

Recommended Resources

We Belong to the Land: The Story of a Palestinian Israeli Who Lives for Peace and Reconciliation, by Elias Chacour

Anxious for Armageddon: A Call to Partnership for Middle Eastern and Western Christians, by Donald E. Wagner

End of Days: Fundamentalism and the Struggle for the Temple Mount, by Gershom Gorenberg

The Politics of Apocalypse: The History and Influence of Christian Zionism, by Rabbi Dan Cohn-Sherbok

Christians and a Land Called Holy: How We Can Foster Justice, Peace and Hope, by Charles P. Lutz and Robert O. Smith

Witnessing for Peace: In Jerusalem and the World, by Bishop Munib Younan

Christian Zionism: Road Map to Armageddon?, by Steven Sizer

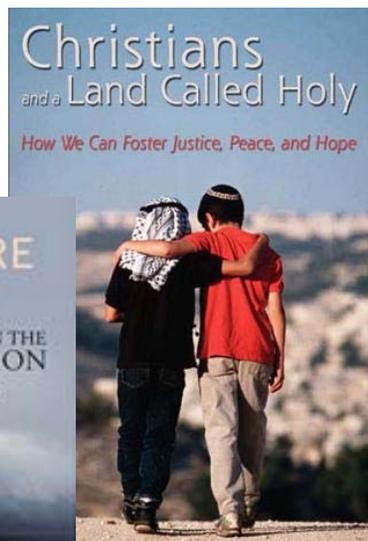
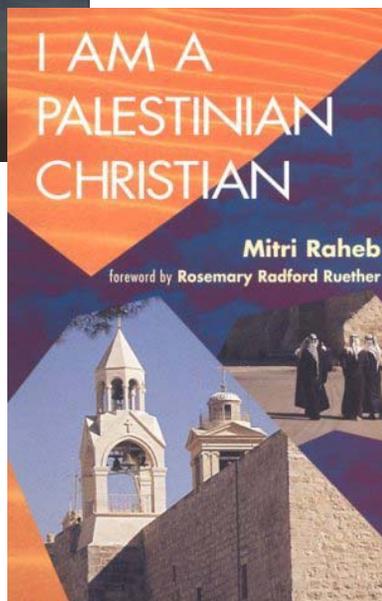
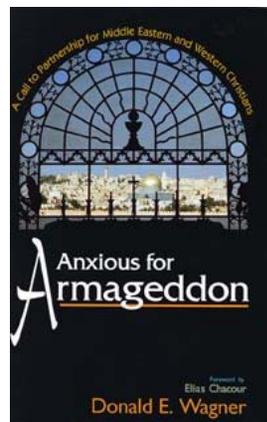
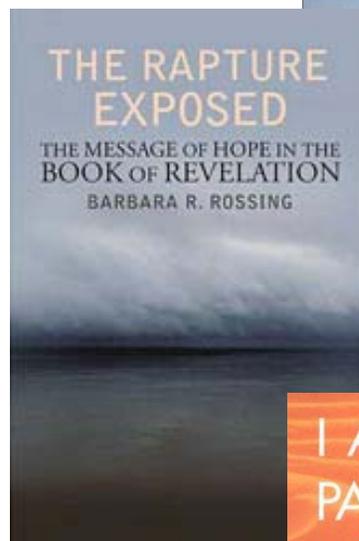
On the Road to Armageddon: How Evangelicals Became Israel's Best Friend, by Timothy Weber

The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation, by Barbara R. Rossing

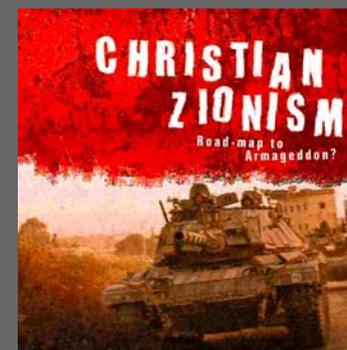
Whose Land? Whose Promise?: What Christians Are Not Being Told About Israel and the Palestinians, by Gary Burge

Whose Promised Land: The Continuing Crisis over Israel and Palestine, by Colin Chapman

I Am a Palestinian Christian, by Rev. Mitri Raheb

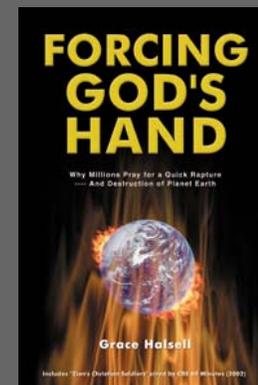


The Institute for the
Study of Christian Zionism
UK • Jerusalem • USA
www.christianzionism.org



Why you should
be concerned
about
**CHRISTIAN
ZIONISM**

From The Institute for the
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What you need to know . . .

What is Christian Zionism?

Christian Zionism is an extremist Christian movement which supports the claims of those who believe that the State of Israel should take control of all of the land currently disputed between Palestinians and Israelis. It views the creation and expansion of the modern state of Israel as a fulfillment of biblical prophecy toward the second coming of Jesus.

What is the Christian Zionist connection with the Holy Land?

Believing that God fights on the side of Israel, Christian Zionists call for unqualified support for the most extreme political positions related to the Holy Land. Christian Zionist spokespersons have attributed Hurricane Katrina to God's wrath over our failure to stop Israel from pulling out of Gaza. They consistently oppose any moves towards a solution to the conflict which would validate the political aspirations of both Palestinians and Israelis.

Who Supports Christian Zionism?

Christian Zionism has significant support within American Protestant fundamentalists, who number between 10 and 20 million. Its reach is broad, by virtue of its favorite themes related to the "End Times" and an Israel-fixated Christian media.

Christian Zionism is both a "movement" and a way of interpreting current events. Its focus is on Israel and the Middle East. Its promoters share many beliefs but are not organized through any one institution.



Rebuilding the Temple is one of the tenets of the Christian Zionist fringe

What is its impact on modern politics?

In 1987, polls indicated that the Christian right represented 26 percent of the total membership of the Republican Party. By 1999 that number had increased to 33 percent and was rising. The influence of pro-Israel groups and Christian Zionists in such vital swing states as Texas, California and all-important Florida may well have been the deciding factor for President Bush in the 2000 and 2004 elections.

Why should Christians who love Israel care about this ideology?

Persons of biblical faith are called to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Ps. 122). The ideology of Christian Zionism celebrates violence and the defeat of peacemaking efforts. It blesses neither Israelis nor Palestinians.

Why should Israelis care?

While Israeli politicians have courted Christian Zionist support, many Jewish spokespersons who have studied this movement warn that alliances with Christian Zionists are not in Israel's best interests. It weds Israeli politics to an extreme ideology more in keeping with the militant settlers' movement than mainstream Israeli opinion.

It supports a theology which dehumanizes both Palestinians and Israelis in its desire to read current events through the lens of a simplistic End Times scenario. It is promoted by Christian leaders whose extremism is pushing them further and further to the fringe of American politics. Christian Zionism is a marriage of convenience which may come back to haunt Israelis in the long run.



Violent imagery figures large in Christian Zionist teaching

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May those who love you be secure.
May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels."**

— Psalm 122



Christian Zionist activists, focused on worldly threats, place their hope in worldly power rather than in God's steadfast love and saving grace.

For more information visit our
institute's website:
www.christianzionism.org

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