

# The Concurrently Companion



## Episode 42: Israel, Hamas, and worldviews at war

### Topic introduction

On October 7, the Islamist terrorist group Hamas launched an all-out surprise attack on Israel. We recorded this episode on October 13 when the numbers were still unclear. The situation is ongoing and constantly developing, but we feel it's important to cover it in order to explore the worldviews and philosophies at work and think through our discipleship response.

*Key terms: Israel, worldview, Hamas, Palestine, Gaza, eschatology, apocalyptic, Islam, Islamist, Judaism, postcolonialism, Neo-Marxism, misinformation, propaganda, secular humanism, monotheism, materialism (philosophy)*

### Discuss with your kids and students

Consider starting this discussion in prayer and by reading one of the following Psalms: 73, 74, 75, 76, 79, or 83 are particularly fitting as we contemplate the history of Israel and pray for the Lord to provide ultimate salvation, comfort, and righteous judgment for all His people from every nation tribe and tongue.

What are the emotions in your household at the moment? Where have you been getting your news? How is the news stirring your emotions or causing confusion or even conflict in your home and/or community?

Where has there been misinformation? How do we know? Has there been propaganda? (Define the term.) Think about what you have seen and where. Would it best fit the category of misinformation or propaganda? Where can we go to clear things up/find the truth?

Pull out a map. (Perhaps you still have a copy of the map we send out with our September/October God's WORLD News periodicals.) Identify Israel, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank. Consider the surrounding countries. What are they like culturally? What are their governments like? What are their primary religions? When were those countries established? What is the history of relationships between the countries in that area?

What is the history of Israel as a state? Is Palestine a state? Explain.

Who is *Hamas*? When did Hamas come to power and how?

What is a worldview?

What are the worldviews of the major stakeholders in this conflict? Where did their different worldviews originate/how did they develop? How do each of the stakeholders answer the major worldview questions? (Where did life begin? What is good? What is broken? What is the solution to the brokenness/what is required of man? What happens after death?)

Where do the worldviews conflict? How does this help us understand the conflicts in the Middle East in general and in Israel in particular?

What modern worldview exacerbates both the conflict and confusion here in the United States?

What does it mean that God is “transcendent”? That Jesus’ death is “salvific”? That we are “ingrafted” into Israel?

What does today’s news story have to do with ancient Israel’s obedience/disobedience? What does it have to do with God’s plan for salvation (to bless Israel *and* the ends of the Earth—see Genesis 12:1-3)? How does this relate to the idea of “covenant?” (Where do we find the “old” covenant and what is the “new covenant”?)

How do we view what is going to happen through these last days after Jesus’ resurrection? How do our beliefs about “end times” shape our current actions in the world?

### **Scriptural anchors/provision**

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. . . . Concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. — Matthew 24:6-8, 36

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