

CLBSJ STUDY GUIDE:

“The Bible and Settler Colonialism in Palestine and Beyond”

for individual or group use in consultation with this video archive:

<https://clbsj.org/events/2024/01/27/the-bible-and-settler-colonialism-in-palestine-and-beyond/>

BEFORE WATCHING: Questions for Individual Reflection

1. What is your understanding of the root causes of the current conflict in Palestine/Israel?
2. What questions and/ or moral dilemmas do you experience when considering the conflict?
3. What do you think needs to be done — Immediately? In the medium-term? In the long-term?

AFTER WATCHING: Questions for Group Discussion or Individual Reflection

1. The role of biblical interpretation
 - What question was the president of Israel trying to answer when he organized a study group on the book of Joshua (44:08)?
 - How does this compare with the way you have engaged with Joshua?
 - What do you think Dr. Raheb meant when he said that Joshua is “fiction” (1:03:40)?
2. The role of theology
 - What do you think Dr. Raheb meant when he referred to Karl Barth’s role in creating “the liberal brand of Christian Zionism” (50:10)?
 - What do you think of the quotation that Dr. Raheb included from Barth’s student, Paul van Buren (see slide on next page)? In what ways do you agree or disagree with his stance?
 - In what ways do you see this way of thinking being applied in making sense of current events? What moral problems does it create?
3. The role of economics
 - What economic motivations are displayed in the early arguments for Zionism by European Christians that Dr. Raheb shared?
 - What do you think of Dr. Raheb’s assertion that poor European Jews became subcontractors for British colonization and the British Empire (35:18 and 39:58)? What do you think is the nature of this experience of “subcontractor”?
 - What does Dr. Raheb argue about the relationship between the current war, fifth stage of settler colonialism, and the agenda of displacement (57:05, graphic on next page)?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Revisit the Reflection Questions Together or as an Individual

1. What is your understanding of the root causes of the current conflict in Palestine/Israel?
2. What questions and/ or moral dilemmas do you experience when considering the conflict?
3. What do you think needs to be done — Immediately? In the medium-term? In the long-term?
4. How can you find support or offer support to others to take these actions?



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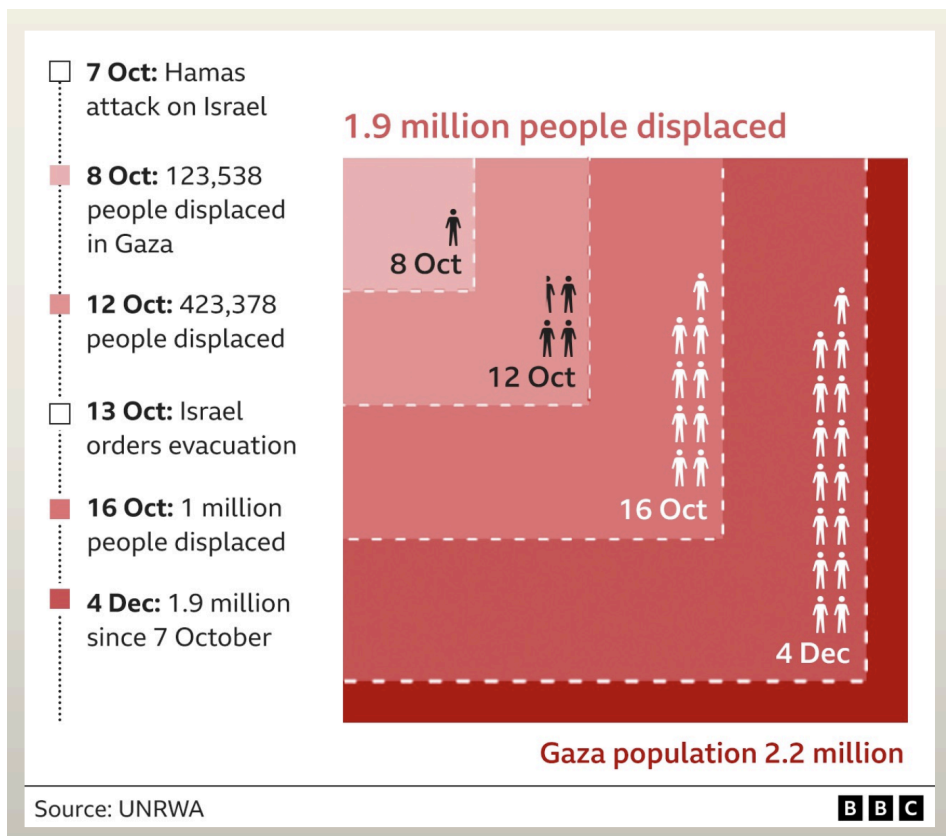
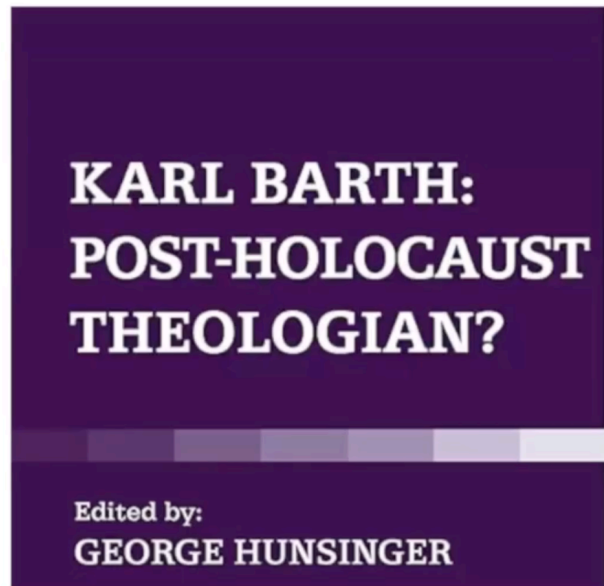
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For Continued Study: purchase Mitri Raheb's *Decolonizing Palestine: The Land, The People, The Bible* from Orbis Books: <https://orbisbooks.com/products/9781626985490>

Christian Theologians as Israel's Agents

The role of the Christian church is to extend the revelation of the God of Israel -and the healing work of God in and through Israel- to the nations. Christianity should do this, not only by preaching this gospel to the nations, but also by rendering service to the people of Israel. This service takes an external and internal form. Externally, the Christian church must become the extension of the Anti-Defamation League, combating all anti-Semitism among Gentiles. It also takes the form of defense of the State of Israel, both raising money for Israel's defense and defending the State of Israel against all anti-Zionist calumny. All criticism of the State of Israel, whether based on alleged injustice to the Palestinians or claims that Israel is unjust to Third World peoples, are simply lies. It is the job of the Christian church to combat all these lies against Israel, being taught the truth by Jews; that is, the government of the State of Israel.

Paul van Buren



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