

Resolution on Support for Israel

With the onset of yet another conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Hamas, beginning with the horrific events of October 7, 2023, questions have surfaced regarding the position Bible-believing Christians in general and Regular Baptist Ministries (RBM) in particular should take regarding Israel, especially the present State of Israel.

Antisemitism is on the rise around the world as well as in the United States. It has surfaced on America's college campuses, in newsrooms, and at the highest levels of government. American support for Israel is beginning to waver. The United Nations has consistently voted to chastise Israel, while virtually ignoring the atrocities committed by Hamas against Israel and their own people. Antisemitism is a form of racial prejudice - an affront to our holy God who made all mankind in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27).

God has established a unique relationship with the Jewish people, and has confirmed eternal covenant promises to the nation. God promised Abram, "I will make you a great nation" and "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you..." (Genesis 12:2-3). He also repeatedly promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that He would give their descendants the land of Canaan as an everlasting inheritance (Genesis 13:14-15; 26:3-4; 28:3-4). In addition, God has promised Israel a future as a nation under the righteous reign of Jesus as Messiah (2 Samuel 7:16). Those promises remain in force (Isaiah 11:10-12; Romans 11:1-2).

Regular Baptists have consistently understood God's promises from a dispensational perspective, as reflected in our Articles of Faith (Article XVIII). That biblical understanding and subsequent support for Israel and the Jewish people has been expressed over the years in multiple resolutions adopted by the messengers of RBM at annual meetings from 1948 to 2019.

We recognize that the nation of Israel as it is presently constituted is not the nation prophesied in Scripture. The Jewish people are at this time regathered in unbelief. The current nation will sometimes make mistakes and wrong decisions. While that is true, we also recognize that they are still "the people He has chosen" (Psalm 33:11-12) and "the apple of His eye" (Zechariah 2:8). God's love for Israel has never wavered (Romans 11:28).

We also understand that there are brothers and sisters in Christ on both sides of the lines of conflict today, and that war is always devastating and destructive. We realize that non-combatants are often caught in the crossfire with deadly results. Our hearts go out to those innocent parties who have lost loved ones, homes and property in this present conflict, whether they are Jews or Arabs.

As we consider the present conflict in light of the lengthy history of the Israel/Hamas hostilities, we acknowledge that Israel is and has been engaged in a defensive struggle, working to secure the safety of their own people and defend their homeland against forces bent on the nation's destruction.

Therefore, we, the messengers of RBM meeting in annual conference, June 24-27, 2024, in Elgin, Illinois, remain resolute in our support for the Jews, God's chosen people.

Resolution on Support for Israel *(continued)*

We reaffirm our commitment to the dispensational perspective that Israel is still important to God. “His eschatological plans include a place of honor and prominence for the Jewish people in a restored national Israel (Jeremiah 31:1-40; Amos 9:11-15) at which time He will fulfill all the unconditional covenant promises He has made to them (Deuteronomy 29-30; Micah 4:1-8).” *(2019 GARBC Resolution “Condemnation of Anti-Semitism”)*

We recognize Israel’s right to exist as a nation and believe it is biblical to bless Israel, even in the midst of this present war, and that to curse Israel incurs the wrath of God (Genesis 12:3).

We urge Israel to continue treating the Arabs living within their boundaries, and those living in neighboring nations, with equity and justice, as far as that is possible.

We encourage believers to “pray for the peace of Jerusalem” (Psalm 122:6) and for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are caught in the maelstrom of war on both sides of the conflict. Most importantly, we pray that God will reveal Himself to the Jewish and Arab peoples through Jesus Christ to the end that they might be saved (Romans 10:1; Galatians 3:28).

We further pray that God will bring the present conflict to a speedy and righteous resolution.

Resolution adopted by the messengers at the RBM annual meeting, June 24-27, 2024, in Elgin, Illinois.