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[Next Online
Gathering](#)

[This Week's
Entry](#)

[Kumi
Action](#)

[You Should
Know](#)

[Upcoming
Weeks](#)

Week 34: Christian Zionism

THE JERUSALEM DECLARATION ON CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

Statement by the Patriarch and Local Heads of Churches In Jerusalem

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

Christian Zionism is a modern theological and political movement that embraces the most extreme ideological positions of Zionism, thereby becoming detrimental to a just peace within Palestine and Israel. The Christian

Dear Kumi Now supporter,

The Jerusalem Declaration on Christian Zionism was issued 16 years ago by Palestinian Christian churches on August 22, 2006. The signatories were Patriarch Michel Sabbah, Archbishop Swerios Malki Mourad, Bishop Riah Abu El-Assal, and Bishop Munib Younan. You can read the Jerusalem Declaration on Anti-Semitism [here](#).

All Palestinians, regardless of their faith, face similar challenges. However, Palestinian Christians face a specific kind of challenge from Christian Zionists who manipulate scripture to support the oppression of Palestinians. Join us this week as we address the threats posed by Christian Zionism and its misguided theology:

Next Online Gathering

WEEK 34	CHRISTIAN ZIONISM
KUMI NOW ONLINE	TUESDAY AUGUST 22 6PM (UTC+3)
	featuring Mimi Kirk of Al-Shabaka

August 22: Week 34 - Christian Zionism

[Full information on the gathering is here.](#)

Our guest will be the author, editor, and academic administrator **Mimi Kirk** of **Al-Shabaka**.

Time: Tuesday, August 22, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+3) That's...

- Pacific (Seattle/Vancouver): 8am
- Central (Chicago): 10am
- Eastern (New York/Toronto): 11am
- Atlantic: 12pm
- Newfoundland: 12:30pm
- Greenwich (London): 4pm

- Central Europe (Paris/Stockholm): 5pm
- South Africa: 5pm
- Manila: 11pm
- Sydney: 1am (+1 Day)
- Auckland: 3am (+1 Day)

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94679502800> (There might be a quick registration form, and please set an alarm for yourself for Tuesday.)

Remember, if you'd like to receive a reminder about the gathering an hour before it begins, please use the [registration form at the bottom of the page](#).

This Week's Kumi Now Entry

Kumi Week #34: Christian Zionism

Week 34 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). At its simplest, Christian Zionism is Christian support for Zionism. Christian Zionists support Zionism as a national movement for the return of the Jewish people to Palestine and the sovereignty of the Jews over the whole land. They see themselves as defenders of the Jewish people and the state of Israel. Christian Zionists are organized into a broad coalition of agencies around the world. There are an estimated 250 Christian Zionist organizations operating in America alone.

Christian Zionists claim that the promise of the land made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph was unconditional and eternal. God who scattered Israel will gather Israel back. Christian Zionists believe that Jewish people are the chosen race and have a unique relationship to God. According to their biblical literalism, they believe the Church's responsibility is to provide comfort and blessing to Israel in order to keep God's blessing. Those deemed to be critical of Israel are viewed as thwarting God's will.

Please read the essay on this issue and the story of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer on challenging Christian Zionism. In 2022 we were [joined by Rev. Dr. Don Wagner](#) and in 2021 we were [joined by Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer](#) for our online gatherings.

And earlier this year, many of you were with us for the release of *Overcoming Christian Zionism in the Quest for Justice* by **Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek**. You can find that webinar [on our website](#) and purchase it [here](#).

And here are a few more facts for you:

Understanding Christian Zionism: Just the Facts. The Political Agenda of Christian Zionism...

- "The belief that the Jews remain God's chosen people leads Christian Zionists to seek to bless Israel in material ways. However, this also invariably results in the uncritical endorsement of and justification for Israel's racist and apartheid policies, in the media, among politicians and through solidarity tours to Israel.
- As God's chosen people, the final restoration of the Jews to Israel is therefore actively encouraged. The emigration of Jews from Russia is funded and facilitated by Christian Zionist agencies in partnership with the Jewish Agency.
- Eretz Israel, as delineated in the Hebrew scriptures, from the Nile to the Euphrates, belongs exclusively to the Jewish people, therefore the land must be annexed and colonised, Palestinians forcibly removed through home demolitions and land confiscation and the illegal Jewish settlements expanded and consolidated.

- Jerusalem is regarded as the eternal and exclusive capital of the Jews, and cannot be shared with the Palestinians. Therefore Christian Zionists have lobbied the US Administration to relocate its embassy to Jerusalem and thereby ensure that Jerusalem is recognised as the undivided capital of Israel.
- Christian Zionists offer varying degrees of support for organisations such as the Jewish Temple Mount Faithful who are committed to destroying the Dome of the Rock and rebuilding the Jewish Temple on the Haram Al-Sharif (Noble sanctuary of Al-Aqsa).
- Christian Zionists invariably have a pessimistic view of the future, convinced that there will be an apocalyptic war of Armageddon in the imminent future. They are deeply sceptical of the possibility of a lasting peace between Jews and Arabs and therefore oppose the peace process."

Sources

This week's Just the Facts comes from **Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer's** ["What Is Christian Zionism?"](#)

Learning More

Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer has a book called *Zion's Christian Soldier's? The Bible, Israel, and the Church* (more info below). And you can watch Stephen Sizer's [2019 talk on Christian Zionism](#) at the Christ at the Checkpoint USA conference.

To go deeper, we will be developing an extensive list of [Additional Resources](#) at the bottom of this week's entry as well as a [YouTube playlist](#) on the subject.

Once you understand the situation you'll want to get involved. Here's the Kumi Action for this week:

Kumi Action



Speak with a representative of your school library or community library, encouraging them to stock more digital and physical resources and books that counteract the harmful politics and theology of Christian Zionism. Ask them to stock the books mentioned below or buy one of these books yourself and donate it to a library or pass it on to a friend!

Possible books:

- Naim Ateek, Cedar Duaybis, and Mauine Tobin (eds) *Challenging Christian Zionism* (Melisende, 2005)
- Gary Burge, *Whose Land, Whose Promise?* (Authentic, 2003)
- Colin Chapman, *Whose Promised Land?* (Lion publishing, 2002)
- Stephen Sizer, *Christian Zionism: Roadmap to Armageddon?* (IVP, 2004)
- Stephen Sizer, *Zion's Christian Soldiers?: The Bible, Israel and the Church* (IVP, 2007)

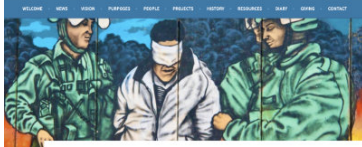
Take pictures of the books you requested or donated and share them on social media. Include a link to [this page of the Kumi Now website](#) along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi34.

You Should Know

One or two people, companies, or organizations generally related to the issue of the week you should know, and how you can follow them online.



Peacemakers Trust



WELCOME
We seek to be catalysts for peacemaking, especially where minorities are persecuted, where justice is denied, human rights are suppressed or reconciliation is needed.

Peacemakers Trust aspires to be catalysts for peacemaking, especially where minorities are persecuted, where justice is denied, human rights are suppressed, or reconciliation is needed. Our vision is of a world reconciled to God and where people are at peace with one another. The **Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer** is the founder and director. His PhD thesis examined the historical roots, theological basis, and political consequences of Christian Zionism.

You can find Peacemakers Trust on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#). You can find Stephen Sizer on his [website](#) and follow him on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Upcoming Weeks

And here's what we have coming up in August so you can plan ahead and decide how you want to be a part of Kumi Now:

KUMI NOW ONLINE: AUGUST, 2023

Week 31	Week 32	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35
				
August 1 <i>Collective Punishment</i>	August 8 <i>Indigenous Rights</i>	August 15 <i>U.S. Role in Palestine</i>	August 22 <i>Christian Zionism</i>	August 29 <i>Art as Resistance</i>

EVERY TUESDAY | 6PM PALESTINE TIME | KUMINOW.COM

Each week below will have an online gathering with a guest or guests speaking on the topic. The time and Zoom link are the same each week.

The weekly newsletter will always contain reminders of the upcoming online gatherings and the Zoom link. But if you're like me and need a reminder right before the sessions begin, you can [register to receive a reminder email one hour prior to each online gathering](#). And no more digging through your inbox looking for the Zoom link! Just [use the registration form at the bottom of the page](#).



August 27 to September 2: Week 35 - Art as Resistance

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Art as a creative tool of resistance is a cornerstone of a successful nonviolent resistance. While some resist the occupation with stones or guns or worse, and others turn to politics or religion, still others turn to art. One such artist was Naji Al-Ali, the political cartoonist who created Handala. Naji Al-Ali was assassinated for his art, and died on August 29, 1987. In honor of Naji Al-Ali, and all the brave Palestinian artists who have risked their lives in the service of truth and art, this week we look at art as resistance in Palestine.

For our Kumi Action we will work with a local church, gallery, concert venue, theatre, or school to host or produce a show of Palestinian art or that features Palestinian artists.

Closing Thoughts

On Tuesday, we talked to author **Kathleen Christison** about her newest book, ***Justice on the Cross: Palestinian Liberation Theology, the Struggle against Israeli Oppression, and the Church***. The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and on our [website](#). The website includes her bio and links shared during the gathering. You can buy the book on the [publisher's website](#) or from your local bookstore.

We hope to see you in the online gathering on Tuesday, after which you'll receive another newsletter next Saturday, focused on our next topic, [Art as Resistance](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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kumi@kuminow.com



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