

Answers from Stephen Sizer following the Week 34 Kumi Now Online gathering

Note: During the online gathering our guests only had time to answer a few questions. We compiled the rest of the questions that were answered and forwarded them to the Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer. He graciously answered all of your questions.

Q: I heard about this group since long time and I did not feel they have that effect as politics. I think the idea is that political than religion. they are small??? also they live in a community where we can face and discuss them and try to stop them??? what about Islam Zionism do you think they exist and have an effect and support to Israel and who is more dangerous on Palestine????

A: Christian Zionism is primarily a religious movement with a political agenda. There are at least 50 million Christian Zionists in the USA and probably another 50 million worldwide. Read more about the history, theology and politics of CZ here:

Where does Christian Zionism come from? [The Historical Roots](#)

What do Christian Zionists Believe? [The Theological Basis](#)

What is the Impact of Christian Zionism? [The Political Agenda](#)

Christian Zionism is the greatest impediment to a just and lasting peace in Palestine. I am not aware of any Islamic Zionism. It is an oxymoron.

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Q: I am a Christian in south Africa and feel so strongly about the gross human rights abuses and injustices that are going on, and lies that are being propagated and preached in the majority of our churches. Apart from prayer, can you give us ideas of how we can help and what we can do to be able to stand in solidarity with the Palestinians and try to speak out about these issues...

A: Subscribe to the regular mailings from Sabeel Palestine. Visit Palestine on a Sabeel Witness Tour. Help organise a Friends of Sabeel South Africa <https://www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/kairos-south-africa/>

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Q: Dr. Sizer, how do you maintain hope?

A: The arc of history bends toward justice. We worship and serve the God of justice who has called us and equipped us by His Holy Spirit to be peacemakers. And the last page of the Book of Revelation gives us a vision of the future.

“Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴‘He will wipe every tear from their

eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelation 21:1-4)

May this vision fill you with hope.

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Q: Thank you for this great presentation. Apart from trying to burst the balloon of Christian Zionism, can we put a priority on joining together and with each other and with Rev. William Barber in asking the leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement include demands for justice for the Palestinian people in there. In Chicago and elsewhere Israel and Zionist rabbis have succeeded in co-opting many black religious leaders, who need to be challenged in asking for opposition to police violence in the United States while ignoring violence against Palestinians in Israel.

A: Yes indeed – Get in touch with Friends of Sabeel North America and engage with them. <https://www.fosna.org>

You don't have to try hard to burst a balloon. Any one of these passages is sufficient. Become familiar with them and quote them. <http://www.stephensizer.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/7-Biblical-Answers-Israel-and-the-Church-2019.pdf>

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Q: What are your observations about the evangelisation coming from Africa - West Africa - welcomed by the English Churches, but some of whom are rampant Christian Zionists and preaching deliverance ministry? Netanyahu is courting African nations.

A: The church in Africa has been heavily influenced by Dispensationalism and the Prosperity Gospel from the USA. The antidote to Christian Zionism is biblical literacy. Help inoculate people with these passages <http://www.stephensizer.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/7-Biblical-Answers-Israel-and-the-Church-2019.pdf>

Netanyahu and his colleagues are losing support in the USA and Europe so he is turning to African and Asian countries for support. We need to help our African friends realise that Zionism is another form of European colonialism and encourage empathy for the struggle of the Palestinians to liberate themselves from this new form of slavery.

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Q: What role does the Catholic Church / Catholics play in Christian Zionism?

A: Read more here <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/8385/vatican-adviser-says-catholics-must-take-seriously-the-biblical-promises-to-israel>

and also here

<https://carleton.ca/studyisrael/2014/erin-drawson-pope-francis-israel-christian-zionism/>

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Q: Could you talk about Christian Zionists in Britain and Europe? Numbers and agenda?

A: I trace the history of Christian Zionism in the UK here

<http://www.stephensizer.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Christian-Zionism-Master-History-part-1.pdf>

Numbers are hard to come by but there is a latent Christian Zionism in all the established churches. When was the last time you heard a Bishop or church leader criticize the policies of Israel toward the Palestinians?

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Q: It seems the Israeli political leadership has been very smart is manipulating Christian Zionism...why do Jews not fear this movement given they will be damned to hell if they don't accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour at the end of time????

A: Israeli leaders are not stupid. They are glad to receive the political and financial support of Christian Zionists while distancing themselves from the more fundamentalist kinds of theology. Many Christian Zionists equate evangelism with supporting Israel because they hold two a dual covenant theology.

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Q: Under what title do you call selling lands to the Israelis by the orthodox church in Jerusalem?

A: They are complicit in threatening the future existence of the Palestinian church.

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Q: Do you think a one-state solution is viable?

A: One democratic state? Yes indeed but only if Israel gives up being a Jewish state, recognises the right of return and offers compensation to all Palestinian whose homes have been destroyed and land stolen. Jeff Halper will elaborate next Tuesday in Kumi Now 35.

<https://icahd.org>

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Q: I have been discouraged by a lack of interest and empathy there is for the situation of Palestinians. “Do you think it is because of the Judeo-Christian cultural background that we in the church are conditioned by? Surely in the 21st century the human rights agenda is more significant?”

A: The legacy of antisemitism and the Holocaust has cast a long shadow over Europe which explains in part why many older people are reluctant to hold Israel accountable to international human rights law. The BDS movement and need for Palestinian solidarity is clearly resonating with younger people who care more about human rights and other issues such as climate change.

See here <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/mar/07/debunking-myth-that-anti-zionism-is-antisemitic>

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Q: So Germany is feeling so bad about how the Jews were treated during the second WW.... why is it that the Jews simply turned round and have treated the Palestinians in the same way... are they entitled to take their anger out on the Palestinians who were not responsible for the Holocaust?

A: This is why we must uphold the rule of international law and call for War Crimes investigations where ever they occur.

See here <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/middle-east-and-north-africa/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/report-israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2019/dec/20/icc-to-investigate-alleged-israeli-and-palestinian-war-crimes>

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Q: Could you say something about the Anxiety for Armageddon. Climate Change threatens humanity on the planet and there is a perceived reality to the arrival of Armageddon?

A: I agree with you that Climate Change is a vital issue. Regarding our view of the future see here for some options:

<http://www.stephensizer.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/zcs6.pdf>

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Q: Thank you for your presentations. Dr. Sizer, what are your thoughts on replacement theology/supersessionism, as in, the New Testament supersedes the promises in the Hebrew Bible? This type of thinking can unfortunately discredit

aspects of Jewish theology, can fuel anti-Semitism, which simply put, can diminish chances of a more just and less defensive state of Israel. I think this is something European Christians in particular need to be very careful about, considering history of Christian production of Anti-Semitism. I am learning in Divinity School how very complex it is to speak up, as we need to do, for justice for Palestinians, Christian and Muslim, and at the same time, not contribute to supersessionist ideas. I am not in favour of equating criticism of the State of Israel with anti-Semitism, that is dangerously simplified and unhelpful, but we do need to be careful about reproducing anti-Semitic ideas that discredit Jewish identity and faith in a similar way Dr. Alqassis beautifully described.

A: I address supercessionism here <http://www.stephensizer.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/zcs1.pdf>

And also here <http://www.stephensizer.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/zcs2.pdf>

Jesus has superseded the role God gave Israel to be the light to the Gentiles (John 8:12).

The New Covenant has indeed superseded and replaced the Old Covenant (Hebrews 8:13).

See also the chart which compares the Church with Israel on page 4 of this outline:

<http://www.stephensizer.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/7-Biblical-Answers-Israel-and-the-Church-2019.pdf>

This theological view has nothing to do with Zionism or antisemitism.

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Q: It seems to me that Christian Zionist theology hangs on their interpretation of the book of Revelation. Can you give us a pin to deflate that balloon?

A: I do so here: <http://www.stephensizer.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/zcs6.pdf>

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Q: Isn't the Christian Zionist belief about End Times fundamentally anti-Semitic? All Jews will have to convert to Christianity or perish?

A: Fundamentalist Christian Zionism is indeed antisemitic if by that you mean they believe many, if not most, Jewish people will perish in a War of Armageddon and are not trying to avoid it happening.

See here for some ideas: <http://www.stephensizer.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/zcs6.pdf>

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Q: Am intrigued we go to the foundation not also the fruits of their actions.... comparing Christian Zionists with the commandments! How do they get around that contradiction!?

A: Agree. They get away with it by selective use of Scripture. See here for more information on how Christian Zionists do their theology <http://www.stephsizer.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/Christian-Zionism-Master-Theology-part-2.pdf>

And here on how to deconstruct it: <http://www.stephsizer.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/7-Biblical-Answers-Israel-and-the-Church-2019.pdf>