



THE
FATHER'S
HOUSE

*A Believers Response to
the Israel-Hamas War*

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A FATHER'S HOUSE RESOURCE

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The entire world watched in disbelief as the terror group Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023. It was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

Sadly, that dark day was just the beginning of an escalating war between Israel and Hamas. The cost of war is heavy, and the present escalation indicates that this conflict may be far from over.

We grieve with the thousands of Israeli families who have endured extreme trauma and have lost loved ones in unfathomable ways. This calculated terror attack against innocent civilians is morally reprehensible in every way. As believers, we are called to stand for righteousness, justice, and the preservation of life - to reflect God's heart of love and compassion, and a hatred for evil.

We also mourn the loss of civilians in Gaza. As we read the headlines, **it's very important to distinguish between the Islamic Jihadist organization of Hamas and the Palestinian people**, many of whom are trapped and live as victims of Hamas' oppressive regime in Gaza.

FINDING A BALANCED BIBLICAL RESPONSE

Believers may refrain from speaking publicly about Israel because the topic can feel like a "landmine" subject. It is all too easy for people to lean to extremes, so our tendency might be to choose silence over being caught in a fight we didn't pick. Offenses or biases can readily surface, considering underlying antisemitism, ignorance of the history of these people groups, and layers of geopolitical complexities.

Finding language that reflects a balanced biblical perspective can be challenging. You may feel like, "I'm criticized if I say something but don't say it just right, but I feel a conviction and obligation to clarify my position or stand with Israel."

Although this resource is far from comprehensive, perhaps some of the following points can help us as we share God's love with others and endeavor to frame a biblical response to this conflict.

1. Recognize the True Nature of the Conflict

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
Ephesians 6:12

We know that the core of this conflict goes much deeper than the current events taking place. **This is, first and foremost, a spiritual battle**, foreshadowed from the beginning of time (Gen 3:15). By God's grace, we must look beyond natural and worldly perspectives to how the Lord would have us pray and partner with Him in the spiritual realm (2 Cor 5:16; Ps 121).

Understanding the unfolding events and the contributing factors is important. Ultimately, we must choose God's higher ways and thoughts and recognize the spiritual nature of this war (2 Cor 10:3-6; Is 55:8-9). The enemy of our souls seeks to steal, kill, and destroy, to extinguish the image of God in all humanity. There are spiritual forces operating behind the natural conflict.

2. Stand for Truth & Justice with Biblical Clarity

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. Psalm 89:14

The Bible says, “Those who fear the Lord hate evil” (Proverbs 8:13). We must stand strong on the principles of God’s Word and call evil for what it is. Murder, rape, and the torture of innocent human beings is sinful in God’s eyes.

The Lord is a God of justice. He hates “hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, and feet that make haste to run to evil” (Pro 6:17-18). There is a place for righteous anger and even a time for war (Ecc 3:8).

We should not sanitize nor minimize the morally reprehensible slaughter of human life perpetrated by Hamas. The egregious attacks on Israeli civilians reflect an antisemitic and militant ideology that celebrates death over life - the same evil ideology espoused by both Haman (in the Book of Esther) and Hitler.

This war is not against the Palestinian people or Gaza as a whole. It is a protracted and just response against Hamas, a terrorist organization that has vowed to wipe Israel off the face of the earth.

To acknowledge evil and injustice in this world is essential. However, we must be careful not to fall prey to arguments of moral equivalence that aim to “balance the scales.” The sting of injustice can fill our hearts with such shock or anger that we feel the need to take sides. **Yet**, we know “the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God” (Jas 1:20). When we are blinded by anger, we may grow numb to the pain of another.

We want our response to reflect God’s righteousness and justice. As believers, we are called to courageously stand up for truth and the preservation of innocent life with compassion (Pr 24:11; Is 28:6).

3. Let it Touch Your Heart

“Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!” Jeremiah 9:1

Our Lord is well acquainted with grief (Is 53:3). There is a time to weep and a time to mourn (Ecc 3:4). Godly empathy should grip our hearts these days as we witness the grim reality of war. We are called to weep with those who weep (Rom 12:15).

Our tears are a form of intercession that can take us deeper into God’s heart.

God has a perfect heart of love and compassion for grieving families in Israel and Palestine. He sees the immense pain and suffering both sides have experienced. And so should we.

To grieve with one who is hurting need not diminish the pain and suffering of another. God alone perfectly balances mercy and justice. As believers, God invites us to experience His love for Israeli and Palestinian families at a deeper level - through our tears and prayers.

4. Focus on the Kingdom Narrative

*And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. **Ezekiel 36:23***

God has enduring covenant promises for His beloved Israel that He WILL fulfill. His very name and nature are staked on these promises. God also has a perfect heart of love and plans for the Palestinian people.

Leaders throughout history have tried and failed to resolve the deep conflict surrounding this land and its people. Many factors pressure us to choose one “side” or another in this conflict.

When Joshua encountered the Commander of the Lord’s Army before Jericho, he asked, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?” (Joshua 5:13-15). The resounding “NO” beckoned Joshua to take a humble stance and recognize that he stood on holy ground in the presence of the Sovereign Lord.

Remember, to love and support Israel, we don’t have to be against Palestinians, and in order to love Palestinians, we don’t have to be against Israel.

5. Recognize the True Pathway to Peace

*For He himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. **Ephesians 2:14-16***

Psalms 83 speaks of a day when the nations will conspire with one accord to wipe out Israel as a nation. The prophet Zechariah says Jerusalem will be a “cup of staggering” and a “heavy stone for the nations” (Zech 12:2-3). As we approach the end of days, the battle over God’s covenant purposes for Israel will ebb and seize like birth pains, ultimately culminating in a final battle and the Lord’s return.

Seasons of natural peace may come and go, but **we acknowledge that true and lasting peace can only come through Jesus, the Prince of Peace.** We desire that both Israelis and Palestinians would encounter the saving love of Jesus, the only source of true peace.

6. Stand with Local Believers

We can stand with the Body of Yeshua in Israel to lift their arms and encourage Jewish and Arab believers in this region. There are already movements of deep healing and reconciliation taking place. Many believing leaders are working tirelessly to promote true peace, reconciliation, and unity in an expression of the “One New Man.” This is good news that rarely reaches the headlines.

Most of both Israelis and Palestinians do not yet have a personal relationship with Yeshua. Many are crying out to the Lord in their distress and are encountering Yeshua in these days (Psalm 107). The harvest in the region is maturing, and we want to stand with local believers to lift our eyes and see the fields that are ripe for harvest (John 4:35).

It is our conviction that the local believers are the ones best poised to serve as ministers of reconciliation in this region in these difficult days (Eph 6:15; Isa 52:7; 2 Cor 5:14-18). The remnant may be small, but it is growing. The Lord is drawing many to Himself in this time and is turning the Valley of Achor (trouble) into a doorway of hope (Hosea 2:15).

7. Pursue Sound Doctrine & Understanding

*Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. **2 Timothy 4:2-4***

In days when shifting winds of doctrine abound, we must be diligent students of the Word, not drawing back in ignorance or apathy but **seeking to understand God's heart for Israel and for the Palestinian people with love and a spirit of humility**. Be aware of unhealthy theologies on Israel or the imbalance of extreme Palestinian Liberation Theology.

As believers, we desire to walk in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding regarding the days in which we live – to perceive the times and know what we ought to do (1 Chr 12:32; Pro 24:3-6).

7 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION

*Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. **Psalm 121:4-7***

*“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you. May peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces.” **Psalm 122:6-7***

1. PRAY for PEACE & SAFETY over Israel, Gaza, and the surrounding region.

Pray for a quick and just resolution to this war and that it will not escalate to multiple fronts (Ps 46:9). Pray that God would preserve life and protect innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilians from harm (Ps 91, 121). Pray especially that children in Israel and in Gaza would be spared from trauma and terror.

2. PRAY for HOPE & HEALING from loss and trauma.

Pray for families in Israel who are grieving the loss of loved ones, destruction of property, and have suffered trauma, and for many who are wounded or displaced. Pray for civilians in Gaza who have suffered loss and grief - that they will soon find freedom from Hamas' oppressive regime (Ps 82:4).

3. PRAY for FREEDOM for the CAPTIVES.

Pray that those who have been taken hostage into Gaza will be safe and rescued quickly without harm (Ps 4:8; Is 42:7). Pray for protection from ongoing trauma and that God would reveal His love to them even in a dark place.

4. PRAY for JUSTICE & TRUTH to prevail.

Pray for the Israeli government and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as they prepare a response to Hamas' attack. Pray for wisdom, unity, and safety for soldiers as they target terror infrastructure and aim to protect civilian lives at all costs (Rom 13:1; Prov 21:1; Ps 89:29-40, 110:10).

Pray that the Lord would expose and break every lie, deceptive propaganda, and false narrative. Pray that the truth would be evident (2 Cor 10:15; Is 59:14; Amos 5:24).

5. PRAY that fear, hatred, and incitement would cease.

Pray that the power of God's love would cast out all fear, enabling forgiveness and healing to minister to hearts and minds across Israel and Gaza (Ps 122:6-7; 133; 2 Tim 1:7).

6. PRAY for Believers in the Land to walk in love and unity.

Pray that the Body of Yeshua - Jew and Arab - would be united and find opportunities to provide hope & love to those who are suffering. Pray that God would use us to shine His light amid a dark situation (Ps 133; Jn 17:21). Pray for the small remnant of believers in Gaza to be protected and have opportunities to demonstrate God's love.

7. PRAY that nothing would hinder the spread of the gospel.

Pray that people's spiritual eyes and ears will be open to call out on the name of the Lord in these days. Pray that many throughout Israel and the region would have a divine revelation of Yeshua the Savior and turn to the Lord and be saved (Ps 107; Acts 2:21, 26:17-18).

“Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”