

Resources and books examining the Holy Land from a Christian perspective

There is a vast literature on this subject and its history, written from many different perspectives. What follows is designed to help Christians find their way around a basic introduction to the history, religious themes and some political comment.

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND BOOKS

Colin Chapman, *Whose Promised Land?* (Lion 2002 ISBN 0 7459 5111 2)

An excellent introduction with careful comments upon the religious claims made on all sides. Written from a clearly Christian perspective, well aware of good biblical scholarship.

Elias Chacour, *Blood Brothers* (Chosen Books 1984)

Elias Chacour, *We belong to the Land* (Harper Collins 1982 ISBN 0 06 061415 3)

These are autobiographical accounts which give more colour to the story and enable some understanding of the terrible pains and fears which drive both Jew and Arab, as well as the sheer horror of fighting and the experience of occupation. Both books by Chacour describe the life and work of one of the most outstanding Christian leaders of our time. They are inspirational, often funny, and show a Christian establishing a High School and University in Galilee against all the odds. A motto runs through much of this: 'Our God does not kill.'

Audeh Rantisi, *Blessed are the Peacemakers* (Zondervan 1990)

Tells of the life and witness of a Palestinian Christian who became a leading Anglican clergyman and worked tirelessly for justice and peace.

Riah Abu El Assal, *Caught in between* (SPCK 1999)

Recounts growing up as a Christian Arab-Israeli Anglican through all the troubles eventually serving as the Bishop of Jerusalem.

Arthur Gish, *Hebron Journal* (Herald 2001)

A quite remarkable account of a member of the Christian Peace Maker Team serving in Hebron with all the turmoil of encounters with settlers and protecting local Palestinian children and families. Movingly told.

Mitri Rahem, *Bethlehem Besieged* (Fortress 2004 ISBN 0 8006 3653 8)

A powerful description of living under siege when Bethlehem was under curfew for 40 days. Raheb is the Lutheran Pastor in Bethlehem and describes the effect of the siege on his family and church congregation.

II. REPORTS FROM AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS

Many agencies publish regular reports which are useful because the situation is so dynamic and things can change rapidly.

Christian Aid, *Facts on the Ground* (October 2004)

One Land, Many Voices

Both are excellent in information and presentation.

World Vision, *Who will wipe away their tears?* (August 2003)

A careful and detailed account of the children - Christian and Muslim and Jewish who died in a two year period, and the causes of their deaths.

Living Stones Magazine

The journal of an ecumenical body encouraging UK Christians to keep in contact with Christians in the Holy Land. Contact address: Jamil Ballata, 2 Castle Close, London SW19 5NH.

Cornerstone Magazine

The journal of Sabeel, the ecumenical liberation theology centre based in Jerusalem under the leadership and inspiration of Naim Ateek. There are Friends of Sabeel in the UK: Friends Meeting House, 65 Paradise Street, Liverpool L1 3BP.

Physicians for Human Rights in Israel & The Occupied Territories

This agency works to enable Israeli medical personnel to serve alongside Palestinian doctors in the Occupied Territories. They also campaign for human rights and issue excellent and well-researched reports on specific subjects. Contact address: PHR, 30 Levanda Street, Tel Aviv 66020, Israel.

B'Tselem - Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories

This has established a good reputation for accurate reporting and fervent support for Human Rights.

III. CHRISTIAN REFLECTION AND THEOLOGY

Donald Wagner, *Dying the Land of Promise* (Melisende 2001 ISBN 1 901764 50 8)

The history of the Christian Church in the Palestine is carefully described together with the challenges Christians face today along with all Palestinians. A good book which challenges many of the assumptions made in Western media.

Naim Ateek, *Justice and only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation* (Orbis 1990 ISBN 0 88344 545 X)

One of the most creative theological works to emerge from Palestine. This book claims that God's primary activity amongst human beings is to work for justice. A competent book by the founder of Sabeel Theology Centre for Liberation Theology.

Gary Burge, *Whose Land? Whose Promise? What Christians are not being told about Israel and the Palestinians* (Paternoster 2003 ISBN 1 84227 232 2)

Written mainly for the American evangelical market as a corrective to the common right-wing Christian Zionism. This is a fine study which also introduces many current Christian voices, e.g. Chacour, Ateek, Raheb and others.

Colin Chapman, *Whose Holy City?* (Lion 2005 ISBN 0 7459 5134 1)

Sets out the background to Christian teaching on the role of Jerusalem in biblical witness and many other claims today about the future control of the city. Very readable and competent.

Stephen Sizer, *Christian Zionism: Roadmap to Armageddon?* (IVP 2005)

Christian Zionism is a major feature of the American evangelical scene and very influential in American foreign policy. These ideas are not so well known in the UK but nevertheless it has some influence upon Christian teaching here in the country. It has occasioned an enormous and mainly American literature but has rarely been challenged theologically. This book is an important and thorough assessment - one of the best to date.

RESOURCES FOR AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

Websites giving clear accounts of Muslim reverence for al-Quds (Jerusalem)

www.mediareeviewnet.com

www.passia.org/meetings/rsunit/religasp-Islam.htm

www.sbia.net/igra/jerusalem.htm

www.bma-algods.org/englishsite/histor11.htm

Texts (which may be less useful for non-technical readers)

Abdul Rahman Abbad, 'The Theology of the Land: An Islamic Viewpoint', *Al-Liqa Journal*, Vol. 9, No. 10, June-December 1997, pp. 77-78.

F. E. Peters, *The Distant Shrine: The Islamic Centuries in Jerusalem* (AMS Press, New York, 1993. ISBN 0 404 61629 1)

L. Levine (ed.), *Jerusalem: Its Sanctity and Centrality to Judaism, Christianity and Islam* (Continuum, New York, 1999. ISBN 0 826 4 10243)

Martin Buber, *A Land of Two Peoples: Martin Buber on Jews and Arabs*, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr, 1983.

Ismail al-Faruqi, *Islam and Zionism*, pp. 261-267 in Esposito, John L. (ed.), *Voices of a Resurgent Islam* (Oxford University Press, 1983)

Kanan Makiya, *The Rock: A Tale of Seventh Century Jerusalem* (Constable, London 2001) - a novel.

Amira Hass (Israeli correspondent for Ha'aretz [Gaza & West Bank] newspaper), *Drinking the Sea at Gaza* (London, 1999)

Tariq Ramadan, *Western Muslims and the Future of Islam* (Oxford University Press, ISBN 0 19 517111 X)

Yossi Klein Halevi, *The Entrance to the Garden of Eden* (Harper Collins, ISBN 0 06 050582 6)

Farid Esak, *Qur'an Liberation and Pluralism* (One World, ISBN 1 85168 121 3)
Miroslav Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace* (Abingdon, ISBN 0 687 00282 6)

METHODIST CONFERENCE 2003

29. METHODIST COUNCIL (3) B. THE HOLY LAND REPORT APPENDIX

The Centre for Jewish-Christian Relationships, Cambridge. Bibliography for Sessions 2-4 within the MA module 'Land of Promise', led by Dr. George Wilkes.

Session 2 The Land: Jewish Perspectives

Eyal Ben-Ari and Yoram Bilu, eds., *Grasping Land: Space and Place in Contemporary Israeli Discourse and Experience* (State University of New York Press, 1997).

Meron Benvenisti, *Sacred Landscape: The Buried History of the Holy Land Since 1948*, 2000

Michael Berkowitz, *Zionist Culture and West European Jewry before the First World War*, 1993.

R. Brauner (ed.), *Jewish Civilisation: essays and studies: Vol. 3 Judaism and Christianity*, 1985.

Martin Buber, *A Land of Two Peoples: Martin Buber on Jews and Arabs*, ed. Paul Mendes-Flohr, 1983.

Arthur Cohen & Paul Mendes-Flohr (eds.), *Contemporary Jewish Religious Thought* (1987). Contains a number of short essays relevant to the theme.

James S. Diamond, *Homeland or Holy Land?: the 'Canaanite' critique of Israel*, 1986.

Shlomo Deshen, Charles S. Liebman & Moshe Skokeid (eds.), *Israeli Judaism: the sociology or religion in Israel*, 1995. A series of academic insights into the impact of Israeli social and political life on religious practice and thought.

Menachem Friedman, 'The State of Israel as a Theological Dilemma', in Baruch Kimmerling (ed.), *The Israeli State & Society: Boundaries & Frontiers*, 1989. More on religious responses to Zionism.

Ezea Gellman (ed.), *Essays on the thought and philosophy of Rabbi Kook*, 1991.
Lawrence J. Kaplan and David Shatz (eds.), *Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook and Jewish spirituality*, 1995.

Moshe Idel, 'Prophetic Kabbalah and the Land of Israel' in R. I. Cohen (ed.), *Vision and Conflict in the Holy Land*, 1985, pp. 102-110.

Ze'ev Levy's chapters in Daniel Frank & Oliver Leaman (eds.), *History of Jewish Philosophy*, 1997.

Ehud Luz in Arthur Green, *Jewish Spirituality: from the sixteenth-century revival to the present*, 1988.

Dow Marmur (ed.), *A Genuine Search: God, Torah, Israel - a Reform Perspective: essays in memory of Ignaz Maybaum*, 1979. A thoughtful and independent Reform perspective. Dow Marmur's son Michael is now the Principal of the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem.

Aviezer Ravitsky, *Messianism, Zionism and Jewish Religious Radicalism*, 1996. One of the more interesting works on development in the national-religious camp in the last thirty years.

Jehuda Reinharz & Anita Shapira (eds.), *Essential Papers on Zionism*, 1996. Essential if you are looking at the recent history of Zionism.

Bracha Sack, 'Eretz and Eretz Yisrael in the Zohar' (Hebrew), *Jerusalem Studies in Jewish Thought* (The Age of the Zohar) 8, 1989, pp. 239-253.

Bracha Sack, 'The Land of Israel in the Thought of Cordovero' (Hebrew), *The Land of Israel in Medieval Jewish Thought*, Jerusalem, 1991, pp. 321-341.

Eliezer Schweid, *The Land of Israel: national home or land of destiny?*, 1985.
F. Talmage (ed.), *Disputation and Dialogue: Readings in the Jewish-Christian Encounter*, 1975.

Steven J. Zipperstein, *Elusive Prophet: Ahad Ha'am and the origins of Zionism* , 1993.

A. B. Yehoshua, *Between Right and Right* , 1981.

www.sas.upenn.edu/penncip/lustick/index.html

Full text of Ian Lustick, *For the Land and the Lord: Jewish Fundamentalism in Israel* , 1988.

www.ariga.com/ozveshalom/judaism/nachmad.html

Site of OzveShalom Orthodox Jewish peace organisation.

Session 3 The Land: Christian Perspectives

Yaacov Ariel, *On Behalf of Israel: American fundamentalist attitudes toward Jews, Judaism, and Zionism, 1865-1945* , 1991.

W. Brueggemann, *The Land* , 1977.

Elias Chacour, *We Belong to the Land* , 1990/1992.

André Chouraqui, *Le reconnaissance: le Saint-Siege, les juifs et Israel* , 1992.
Saul Colbi, *Christianity in the Holy Land* , 1969.

Douglas J. Culver, *Albion and Ariel: British Puritanism and the birth of political Zionism* , 1995.

W. D. Davies, *The Gospel and the Land* , 1974.

Laurence J. Epstein, *Zion's Call: Christian contributions to the origins and development of Israel* , 1984.

Eugene Fisher, 'The Holy See and the State of Israel', *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 24 , No. 2, Spring 1987.

Anders Fogelqvist, *The Red-Dressed Zionists: symbols of power in a Swazi independent church*, 1986.

William Horbury in Barclay and Sweet, 1996, pp. 207-224

David Hunt, *Holy Land Pilgrimage in the Later Roman Empire, AD 312-460* , 1992.

D. Jaeger (ed.), *Tantur Papers on Christianity in the Holy Land* , 1981.

Anthony Kenny, *Catholics, Jews and the State of Israel* , 1993.

Hans Küng, *Judaism* , 1993, pp. 562-565.

Pinchas Lapide, *The Last Three Popes and the Jews* , 1967.

Paul C. Merkley, *The Politics of Christian Zionism, 1891-1948* , 1998.

Sergio I. Minerbi, *The Vatican and Zionism: Conflict in the Holy Land, 1895-1925*, 1990.

Anthony O'Mahoney et al. (eds.), *The Christian Heritage in the Holy Land*, 1995.

George Papadremetriou in Fry, 1996, pp. 117-118.

James Parkes, *Arabs and Jews in the Middle East*, 1967.

James Parkes, *The New Face of Israel*, 1964.

Livia Rokach, *The Catholic Church and the Question of Palestine*, 1987.

Guenther Stemberger, *Jews and Christians in the Holy Land: Palestine in the Fourth Century*, 2000.

R. N. Swanson (ed.), *The Holy Land, Holy Lands and Christian History*, 2000.

F. Talmage (ed.), *Disputation and Dialogue: Readings in the Jewish-Christian Encounter*, 1975, 155ff.

Robert Wilken, *Land Called Holy: Palestine in Christian History and Thought*, 1992.

www.virtualholyland.com

www.historicjesus.com/maps/index.html

www.stolaf.edu/people/kchanson/ptj.html

There are also many Christian guides to the Holy Land of the New Testament which would make an interesting stuffy in themselves (easy to find via a web search). A concordance to the New Testament, or a New Testament with index.

Session 4 The Land: Muslim Perspectives

Abdul Rahman Abbad, 'The Theology of the Land: An Islamic Viewpoint', *Al-Liqa Journal*, Vol. 9, No. 10, June-December 1997, pp. 77-78.

Moshe Gil, *A History of Palestine, 634-1099*, 1992

Yehoshua Harkabi, *Arab Attitudes to Israel*, 1971.

Salma Khadra Jayyusi, *Anthology of Modern Palestinian Literature*, 1993.

Muzammil H. Siddiqi, 'The Islamic Perspective of Jerusalem', talk presented at the first meeting of the American Muslims for Jerusalem, Washington D.C., 17 April 1999.

Zev Vilnay, *The Land of Israel in the Koran*, *Folklore Research Center Studies*, Vol. 1, 1970.

www.sakakini.org

www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/mideast/cuvlm/arabic_lit.html

www.rb.org.il/Islam-Israel/islam.htm

www.ukc.ac.uk/anthropology/staff/glenn/Laclau.html