

Lesson 5

Situational Awareness: Understanding the Current Conflict Between Israel & Palestine

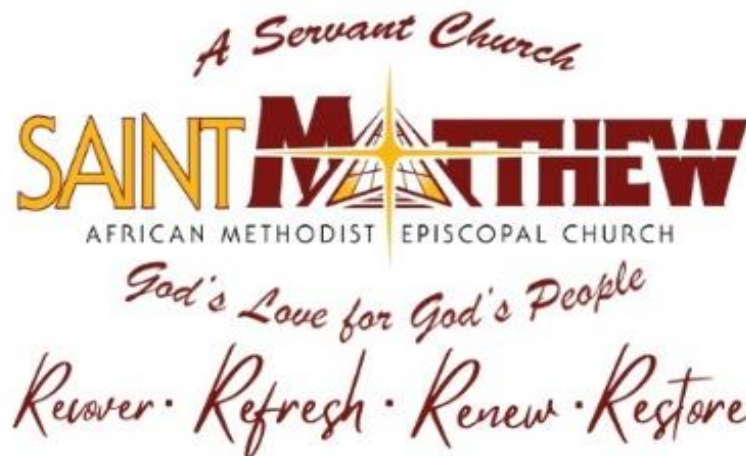
Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Online Bible Study

6:30 pm

Zoom Meeting ID 973 678 1217, Passcode 6781293

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I. TONIGHT'S LESSON IS ONE OF THOSE TANGENTS THAT I MENTIONED THAT WE WOULD PERIODICALLY TAKE.

- A. We are still dealing with the Bible Is Black History.
- B. Our focus tonight is, "What is the history and nature of the conflict between Israel and Palestine?"
- C. Why are they fighting?
- D. Why does the United States government seem to unequivocally support Israel?
- E. Is there any biblical connection to any of this?
- F. We must have "situational awareness."
- G. Qualifier: I am no expert on any of this.

II. THE "BIBLICAL" BEGINNINGS OF THE CONFLICT – GENESIS 15:18-21

1. The Land

¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi^[e] of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— ¹⁹the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, ²¹Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites." – Genesis 15:18-21



2. Chosen People

When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—² and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy.³ Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons,⁴ for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.⁵ This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles^[b] and burn their idols in the fire.⁶ **For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.**⁷ The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.⁸ But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. – Deuteronomy 7:1-9

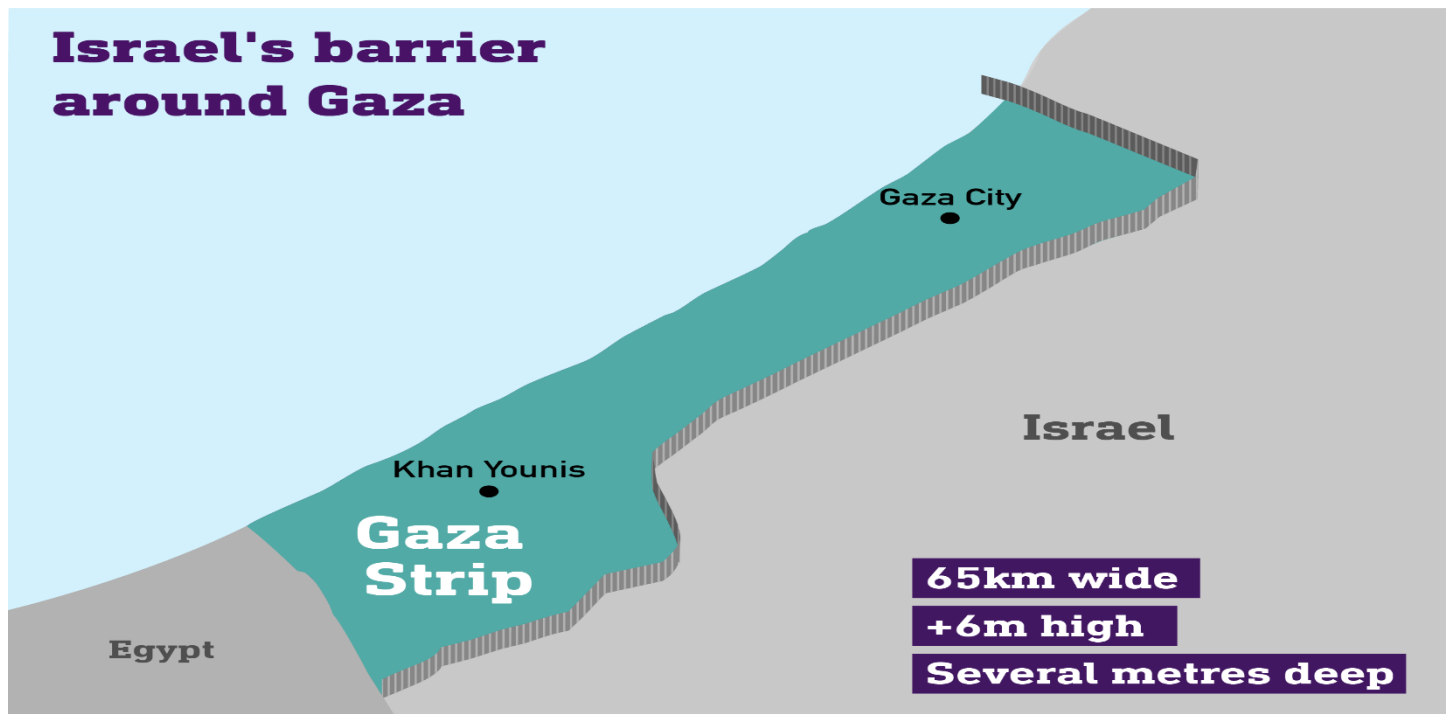
3. Common Ancestry Leads to a Common Claim
 - a. The Palestinian Covenant – Deuteronomy 29 – 31

III. FAST FORWARD – ISRAEL ESTABLISHED AS A NATION-STATE

- A. Under the British Mandate (1920–1948), the whole region was known as 'Palestine'.
- B. Israel's founding father David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the modern State of Israel on May 14, 1948, establishing a safe-haven for Jews fleeing persecution and seeking a national home on land to which they cite deep ties over generations. The British Mandate expired on this date. Recognized by President Harry Truman.
- C. Why the United States was interested in this area:
 - a. Oil
 - b. Worried about Soviet influence
- D. Ongoing conflict between Palestinian Arabs and Palestinian Jews

IV. WHAT IS HAMAS? (FROM NPR)

1. [Founded in 1987](#) and led by Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas is an acronym for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya, or the “Islamic Resistance Movement.”
2. It is dedicated to the establishment of an independent Islamic state in historical Palestine and has controlled the Gaza Strip — one of two Palestinian territories, along with the West Bank — since 2007. The United Nations classifies Israel as an occupier state over the Palestinian territories, whose occupations and annexations following the 1967 Six-Day War remain in violation of international law.
3. Hamas is one of two major political forces in the Palestinian territories, the other being Fatah, a rival group previously known as the Palestinian National Liberation Movement. Fatah retains control of the Palestinian National Authority in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.
4. The military wing of Hamas is known as the [al Qassem Brigades](#), the largest and best-equipped military group operating within Gaza.
5. Since 2007, Israel has imposed an air, land and sea blockade on the Gaza Strip, saying the move was necessary to prevent Hamas attacks on the country. The United Nations and international human rights groups have condemned the blockade, and have described Gaza as the “the world’s largest open-air prison.” Residents of Gaza are surrounded by concrete walls and barbed wire fences, unable to leave the territory without Israeli-approved permits.



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6. Half of Gaza’s population is under the age of 19 but faces dire economic prospects, as 16 years of Israel’s blockade and a ban on imports and exports have crippled the economy. The unemployment rate in Gaza is above 40%, more than 65% of the population is under the poverty line, and 63% of Gazans are deemed [food insecure](#), according to the U.N.



7. Hamas has always espoused violence as a means to liberate occupied Palestinian territories and has called for the annihilation of Israel. Hamas has carried out suicide bombings and over the years fired tens of thousands of increasingly powerful rockets from Gaza into Israel. It also established a network of tunnels running from Gaza to Egypt to smuggle in weapons, as well as attack tunnels burrowing into Israel. In recent years, Hamas had appeared to be more focused on running Gaza than attacking Israel.
8. The Gaza Strip is 41 km (25 mi) long, from 6 to 12 km (3.7 to 7.5 mi) wide, and has a total area of 365 km² (141 sq mi).

V. SO WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN TO US?

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____

ALWAYS KEEP THIS PICTURE ON YOUR MIND!

