

The Society for Biblical Studies
10 Day Fact Finding & Peace Studies Program in Israel and Palestine
30 January—8 February 2025
4 Day elective *The Tent of Nations* returning 12 February 2025
Syllabus

Objectives:

- To gain understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its impact on neighboring countries, possibilities for resolution
- To learn through conversation and dialogue with Israelis and Palestinians
- To explore the dynamics of conflict and examine the fundamentals of conflict resolution
- To explore the religious dimensions of conflict
- To examine models of effective advocacy

Bibliography: There is no required reading. Participants will find the following helpful. This bibliography is a sampling of the vast literature that informs the program.

- 1) Ateek, Naim. *Justice and Only Justice*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1989.
- 2) Baconi, Tariq. *Hamas Contained: the Rise and Pacification of Palestinian Resistance*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2018.
- 3) Braverman, Mark. *Fatal Embrace: Christians, Jews and the Search for Peace in the Holy Land*. Austin, TX: Synergy Books, 2010
- 4) Burg, Avraham. *The Holocaust is Over, We Must Rise from Its Ashes*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2008.
- 5) Fromkin, David. *A Peace to End All Peace*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1989.
- 6) Gilbert, Martin. *Israel: a History*. San Francisco: Harper, 1998.
- 7) Herzl, Theodor. *Der Judenstaat English*. Hamburg: Tredition Classics, 2012.
- 8) Juergensmeyer, Mark. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000.
- 9) Khalidi, Rashid. *Brokers of Deceit: How the U.S. Has Undermined Peace in the Middle East*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2014.
- 10) _____. *The Hundred Years War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance 1917-2017*. New York: Macmillan Publishers, 2017.
- 11) Mearsheimer, John J. and Walt, Stephen M. *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.
- 12) Miano, Peter J., Jason C. Mitchell, Thomas E. Phillips. *Prophetic Voices on Middle East Peace: A Jewish, Christian and Humanist Primer on Colonialism, Zionism and Nationalism in the Middle East*. Claremont: Claremont School of Theology Press, 2016.
- 13) Owen, Roger. *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. London: Routledge, 1992.
- 14) Pappé, Ilan. *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2006.
- 15) _____. *A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- 16) _____. *The Idea of Israel: A History of Power and Knowledge*. Brooklyn, NY: Verso,

2014.

- 17) Prior, Michael. *The Bible and Colonialism: A Moral Critique*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.
- 18) _____. *Zionism and the State of Israel: A Moral Inquiry*. New York: Routledge, 1999.
- 19) Sand, Shlomo. *The Invention of the Jewish People*. Brooklyn, NY: Verso, 2010.
- 20) _____. *The Invention of the Land of Israel: From Holy Land to Homeland*. Brooklyn: Verso, 2012.
- 21) Shlaim, Avi. *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2001
- 22) Whitlam, Keith W. *The Invention of Ancient Israel: the Silencing of Palestinian History*. London: Routledge, 1996.

Itinerary:

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| Day 1
30.1, Th | Depart USA |
| Day 2
31.1.25, F | Arrive Tel Aviv, transfer to hotel, tour Wall (time permitting)
overnight in Bethlehem |
| Day 3
1.2, Sa | Theme: Gaza, the Negev & Israel's Bedouin
AM forum: Orientation & Introductions
Field trip: Gaza border, visit site of Nova festival, visit Kibbutz Nir Oz, Al Sira,
meeting with Khalil Al Amour
PM forum: TBD
overnight in Bethlehem |
| Day 4
2.2, Su | Theme: Hebron & Competing Narratives
Field trip: visits with journalists, Mazi Qumsiyeh, Rev. Munther Isaaq (Christmas
Church, Bethlehem
overnight in Bethlehem |
| Day 5
3.2, M | Theme: Palestinian Resistance & Activism
Field trip: Tent of Nations, Al Arub refugee camp, Hebron: meeting with Issa
Amro, Jewish Community of Hebron, glass factories (time permitting)
PM forum: TBD
overnight in Bethlehem |
| Day 6
4.2, Tu | Theme: Zionism Reconsidered—Christian and Jewish
Field trip: Beit El, Hagi Ben Artzi, Kibbutz Mishmar ha Emek, meeting with
journalist/activist Lydia Aisenberg, Johnny Mansour
PM forum: TBD
overnight in Nazareth |

Day 7
5.2, W Theme: The Galilee and Israel's Christians
AM forum: Nationalism and Zionism
Field trip: Ibillin, Father Elias Chacour, Nazareth: Lynda Brayer, The Jordan River Valley
PM forum: Mainstream Christian Zionism
overnight in Jericho

Day 8
6.2, Th Theme: Progressive Israeli Perspectives
Field trip: Reut Macabbim, Rabbi Jeremy Milgrom, Tel Aviv: 1:00 PM Breaking the Silence
PM forum: TBD
overnight in Jerusalem

Day 9
7.2, F Theme: Progressive Israeli Perspectives
Field trip: B'tselem (Israeli Human Rights advocacy—subject to final confirmation), meeting with Sarit Michaeli, Harem esh Sharraf, WAQF
overnight in Jerusalem

Day 10
8.2, Sa Return to USA

4 Day Elective: Solidarity and Advocacy *The Tent of Nations*

Day 10-13 transfer to Tent of Nations
8—11,
Sa—Tu volunteer work

Day 14
12.2, W Return to the USA

- Worship will be arranged in Nazareth and/or in Jerusalem with indigenous Christians.
- Meetings indicated in the itinerary are illustrative only and subject to change until confirmed. Meetings with indigenous people are always subject to change due to local circumstances. Appropriate substitutions will be made in the event a speaker is unavailable.
- Daily itinerary is subject to local conditions, including weather, opening and closing hours, holidays, flight schedules, etc.
- Morning and evening fora on various topics will be arranged throughout the program