

WHY ISRAEL?

Historical & Biblical Foundations

“I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12:3

Those who protect Israel will be blessed. The Abrahamic Covenant between God and the Jewish people, giving them their land rights, is unconditional and everlasting. The blessing was passed down through Abraham's son, Isaac, then to Isaac's son, Jacob. God changed Jacob's name to Israel and gave him the Promised Land (Genesis 35).

A dangerous ideology called "supersessionism" is being taught in many churches today, stating that Jews rejected their rights to God's blessings in His covenant when they rejected Jesus as the Messiah. This theology ignores God's constant, unchanging character and rebuilds walls of hostility and anti-Semitism. The Creator gave Israel the land within its borders, while nations within the global community have also officially recognized it as an independent state.

CWA added Support for Israel as its seventh core issue as a result of a thorough study of both Scripture and foreign policy – met equally with prayer. CWA and its Board of Trustees' conviction is that supporting Israel is crucial for us as Christian Americans because it is an important issue to God. For us, that reason is enough. But there are also the foreign policy implications of the U.S. – Israeli relationship that further solidify CWA's position.



U.S. – Israeli Relations

The U.S. was the first nation to recognize Israel's sovereignty in 1948 and the first to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in 2017. In addition, the Trump Administration catalyzed the *Abraham Accords*, forming a peace alliance between Israel, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, and the U.S.

Israel is our strongest ally in the Middle East. Our continued partnership is crucial as Israel controls a strategic location amidst a very unstable region. CWA supports policies to protect Israel for the following reasons:

- ◆ Shared Values
- ◆ Trade/Economic Growth
- ◆ Military/Security
- ◆ Peace-Seeking

Shared Values

Israel is the only democratic nation in the Middle East. In contrast to the U.S. bicameral system, Israel's Parliamentary democracy is made up of a one-house parliament, including the Knesset legislative body.

The Knesset incorporates open and free elections and upholds the inherent liberties of its citizens, such as the freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and the right to petition the government. Israel respects the rule of law and is the only country in the Middle East granting full equality to women.

Israel additionally encompasses the term *Tikkun Olam*, meaning world repair, as its guide for social action and generosity. With this essence of *Tikkun Olam*, Israel created a lasting legacy of philanthropy with its humanitarian and medical aid for countries working to obliterate Israel from the map. Some examples of Israel's medical aid can be seen with the Save a Heart Foundation, the Western Galilee Medical Center, and Israel's care for Gaza.

Trade/Economic Growth



Thanks to the U.S-Israeli Free Trade Agreement, over \$33.19 billion worth of goods and services are traded every day between the two nations, and Israel is one of the top Middle East investors in the United States economy.¹ Despite the majority of Israel's land being covered in the Negev desert, the desert landscape is continually transforming through innovations, such as modern drip irrigation, into an oasis that feeds the world. Israel's Agency for International

Development Coordination, MASHAV, aims to share Israel's innovation.

Military/Security

The U.S. has developed a strategic military partnership with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and Israel Defense Ministry. Israel has shared intel and developed weaponry to defend against terrorist attacks, including the Iron Dome rocket defense system to protect its civilians. The IDF has also held counter-terrorism training for the U.S. forces and the U.S. bought two Iron dome systems for national defense in 2019.²

Peace-Seeking

The Israeli leadership has sought peace negotiations on multiple occasions, only to be rejected by the Arab government. Recognizing Israel's right to exist is the first step towards peace with Israel. The Palestinian Authority (PA), while refusing to recognize Israel as a state, created a unity government with the terrorist group Hamas that combats to eliminate the state of Israel completely. In contrast, Israel continues to reach out and provide aid and medical care to the people from countries hostile to their existence in the hope of forming peace in the future.

Terrorist Threats and the BDS Movement

There are multiple terrorist cells surrounding the region that threaten Israeli security, such as the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Army of Islam, Hezbollah, Fatah, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. These groups target innocent civilians, including their own, to create global sympathy for their cause.

The BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement is a danger to the nation of Israel. It is a global movement against Israeli companies, products, investments, and international economic recognition with sanctions.



Packaged as a "rights-based" campaign for all Palestinian people groups, BDS promotes the debilitation of Israel in the name of anti-apartheid and opposition to the occupation of the Palestinian people. BDS is not an act of tolerance or anti-racism but attacks Israel globally. BDS can also be observed spreading anti-Semitic ideologies throughout college campuses throughout the U.S. However, no rhetoric or movement can legitimize anti-Semitism.³

CWA is aware of the vigilance America must put forth to protect the Israeli people.

A Call to Prayer

We, as Christians, are called to pray for the peace of Israel (Psalm 122).

- ◆ Pray for an end to the strife in the Middle East.
- ◆ Pray against violent extremism and corrupt leadership.
- ◆ Pray for protection for civilians.
- ◆ Pray for wise U.S. leadership.

Endnotes

¹ustr.gov/countries-regions/europe-middle-east/middle-eastnorth-africa/israel

²defensenews.com/digital-show-dailies/smd/2019/08/12/its-official-us-army-inks-iron-dome-deal/

³israelactionnetwork.org/bds-101

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