

**AFRICAN
CHURCHES ON
ISRAEL AND
PALESTINE**

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Symposium**

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AFRICANS: EASY TARGETS OF CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

Those who were born in the
1940s and thereafter can
be forgiven for thinking the
**Israel of today is the Israel of
the Bible.**

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AFRICANS: EASY TARGETS OF CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

- A straight line from the Israel of the Bible to the Israel of today.
- The Israel of the Bible got punished for disobedience; the Israel of today acts with impunity.

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AFRICANS: EASY TARGETS OF CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

The **language** of “**God of Israel**”; the “**chosen nation**”;
etc.

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CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

“End time **prophecy**” stuff.
(17th Century **Protestant**
messianic groups;
Eschatology (Second
coming of Jesus); &
Blessings.

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**CHRISTIAN ZIONISM AN
ANTITHESIS OF THE GOSPEL**

Christian Zionism is an
antithesis of the Gospel
of the Lord Jesus Christ in all
respects.

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CHRISTIAN ZIONISM AN ANTITHESIS OF THE GOSPEL

- **God loved all of us equally** (Jews & Gentiles);
- **Jesus died for all of us** (Jews & Gentiles); and
- **Salvation is for all of us** (Jews & Gentiles).

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A GOD OF JUSTICE

Our God is not a **tribal god** or
a **racist god**.

God is **a God of Justice**

(Do unto others as you
would they do to you)

God is a **God of ALL** of
humanity and **ALL** of the
created reality.

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ZIONISM: COLONIAL & RACIST

The pioneers of the **Zionist ideology** like **Theodor Herzl** openly embraced settler-colonial concepts. He said that

“without colonisation, Zionism is nothing but a castle in the air.”

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ZIONISM: COLONIAL & RACIST

In fact, some of these pioneers argued that they needed to **have a colony** to be **accepted as “whites”** and a **powerful country** to **help colonise** Palestine.

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ZIONISM: COLONIAL & RACIST

In a telegram by a Grey to the French and Russians he says that “in the course of time the **Jewish colonialist** in Palestine grow strong enough ...” (my own emphasis)

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ZIONISM: COLONIAL & RACIST

The **UK became handy** in this regard based on its interest to move or deflect Jews out of Britain thus the 1917 **Balfour Declaration.**

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ZIONISM: COLONIAL & RACIST

Secondly, this was possible only if one **thought of Palestinians as less than human beings**, that is, if one was a **racist**.

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**CHRISTIAN ZIONISM AND
JEWISH ZIONIST**

All my reading shows that
Christian Zionism came
before **Jewish Zionism**.

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CHRISTIAN ZIONISM AND JEWISH ZIONIST

That the **pioneers of the Jewish Zionist ideology** were in the main **atheists** who found Christian Zionism **useful for their colonial project.**

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ISRAEL: AN APARTHEID STATE

Accordingly, a State established on this basis was **bound to be a settler-colonial and apartheid state** that relies on brute force to suppress any resistance to it **leading to the Nakba & Genocide** (UN Convention on Genocide).

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VISITS TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE

After my first visit to Palestine/Israel in **1988** as general Secretary of the SACC (saw both sides) I **concluded** that the Israeli regime between the river & the sea was **worse than an apartheid regime.**

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VISITS TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE

My **second visit** to attend the **Empowered 21** Conference in 2015 gave me an **opportunity** to **engage** with **Messianic Jewish Christians; Evangelical Christians** and the **Ecumenical family**.

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VISITS TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE

The second visit brought all the **contradictions** into the surface (support for Israel & the resultant alienation of Palestinian Christians)

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VISITS TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE

2022 visit as **Moderator of the**
WCC's Churches
Commission on International
Affairs (**CCIA**) together with
the a representative of the
SACC & the General
Secretary of The Evangelical
Alliance of SA (**TEASA**)

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CLASSIFICATION & CONTROL

- **Colour-coded ID systems** to control Palestinian movements by military commanders.
- Different **car number plates**.
- **Arab Israelis/Arab citizens of Israel.**

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DISCRIMINATORY LAWS

- 2018 **Basic Law**: Israel a Nation-State of the Jewish people;
- Discriminatory law on **land expropriation** for Jewish Israelis and Palestinians.

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- **AN APARTHEID REGIME**
- 1. “A Regime of **Jewish supremacy** from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: **This is Apartheid**” by B’Tselem, The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, 2021 (my own emphasis)

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- **AN APARTHEID REGIME**
- 2. **“Israel’s Apartheid Against Palestinians:** Cruel System of Domination and Crime Against Humanity” (Amnesty International, 2022)

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- **AN APARTHEID REGIME**
- 3. **“A Threshold Crossed:** Israeli Authorities and the Crime of Apartheid and Persecution” (Human Rights Watch, 2022)

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• **END**