	Greeks rule
142 BC	Israel free after the Maccabean revolt
63 BC	Romans
330 BC	Byzantine Empire
636 AD	Muslims (vs. Christians crusades)
1517 AD	Ottoman Empire
1917 AD	British rule
1948 AD	Israel became an independent nation
1948 - Now	Ongoing conflict in the middle east b/w Israel and Arabs

- Ongoing conflict b/w Israel and Arabs:
 - (I) May 1948 to May 1949
 - (II) Six-Day War (June 1967)
 - (III) Yom Kippur War (1973)
 - (IV) First Intifada (1987-1993)
 - (V) Second Intifada (2000-2005)
 - (VI) Factionalism in Palestine (2005 -)
 - (VII) Summer of 2014
 - (VIII) March 2018
 - (IX) May 2021
 - (X) Oct 7, 2023 — Jan 2025

- Israel vs. Arabs during this time:

	Israel	Arab nations
Land Area	8,522 sq. Miles	2.45 million sq. Miles
Population	9.8 million	473+ million

Just War Theory in light of terrorist activity

- Suicide bombings
- Just War Theory: criteria for the *just* _____ to war and *just* _____ of war

- Israel responded by building a _____ and increasing IDF activity

Gaza

- Let's talk about the Gaza Strip...

The Problem & Solution to Arab-Israeli Conflict

What is the root of the conflict?

- The (Palestinian) Arabs reject the very _____ of Israel
- What would happen if the Palestinians and Arabs "laid down their arms"?
- What would happen if Israel "laid down their arms"?

Does God give special favor to Israel as a nation?

Do Christians agree about foreign policy with regard to Israel?

- Christians hold varying perspectives on the Church, Israel, eschatology and biblical interpretation. These varying perspectives have implications for one's approach to foreign relations with Israel

(I) Creation (Genesis 1-2) : The Garden of Eden was the first " _____ "

- Lush land + dwelling with God + promise of flourishing/blessing
- But because of sin....there is exile (Gen 4:13ff) and judgment (Gen 11:8-9)

(II) The Patriarch Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:1-19; 17:4-8; 22:17-18) : The promise of gathering Abraham and his descendants to _____, the Promised Land

(III) Israel entered the Promised Land:

- After disobedience and wandering in the Wilderness (Num 14:26-35), God saved Israel out of the wilderness (Deut 32:10 into "a land flowing with milk and honey" (Exod 3:7-8; Deut 8:7-10)

- The times of _____ (Josh 1:1-6; 13:1-7; 21:43-45; 23:14-16): initial, temporary promise fulfillment
 - Possession of the land was _____

 - The land became a covenant “ _____ ”
 - Blessings (Lev 26:1-3; Deut 28:1-14; Lev 26:5-6; Deut 28:8)
 - Curses (Lev 26:14-16; Deut 28:15-68; Lev 26:32-33; Deut 28:63-64)
 - The prophecy of Deut 30:1-10

- The times of David (2 Sam 7:8-16; 1 Chron 17:7-15) and Solomon (1 Ki 4:20-21; 8:15-66; 2 Chron 9:26)

- Israel repeatedly rebelled and was _____ from the land to Assyria & Babylon
 - Prophets promised return to the land (Ezekiel 36:24-28; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 47:8-12, 21-23)

- Israel did return to Jerusalem and dwelled in the land (see Ezra, Nehemiah)...but...

When does God fulfill the land promises to Abraham?

1. In the time of _____ (Josh 2:43-45; Nehemiah 9:23)
2. In the time of _____ - _____ (1 Ki 4:20-21; 8:15-66; 2 Chron 9:26)
3. When the Jews returned from _____ (Ezra, Nehemiah)
4. In the present church age, in and through Christ
 - The Land-Exile cycle is reversed in Jesus
 - Since the Jews rejected Jesus the Messiah and the New Covt., they are cut off & cursed
 - Promises made to Israel in the OT were/are being fulfilled in the church (already-not yet; Hebrews 8:8-13; Hebrews 11:10; 1 Peter 2:1-10)
 - Future for ethnic Israel, for repentance (Romans 11)
 - The land promises were always about the whole earth (Romans 4:13; Ephesians 6:1-3)
5. In a future _____ reign
 - God's future plan for national Israel includes both _____ and _____
 - Israel will exist as one nation among the nations of the earth (e.g. Isa 19:23-25; Zech 14; Rev 21-22)
 - Expect a future _____ of Israel as a _____ (Deut 30:1-6; Jer 16:14-15; Eek 36:22-30; 37:21-29; Matt 19:28/Lk 22:30; Matt 23:37-39/Luke 13:35; Acts 1:3-8; Rom 11)
 - Expect the nation of Israel to exist _____ (Jer 31:35-37)
 - The OT covenant promises to Israel are still the _____ of Israel (Rom 9:3-4; Acts 3:11, 24-26)
 - NT _____ expects a future for Israel (Mt 24:15; 2 Thess 2:3-4; Luke 21:24; Rev 7:4-9; Rev 21:10-14)
 - Israel is _____ the Church

6. In the future _____ state

What might Christians agree about (see John 14:6; Rom 11)?

How then should the United States relate to Israel?

- Defend it's right to _____ as a nation

- Long for the Israelites to _____ and turn to Jesus their _____!

- Exhort Israel to engage _____ with others
 - Don't believe that Israel can "do nothing _____!"

- To ally or not?

- Christians might wish to _____ the historical sites of our faith

- Beware that Anti-_____ is alive and well today

- Being allies with Israel makes us a _____ of Arabs