

I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek **PODCAST**

Should Christians Support Israel? With Dr. Jeff Myers

(July 5, 2024)

FRANK:

Should Christians support Israel? What did God promise Israel? Is the state of Israel that was reborn in 1948 due the same promises as ancient Israel? Or has the Church replaced Israel and the land promises are now moot? And did God really say that He would bless those who bless Israel and curse those who did not bless Israel? And what's happening between Israel and Hamas right now? Who is Hamas and what are their goals? Is genocide being committed? And if so, who's doing it? What's real? What's propaganda?

Are Christians to support Israel? And if so, what does that even mean? Does it mean that we have to support them even if they're wrong or even if they're doing evil? And should Christians think that war is sometimes justified? Why is Gen Z, the 12 to 27 year olds out there, why are they the most antisemitic generation in modern polling history? And what is the way forward in an impossible situation?

Well, my friend Dr. Jeff Myers, who is the president of Summit Ministries, has written a brand new, succinct book on this topic that will give you the answers to those questions. It's called 'Should Christians Support Israel?: Seeking a Biblical Worldview in an Impossible Situation.' And as we move along in this program today, we're going to show you how you can get this book for free.

So, ladies and gentlemen, here he is, the great Dr. Jeff Myers. All the way, all the way from Summit Ministries in Manitou Springs, Colorado. One of my favorite places, one of my favorite ministries. I've already been out there once. Going to be out there again in August. Jeff, before we get into the Israel thing, how are things going at Summit? What do you guys do at Summit? Just so people know.

JEFF:

Well, we're focusing on equipping and supporting the rising generation to embrace God's truth and champion a biblical worldview in every area of life. Most of the students are headed off to

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a college or a university, some to a trade school, handful into their careers. And before they go in, we want them to have a solid, defensible biblical worldview.

So, next door to the building where I am right now are 185 young adults who are top young Christian leaders who are preparing to go out into the culture. And it's phenomenal. We do this. We also do curriculum courses for Christian schools, home schools. And I don't think you and I have talked about this yet, Frank, but we now have 300 public schools where students are able to take a break from their regular school day to study biblical worldview with Summit Ministries.

FRANK:

Wow. Go to summit.org friends. There's a lot up there, but we want to dive into this new book that Jeff has written that you can get for free. It's called 'Should Christians Support Israel?' First of all, Jeff, what prompted you to write this right now?

JEFF:

Well, after October 7, when Hamas terrorists went into Israel and slaughtered, raped, mutilated 1200 innocent Israeli civilians and took 250 more hostage, I expected that the world would rally around Jewish people, that people would go to their Jewish neighbors and say, hey, I know it may seem like you're under attack, but I want you to know we're friends, and I will protect you. The exact opposite happened, especially with the rising generation.

A Harvard Caps poll showed that 51% of young adults say they thought Hamas tactics were justified because of Palestinian grievances. And that figure went up in December. So, I wrote an opinion editorial piece for Daily Wire called 'Congratulations, America. You've Raised a Generation of Terrorist Sympathizers.' And that got a lot of attention, both positive and negative.

But it led to an opportunity to go to Israel during the time of war, to spend time in the war zone, talking with survivors, with hostage families, with intelligence officers, with citizen soldiers, with Arab and Jewish journalists, with people from the right to the left, secular to religious, to understand what was really happening so I could come back and communicate the truth that the mainstream media simply is not communicating in the United States.

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FRANK:

What was the most shocking thing you discovered when you were over there?

JEFF:

You know, I guess the most motivational thing, it may also be partly the most shocking thing, was that those who are standing in defense of Israel are everyday citizens. They take up arms to defend their nation. We have nothing like this in the United States where people can come together from the left to the right, all different spheres of society. There are 55 political parties in Israel, by the way, for 9 million people.

You want to talk about a fractured, divided group of people when it comes to politics, but when it comes to defending their nation, they band together, and they stand in defense of their nation. Everyday people rise up, just as in the time of the American war for independence. And I think the most startling thing of all was recognizing the extraordinary efforts that Israel goes to, to bind itself to very specific, careful rules of engagement to ensure that civilian casualties are at a minimum in any war that they fight.

And it is quite extraordinary. You know, you've been in the military, so you know that in an urban warfare situation, typically nine people who are non-combatants are killed for every combatant who is killed. Israel has kept that figure down to about one non-combatant to every combatant. And that is assuming that Hamas is telling the truth about the numbers of people who have died. And, of course, well, we can't.

You know, Hamas rarely tells the truth about anything, so we don't really know that. But John Spencer, who's America's leading expert on non-combatant protection, says that Israel has done more than any army in history, including the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan, to protect non-combatants. That was startling to me.

FRANK:

Jeff, before we get into the details of the Hamas Israel situation, why don't we back out to the Bible and talk about the state of Israel itself? Do you think that the current state of Israel is due the same promises that ancient Israel was due? Is this the same state, even though there's

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about a 1900 year gap between when they were in the land in 70 AD to the time they came back in 1948?

JEFF:

Well, it's very difficult for us in America to understand why my answer would be yes. Because if you've been gone for 1900 years, you've lost the right to the land. But if someone came and took your home and you had to fight through legal channels to get it back, and they said, oh, I'm sorry, five years has passed, so you don't get to have that house anymore, you would strenuously object. Israel's claim to the land is very strong.

Israel is the only nation to have ever developed a nation state in that region at any point in history. Jerusalem has only ever been the capital of Israel. It's never been the capital of any other nation. It's been an administrative district for most of history. Jewish people were pushed out of there, as you know, in AD 70, by Rome and essentially wandered throughout the earth for nearly two millennia.

The opportunity to come back in 1948 presented Israel with the option for what kind of a state they would form, and they decided to form an intentionally Jewish state. The state is built on the basic law of Israel, which is their constitution like agreement, which is based on the book of Deuteronomy, the national holidays. The laws are based on Jewish law. It has every appearance of being a Jewish state. But I think the theological reason for saying that Israel today is a continuum from ancient Israel is not based on what the Israelis do. It's based on what God has done.

If you go back to the nature of the covenant, what we call the Abrahamic covenant, which more technically was God making a covenant with himself on behalf of Abraham, those covenants are always with the people in the land, with the people in the land. You see that phrase all throughout Scripture. In fact, the covenant is with the land as much as it is with the people. Scripture says that when the Jewish people disobeyed, that the land would vomit them out, that the land actually is going to do God's bidding on his behalf.

So, the continuity of the people in the land and the fact that God does not renege on His covenants, that to me, is a very persuasive theological case. It's tough for people because they

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say, well, you know, Israel wasn't even existing as a nation when we developed all of our theological categories. Well, but now it is. So, what do we need to do with our theological categories?

FRANK:

Ladies and gentlemen, Palestine has never been a country. There's no such country as Palestine. It's a name given to that area by Hadrian, the Roman emperor, in 135 AD modeled after the Philistines, the enemies of Israel. That's where the name came from. But there's never been a state known as Palestine.

And we'll unpack that more with my friend Dr. Jeff Myers from Summit Ministries. The brand new book you can get for free, and you should want to get it, is called 'Should Christians Support Israel?' We're going to have a lot more with Dr. Jeff right after the break. Don't go anywhere. Back in two minutes.

The state of Israel, should Christians support and why? We're talking to my friend Dr. Jeff Myers of Summit Ministries. His brand new book that you can get for free, 'Should Christians Support Israel?' is something you ought to read because this is a controversial topic, even in the Church. It's certainly controversial among the college aged right now.

And Jeff trains a lot of college aged kids at Summit Ministries, Summit.org. And as you know, we go to colleges quite a bit and present the evidence that Christianity is true. Jeff, did God really say that He blessed those who blessed Israel and cursed those who did not? And do you think that same kind of promise is applicable today?

JEFF:

I think that thought comes from the covenant that God made with Abraham. So, you look back at Genesis starting verse 12 all the way through Genesis 18, and what you see is that God made this covenant promise with Abraham that he would bless Abraham and that all of those who bless him would be blessed, and that those who curse him would be cursed, and that all nations would be blessed through him. That was the nature of the Abrahamic covenant.

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So, to say that it's some kind of a magic formula that if we bless Israel that somehow God will bless us is, I think, a little, I mean, that's suspicious. But the reality is that Israel is still benefiting from a covenant made with God, that God's the one who decides whether that covenant stops or not. God alone decides it. We don't get to decide it based on our opinions and that the nature of the covenant is God.

And this is what the Apostle Paul says. And especially in Romans chapter 13 and Galatians chapter three, he says, we are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith, that Christians are grafted into God's plan, but that his covenant, I don't understand exactly how this works, but his covenant with the Jews remains.

FRANK:

Well, that's an important point. I need to ask you one other biblical question about this. Regarding the folks out there who say, well, that covenant's over and the Church has replaced Israel. What's your response to that?

JEFF:

That's pretty tough to actually sustain that case in my view. That's called replacement theology or supersessionism. First of all, it kind of makes the assumption that Jesus was born a Jew and rose again as a Christian. Jesus was a Jew, He lived as a Jew, He died as a Jew, He rose again as a Jew. He's coming again as a Jew. If we don't understand our Jewish roots of our faith, then we're misunderstanding a lot of what our faith is really all about.

But I would say part of the problem here is a lot of the theological categories for thinking about Israel were developed before Israel was reconstituted as a nation state. So, Israel was a spiritual concept. How do we know? Because it didn't actually exist as a physical concept. Then in 1948, that changed, but the theological categories developed primarily during the reformation, had not taken that into account. They couldn't.

I mean, if something didn't exist in physical reality, then you would say, well, it must just be a spiritual metaphor. But when it does now exist in a physical form, what do you do? I think we, you know, we can disagree about how Israel came to be a nation, but it does exist, and I believe it has a right to exist and a right to defend itself.

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FRANK:

Yeah. You write in the book, 'Should Christians Support Israel?', Christians don't replace Jews in God's plan. They join them. And in fact, you a minute ago talked about the passage that talks about the fact that Gentiles are grafted in. I think Paul talks about this in Romans 11. We're grafted in. The Jews aren't grafted out. Gentiles are grafted in.

So, the Church does not replace Israel. There is still a future for Israel. And Paul, of course, in Romans 11 says that all of Israel will be saved. And of course, theologians debate exactly what that means. But it doesn't mean Israel's gone. When Jesus comes and rises from the dead 2000 years ago, there's still a future for Israel.

Now, let's apply this now to what's happening between Israel and Hamas. First of all, you spend time in the book talking about who Hamas is, and it startles me, Jeff. Well, it doesn't startle me anymore. Nothing startles me anymore. I must admit this, that it just, it baffles me that people don't even read what Hamas says in their own charter. So, enlighten us. Who is Hamas?

JEFF:

Well, Hamas is an acronym in Arabic for the Islamic Resistance movement. This movement came into existence by someone who studied with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. So, there's a direct tie back to the Muslim Brotherhood. So, whatever you've heard in the news about that, you can kind of guess that Hamas is probably going in the same direction. Twice in its history, Hamas has put together a charter outlining exactly why they exist and what they hope to have happen.

What they want to do is annihilate the State of Israel. In their original document, they in fact, quoted from the Quran that all Jews must be slaughtered. That is their founding principle. Hamas now rules this area called Gaza, which is about 7 miles wide at its widest point, 25 miles long, right along the Mediterranean coast on the southwest side of Israel. This is the area that you've been seeing in the news.

This is where the battles are taking place. And Hamas has ruled this area since 2006. They first of all won it in an election, but then the next year, they had a coup and overthrew the opposition party, literally overthrew them, threw them over the roofs of buildings to their

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death, and then they have ruled as a dictatorship ever since. I think people need to understand that Hamas is the enemy of the Palestinian people as well as the enemy of Israelis.

FRANK:

And Hamas in Hebrew actually means violence. And they believe that they can do whatever they want. And Dr. Jeff points all this out in the book. 'Should Christians Support Israel?' They can do whatever they want, even if it's completely horrific, because they're oppressed, according to them. And they are therefore justified in raping, murdering, beheading, doing anything they want to do to Israel or to Jews.

Their mandate, their charter is to kill all Jews. They even say in the charter, as you know, Dr. Jeff, that land deals are irrelevant. Conferences, they say it's a vain waste of time. There is no two state solution. There's no two state solution. And yet, why does every president, whether Republican or Democrat, think that somehow, we can resolve this by a two state solution Dr. Jeff?

JEFF:

Somehow, we think this is a geopolitical struggle, that if we give inducements through cash grants, or aid, or have minor alterations of borders here and there, that we can somehow fix the problem. Hamas doesn't see that. So, Hamas would be described, it is Islamic. It is described maybe more specifically as Islamist. Islamists are people who believe that that jihad, which is commanded in the Quran, means militarily, using military power to force everybody in the world to submit to Allah in the way that Allah specifies in the Quran.

So, that's what Hamas believes. They hold to this. They're very different theologically than the people in Iran, but they're a convenient tool for the nation of Iran. That's why Iran sends them hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of weapons every year and even cash grants, not because they agree theologically, but because they believe they have one thing they need to do, which is destroy the nation of Israel.

FRANK:

You also write in the book, and this, again, the book is called 'Should Christians Support Israel?' You write this, that Israel agreed to basically give up the Gaza Strip. And before I go any further,

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ladies and gentlemen, this is prime real estate. This is on the Mediterranean coast. The sun sets over the Mediterranean. This place could be a resort. But here's what you write, Dr. Jeff. A peace plan was on the table for a two state solution. Israel had agreed to it.

Foreign aid poured into Gaza to the tune of \$35 billion, 15 times as much money as the Marshall Plan that restructured Europe after the second World War. And you go on to say, they could have... You say, Hamas had the choice, attempt peaceful relations with Israel and turn its 25 miles of Mediterranean coastline into a prosperous trading post like Dubai. Or they could buy weapons, build tunnels, and prepare for war.

It chose the latter, not because it was advantageous to the Gazans, but because Hamas primary commitment, far above all other interests, was to eliminate the State of Israel. And it remains that way. Dr. Jeff, I couldn't believe that much money's poured into that place.

JEFF:

And more will come in. This is why Hamas must be ended in its ability to form a government or to wield military power. Because as long as that group is in charge, Gazans will continue to suffer. They have suffered more under the rule of Hamas than at any other point in history. And Hamas is just as evil to the Gazans as they have been to the Israelis. They killed them. If they refused to serve as human shields, they killed them. If they say anything out of line, they kill them.

And I'm not the only one to point this out. Amnesty International, the human rights campaign, and I document all of this in the book. They have called Hamas out on this, and those two organizations are as anti-Israel as you can get. And yet, they recognize that Hamas is thoroughly evil and cannot really be redeemed, not as an organization.

FRANK:

Now, Jeff, you also write that about 40% of Gen Z... So, those are people now between, say, the age of about 12 and 27. This is the college, high school, college group. About 47% of them are sympathetic to Hamas. Why? Why do you think that is?

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JEFF:

Frank, you spend a lot of time on university campuses, so I know we would agree on this. What is taught in the classroom in one generation is believed and practiced in government and society the next generation. That's a saying that a lot of people have recognized for a long time is true.

FRANK:

Lincoln came up with that. Yeah, exactly.

JEFF:

Yeah. So, what is being taught? What is being taught on the campuses? Students have been given a neo-Marxist framework for understanding the world. The Marxist worldview has replaced the Christian worldview. Marx originally wrote that the battle in life, and if these two sides would fight it out, that eventually something better would arise, ultimately Communism.

The owners of the factories and the workers in the factories. But neo Marxists came along later and said, well, if it's not just the owners and the workers, it's the oppressors versus the oppressed, then we can think of a lot of different ways this principle can be applied and that we might be able to bring about a successful revolution. Pitting one race against another, pitting the rich against the poor, pitting straight people against gay people, whatever it happens to be. The idea is you advance history through conflict.

So, you simplify the world. Make every single person, regardless of their other views, fit into one of two sides, and then make those two sides fight. So, the professors then just tell the students, hey, guys. This is oppressor versus the oppressed. The world really is that simple, and Israel is the oppressor.

So, you can figure out what to do next. And the students went right out into the streets and began supporting Hamas, chanting things like, from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free. While 55% of them polled say they don't even know what river and what sea they're chanting about.

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FRANK:

Wow. Can you imagine if Hamas said they wanted to kill, say, all blacks or all gays? What would this group be doing? They say they want to kill all Jews and suddenly people are going, well, I guess maybe that's okay.

JEFF:

It's an apocalyptic rape and death cult through and through.

FRANK:

What's going on? A lot more with Dr. Jeff. You're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist with me, Frank Turek, on the American Family Radio network. Much more, back in two. If you're low on the FM dial looking for NPR, go no further. We're actually going to tell you the truth here. That's our intent anyway. You'll never hear this straight talk about Israel and Hamas on NPR. You're listening to I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist with me, Frank Turek.

My guest today is the great Dr. Jeff Myers, all the way from Summit Ministries. And he's written a brand new book that we're going to get back into in just a second. I do have to mention there's a lot of events coming up I want you to know about. I'll be in Charlotte, North Carolina, not far from where I live on the 23 of July at the Grounded Youth Conference. That's over near Charlotte Christian High School. And if your kid wants to be a part of that, just go to our website, CrossExamined.org and look at the information there.

Also, later that week, on the 26th, 27th and 28th, I'll be at the TPUSA Believer's Summit in West Palm Beach, Florida. Not just me, but Eric, Metaxas, Allie Stuckey, of course, Charlie Kirk and many others will be down there. Hope to see you if you're anywhere near that area. Then we have the CrossExamined Instructors Academy coming up August 1-3. There may be a couple of non-presenting seats left. Go to crossexamine.org. Click on events. You'll see it there.

Oh, I almost forgot. On the 29th and 30th, I'll be in Maine with the great Dr. Erwin Lutzer. We're going to be talking about how Christians need to be involved politically if we're going to love our neighbors and protect religious freedom. We'll be in Bangor on the 29th of July and then in Portland on the 30th of July. Again, details on our website. So, check all that out coming up in the month of July.

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And by the way, we've been mentioning that you can get this book for free, 'Should Christians Support Israel?' That's the topic that we're talking about today with Dr. Jeff. Jeff, where can people actually get this book for free? What do they need to do?

JEFF:

All you have to do is go to Summit.org/Israel and then you'll see a link that says, 'Claim my Book.' You go ahead and get the copy of that book. I want you to have it for free. You can get it for free. If you want to pitch in for shipping and handling, you can. But I'm telling you, it's free. And the reason I want you to have it for free is I want you to read it. And then I want you to turn around and tell your pastor, all the Gen Zers you know about the book, and then get extra copies for them.

FRANK:

Ladies and gentlemen, our job is to do what's right and leave the results to God. Whether something's correct or politically correct, doesn't matter. You're not supposed to be politically correct. You're supposed to be correct. You need to tell people the truth. Again, if Hamas said they wanted to kill all gays, or wanted to kill all blacks, or wanted to kill almost any other group, what would be the universal response from everyone?

That's awful. You can't do that. But somehow when it comes to the Jews, well, people get all weak, weak willed about it. And they think, well, you know, man, maybe the Jews are oppressors. Maybe it's okay to kill them. Jeff, this has to be demonic. I mean, look at the history. Look at the history, the world history. Which group has been most persecuted in world history?

JEFF:

Well, I was visiting with my friend Kaluv Myers, who is an attorney in Israel. He's actually a human rights attorney who helps protect Palestinians against Hamas abuses. And I asked him, what explains this hatred? He said, there's only one thing that explains it. It's a hatred of God and the Bible. And I do believe that he is correct. When I look at the people who are protesting against Israel, those who are actually, I mean, and not just sort of as fellow travelers, taking the Hamas line. They're actually intentionally taking the Hamas line, chanting Hamas slogans, saying they support Hamas' aims.

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These individuals, there are two sorts. There are Islamists from the Middle East, people in Iran specifically, who want to destroy the United States of America, and people who are on the progressive left in the United States who want to destroy the United States of America. That's why I say this is not just a battle over a strip of land in the Middle East. It's about everything, everywhere. It is actually Judeo-Christian civilization that the protesters have in their crosshairs.

FRANK:

But Dr. Jeff... By the way, Dr. Jeff has a show called The Dr. Jeff Show. But Dr. Jeff, if these people get their way and say, take down Israel or they take down America... Let's say Hamas were to come to America and take over. What kind of rights would these progressive leftists have under that particular government?

JEFF:

All you have to do is look at the Amnesty International and human rights campaign reports on Hamas, and you will see that what they immediately eliminate is press freedom. They don't have any press freedom to this day. So, we're not even sure that what is going on in Gaza is actually what is going on, because we don't have any Western reporters in there. It's a war zone. Western companies don't let their reporters in there, so they buy reporters.

FRANK:

We've got to say this. Sorry to interrupt, but one of the reporters was holding... One of the reporters in Gaza was holding hostages.

JEFF:

Yes. They actually work for Hamas. They're called stringers. It's pretty common. I mean, if you're reporting on something that was happening in western Oklahoma, you might not send a reporter out. You would just call somebody who's a reporter who already lives there, tell me what's going on, and then you buy their report. They're called stringers. But that's what you have in Gaza. There are no reporters there who do not directly report to Hamas. They report only what Hamas allows them to report.

So, that's the first thing that happens. The second thing is that all opposition not only gets ended, they don't just outlaw opposition parties. They kill the people in the opposition parties.

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So, no voices of dissent. The third thing that happens is they implement a Sharia law that destroys the rights of women and destroys the rights of anybody who believes anything different than what Hamas says, the Quran says, and then it just goes downhill from there. But those are the first points. That's what they always do when they take over an area.

FRANK:

This actually sounds just as bad, if not worse, than the Nazis. So, the people that are supporting Hamas are really supporting the new Nazis. How is it that people don't realize this, Jeff? Is it just bad education? What is it?

JEFF:

Well, and Frank, you know, when you're on college campuses, you can see this very clearly. There is not a necessary relationship between an educated person and being a moral person. You have people who have a lot of education. They have a lot of degrees, but they do evil things. They advocate for evil ideas. This is not new.

When Adolf Hitler called people together at the Wannsee Conference to figure out how to annihilate all of the Jews, half of the people at that event went by the title doctor. These were not just some... This is not just a rabble. It was actually the academic elite of that day. And the academic elite in the United States of America has become quite antisemitic. There are interesting ways that this has been tested, but they'll ask a question, and they'll put Jews in the example, and people say, no, no, that's terrible. I hate the Jews.

But if you substitute any other group like BLM, or Mexicans, or something like that, then they change their mind. They're far more negative toward Jews. This should not even be a surprise anymore. The Anti-Defamation League, formed in 1979, said antisemitic acts in the United States are at their highest level in their recorded history.

FRANK:

Now we hear a lot about genocide. You talk about it in the book, Dr. Jeff. First of all, what is it? And secondly, who's committing it, if anyone?

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JEFF:

Well, genocide... We know what the definition is, because the United Nations held a commission on genocide after World War II. And they defined genocide as the intentional, that's the key word, intentional destruction of a people group. And there are different ways you can destroy people groups. You can sterilize them all so that they can't reproduce. You can kill them; you can burn down all of their crops so that they starve to death and things like that. That is what genocide is.

There has been a genocide in the Middle East. It happened in the years following 1948 when Israel was established as a new nation. The surrounding nations kicked out all of the Jews, 850,000 of them. There are almost no Jews left in places like Israel, Iran, Iraq. Almost none left because they were...

FRANK:

They're in Israel.

JEFF:

They're in Israel now. So, they did not die necessarily, but they had to go to Israel. And then all of their land and all of their businesses, \$300 billion worth of property confiscated by those nations. That's an example of a genocide. What Israel is doing in Gaza, and by the way, Frank, when I went there, this was my number one question, especially to the intelligence officers that I was visiting with. Isn't this genocide? Is this really proportional? And what I came away realizing, they didn't lead me to this conclusion. They just gave me some facts, and I researched it myself. This is not a genocide.

In fact, 75% of the agricultural land in Gaza remains intact. Israel has... We keep talking about, oh, we've got to get aid in there because people are starving. Israel has allowed, during the time of the war, from October to April, 290,000 tons of food aid into Gaza with the agricultural production of Gaza, which Israel did not destroy, by the way. Hamas did destroy 70% of Israel's agriculture when they came in on October 7. But Israel has not done that.

So, 75% of the agriculture is still intact, 290,000 tons of food aid, enough to provide 50% of the food needs of Gazans. There should be 125% of the food supply that that would be necessary. If

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it's not there, we know the answer. Hamas took it. They resell it. They sell it at exorbitant prices. They use it as a terrorist tool against the Gazan people to force them into conformity.

FRANK:

Well, if Christians are to support Israel, what does that mean practically? It can't mean that if Israel does something wrong, we have to support that evil. What does it mean, Dr. Jeff, biblically?

JEFF:

Well, in the book, 'Should Christians Support Israel?', and you know that people, we mentioned, people can get it for free. Summit.org/Israel because I know sometimes different points in the show, you don't have a pen handy, but Summit.org/Israel. But I think what supporting Israel means, it does not mean that it's Israel cheerleading. It's not like America good, therefore Israel good kind of cheerleading.

What we're talking about is recognizing that Israel has a right to exist. That does not mean that we think everything that Israel does is good. It does not mean that we support all of its initiatives. I'm an American. I don't even support a lot of the things that happen in the United States of America. Certainly not going to insist that Americans support everything that happens in Israel.

Do you believe that Israel has a right to exist? You have to ask that question first, especially when you're talking with somebody in Gen Z. If they can't say yes to that question, there's very little point in discussing it further. Maybe they will be open to the facts. But the chances are, if they can't agree to that basic thing, then they're propagandized, they're indoctrinated, and it's going to be very, very difficult for them to ever come out of that kind of mind control.

FRANK:

Jeff isn't it interesting that the folks here in this country on the left will say that the Native Americans have a right to the land because they were here first, but when you go over to the land of Israel, they don't think that the Israelites who are there first have a right to that land. Why is that inconsistency? Why do the Jews always get shafted when it comes to these kinds of moral claims?

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JEFF:

Frank if the left didn't have double standards, they would have no standards at all. [Laughter]

FRANK:

But it's just, it just, it's so frustrating to see people talk out of both sides of their mouth on issues like this. You know, obviously, Israel, we know archaeologically, you don't even need the Bible to know this. Israel was in there as early as 1406 BC, ladies and gentlemen. This is long before Islam ever, 2000 years before Islam. I mean, this is ridiculous to suggest that Israel doesn't have a right to that land.

We're talking to Dr. Jeff Meyers. The new book, 'Should Christians Support Israel?', you can get for free. We'll put it in the show notes as well. We're back in two minutes. Don't go anywhere. Should Christians support Israel? Well, at least you have to say they have a right to exist, ladies and gentlemen. I think we've established that. Hamas doesn't believe that. So, what are we supposed to do? Where's the hope?

Well, before we get to the hope and what you can do specifically, we do have to deal with another question, a theological question. Should Christians ever think that war is sometimes justified? Now, Jeff, in this book, 'Should Christians Support Israel?' gets into Just War Theory. And if you want even a more robust treatment of that, my co-author, Dr. Norman Geisler, has a great book on Christian ethics. That's what it's called, 'Christian Ethics.' And there's a whole chapter on war in there. But Dr. Jeff, what say you about this? Is war ever justified?

JEFF:

The great Christian thinkers who looked at this question, Aquinas and Augustine before him, said that war is evil. It is evil, period. But the question is, can something just ever come out of something that is evil? We know that there are corrupt police officers, but we still believe in policing. We know that they're corrupt government officials, but we still believe that there's accountability. Is it possible that just outcome can ever come out of a war?

So, they asked the question, okay, if it's possible, then what would that actually look like? And they decided it would have to be a legitimate government with a just cause, using right means. So, is Israel a legitimate government? A lot of people don't think Israel can conduct a just war

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because they will not admit that Israel is a legitimate state to begin with. These kinds of people you cannot reason with. If somebody will acknowledge that Israel is a legitimate government, then you have to ask, do you think that their cause is just?

Now, some people will say, no, it isn't just. But you should back off and ask the question, can you think of any examples of any wars in history that had a just cause? Was it just for the United States of America to fight against Japan after Pearl Harbor? Was it just for Great Britain to fight against the Nazis after the bombing of London? If somebody answers no to that question, then you can't have a discussion with them. Just go ahead and end it. Wrap it up. You know, slap them on the shoulder, go have them go their way.

But if they will say, yes, I do believe it's possible to have a just war, then you begin to ask the question, is Israel's cause just? It is not only the case that Hamas attacked Israel on October 7. They have, over the last several years, shot 30,000 missiles into Israel. They've killed nearly a thousand people in suicide bombs. They have said and taught all of their people that if you see a Jew, you should kill them.

They teach this to children, the children's math problems, and this has all been translated from Arabic, so we now know this. Children's math problems are things like, if you have six Jews and you kill three, how many are left? And, yes, those will be killed as well. They teach children in summer camps how to capture and kill Jews, and they teach this to them when they're tiny children.

So, all of that indicates to me, plus Hamas worldwide propaganda campaign, that they remain an ongoing threat and that the cause that Israel has against them is just. The question then, finally is, well, are they going about it in a just way? Israel, before they attack so that they say there's a terrorist hideout. They send WhatsApp messages, text messages, and drop leaflets and even parachute down speakers proclaiming messages in Arabic.

We're going to attack this building at such and such an address. If you live there, you need to get out in the next 15 minutes, so the people have the opportunity to leave, except that the Hamas gunmen stand at the doors and prevent them from leaving to make sure they are killed. Israel is, as I mentioned earlier, according to the U.S. experts, doing a better job of conducting a

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just war that protects noncombatants, than any army in history, including the United States, and Iraq, and Afghanistan. Does Hamas do anything similar? Not even close.

FRANK:

Well, ladies and gentlemen, I think it was Francis Schaeffer who said this many years ago. In a fallen world, some kind of force is going to be necessary. And, I mean, we believe in police, at least most sane people do. Why? Because we know that force is sometimes necessary to protect innocent people from evil. Well, an army is just an external police force protecting people inside the country from evil that may come in the country from outside.

So, if you believe in police, you have to believe in armies. This is what self-defense is all about. And sometimes, as you said, Dr. Jeff, the only way to restore peace is by going to war to achieve peace. And it is evil, but there's no other way of doing it sometimes. And complete pacifism is not biblical. Sorry, go ahead, sir.

JEFF:

There are very few pacifists left. That's a tiny, tiny minority of the tradition. What we have today is mostly people who believe in just war. And they recognize, as Aquinas and Augustine before him did, that death is not the worst thing that happens in a war. We all die. The worst thing that happens in a war is that a shameful peace will result, and that evil will be allowed to continue to prevail.

FRANK:

Yeah, that's something we don't think about very often. So, there's much more in the book about how to do that. 'Should Christians Support Israel?', give the website again. We'll put it in the show notes and then we're going to talk about hope, Dr. Jeff.

JEFF:

Yeah, www.summit.org/Israel. Just claim your book. You'll see it right there on the site. I will send a copy to you and then you can think about who in your life needs to know this information. Who needs these facts, who needs this documentation? Because we need to get the word out. This is urgent.

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FRANK:

All right, what's the way forward Dr. Jeff? What kind of hope can we bring to this situation? What can people do about it?

JEFF:

In this situation, I don't see a solution at hand. But we don't have to solve something in order to manage it. We've seen, for example, South Korea has been able to become prosperous even though it still to this day, is in a state of war with North Korea. Taiwan has been able to become prosperous even though China does not recognize its claim to be an independent nation. Israel and Egypt were at war for decades. They were able to form a peace even though it did not seem like it would be possible.

So, we have to think about how to manage the situation. We're going to have to think about how to rebuild Gaza, how to strip away all of that propaganda from their education system and end Hamas as a military and a governing authority. But I'll just give you one quick last story here about hope. I met with a journalist who's a progressive leftist working for a newspaper that's so liberal in Israel it makes the New York Times look conservative. And this reporter said he lived in a kibbutz. He was forced away because of the Hamas attacks.

And I asked him, are you going back? He said, I'm going back. I'm taking my family back. And I asked him, why? He said, because it's our mission. I said, you're a secular guy. You don't even necessarily believe in God. Why would you think it's your mission? But are you going to fight? He said, well, in a way. But you're not carrying weapons? No. I asked him, well, how do you fight? He said, we fight with our presence. The fact that we go to our border shows that evil will not win, and we are willing to make that commitment. And I thought, man, that is a lesson I wish we could get to every single person in the United States of America.

FRANK:

Yeah. And isn't it interesting that if he doesn't believe in God, he really doesn't have any grounds to even know what evil is or to justify what evil is? He knows it, but he's got no standard by which to justify it. And, yeah, that's, I guess, one of the things that difficulty and adversity brings forth, and that is either cowardice or somebody that has the courage to stand. And so many in Israel do have the courage to stand. There's no other choice, really, Dr. Jeff.

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What are they going to do, right? I mean, if your neighborhood literally wants you dead, you can't negotiate with them, you know?

JEFF:

You know, if Colorado Springs becomes too violent, I can always just pick up and move to, you know, Chicago.

FRANK:

Pick another city, Jeff. [Laughter]

JEFF:

But if there's no place to go, what do you do? Rabbi Jerome Perez, whose own son was killed on October 7, said, the problem with trying to run away is that you always take yourself with you. It is not an option for us in this day and time to say, I'm going to stand by on the sidelines and let other people do the battle. We are all in it. We have to stand for truth.

FRANK:

Dr. Jeff, how does this relate to at all, if at all, to the situation the Israelites were in when they were coming into the land? And they had enemies like the Edomites and the Canaanites, the Moabites, the Amorites, many of them, many of those groups wanted Israel dead. Does this have any lesson for us as we look back into the Old Testament? Because a lot of people have questions. Well, why would God want those people dead or at least pushed out of the land?

JEFF:

Well, the land vomited them out. And God said, I'm caring about this land. The land is going to vomit out these people and you're going to go in, but if you ever do evil, it will vomit you out as well. God was causing the Israelites to take a stand against essentially what were the three dominant forms of terrorism of their day. And with some of them, they were able to resist. They were able to resist those who attacked the military militarily for a while. But you know what they didn't resist? The people who tried to seduce them.

The Moabites came in to try to seduce them, and they fell for that. It isn't just the battles where we know somebody's coming to attack us, and so we finally take our stand. It's the areas where

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it almost seems like what's happening is something that we would want to have happen. Those sometimes are the worst attacks of all.

FRANK:

Well, there's certainly an application for people in America today. What have we been seduced by away from the word of God? We've been seduced by sensuality, by sexuality, by materialism, you know, sex, money and power - the big three. And that's why it gets real difficult for us to take a stand here at all because we're incentivized to keep things as they are.

If I say anything about this, Dr. Jeff, I could lose my job. I could actually be unliked on Facebook. I can't risk that. It's madness. Hey Jeff, before we go, do tell people who are down in the southeast that you do have a few spots left in the Summit program for kids between 16 and 22 in Georgia. Just tell them about that quickly.

JEFF:

That's right. If you go to Summit.org, you can see how you can get a young adult, 16-22, signed up for the eleven day event that's taking place at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Georgia. There are two of them in July. That would be the best investment that you could make for young people for this summer.

FRANK:

Yeah. If you want to learn the truth about not just the Bible, but about issues like this, if you want to ground your kids in how to think properly about these issues, you need to go to Summit and go to summit.org to learn more. Also, look in the show notes of this particular podcast. Those of you listening on the American Family Radio Network, it's the I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist podcast, for links about this program and links as to where you can get this book for free. Dr. Jeff, thanks so much for doing this book and all you're doing at Summit.

JEFF:

Man, thanks Frank. Appreciate you so much, buddy.

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FRANK:

That's Dr. Jeff Myers. Again, the book 'Should Christians Support Israel? Seeking a Biblical Worldview in an Impossible Situation', a short book that covers quite a bit. Check it out. You can get it for free. Go to the show notes to see how to do it. And Lord willing, I will see you here next week. God bless.

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