

# Prophets Who Prophesy Lies In My Name

(Jeremiah 23:25)

**Christian Palestinianism  
and the  
Anti-Israel Crusade**

**Paul Wilkinson**



*Spectator*, 16 February 2002

# The Rise of Christian Palestinianism

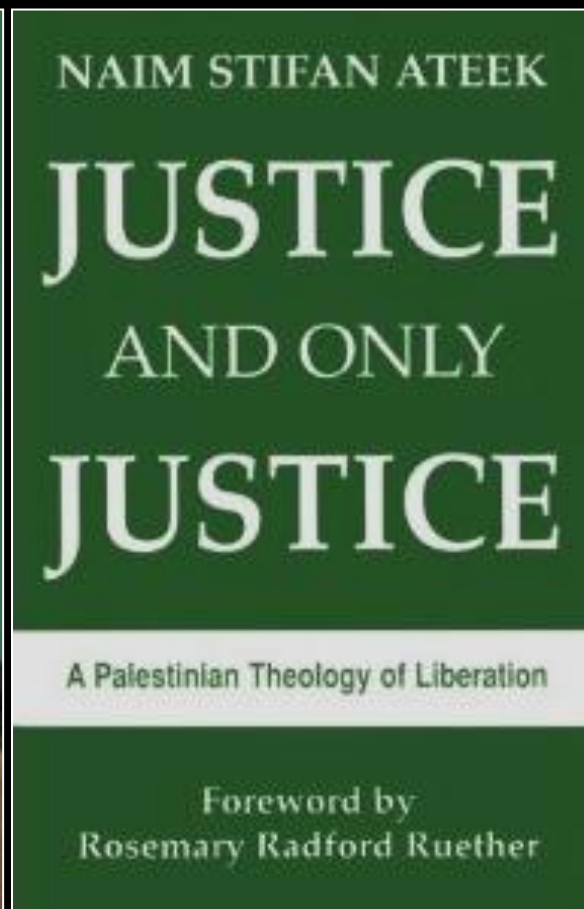
# Brief Timeline

- **1948** World Council of Churches (Ecumenical, Inter-Faith, pro-Palestinian)
- **1956** Near East Christian Council  
(1962 – Near East Council of Churches)
- **1971** Gustavo Gutiérrez, *A Theology of Liberation*
- **1974** Middle East Council of Churches
- **1979** U.S. “La Grange Declaration” against C.Z.
- **1982** World Vision reverses pro-Israel policy
- **1985** Donald Wagner and Ray Bakke “listening tour” of Middle East

- **1986** Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding
- **1987** First *Intifada* (formation of Hamas)
- **1989** Naim Ateek, *Justice and Only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation*
- **1990** First International Symposium on Palestinian Liberation Theology (Tantur)
- **1994** *Sabeel* - Palestinian Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, Jerusalem

# Naim Ateek

Chief Architect of Christian Palestinianism



**“Palestinian liberation theology focuses on the humanity of Jesus of Nazareth, who was also a Palestinian living under an occupation.”**

*(Naim Ateek, A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation, p.11.)*

# Jerusalem Easter Message

10 April 2001 (Naim Ateek)

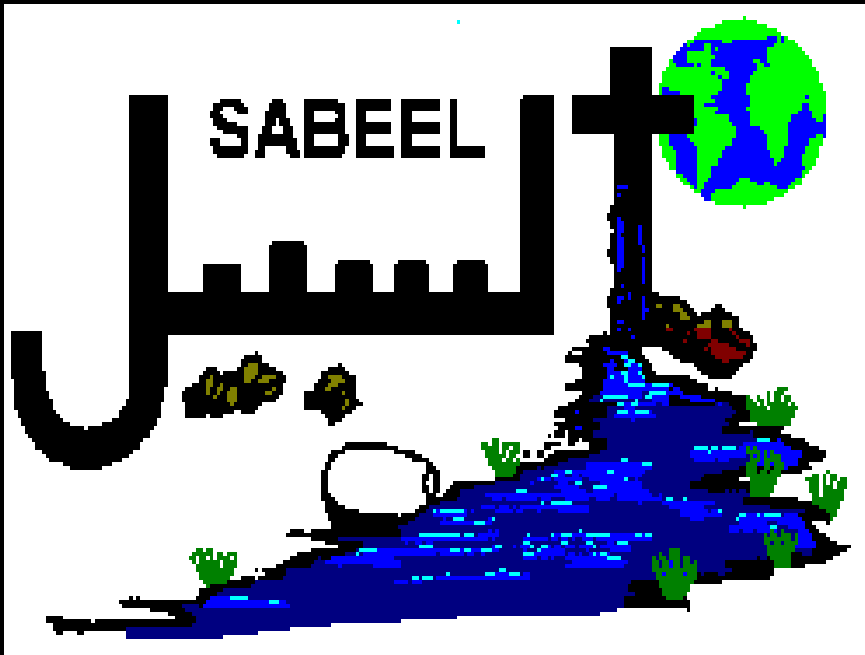
**“Here in Palestine Jesus is again walking the *via dolorosa*. Jesus is the powerless Palestinian humiliated at a checkpoint, the woman trying to get through to the hospital for treatment, the young man whose dignity is trampled, the young student who cannot get to the university to study, the unemployed father who needs to find bread to feed his family ...”**

# Jerusalem Easter Message

10 April 2001 (Naim Ateek)

**“In this season of Lent, it seems to many of us that Jesus is on the cross again with thousands of crucified Palestinians around him. It only takes people of insight to see the hundreds of thousands of crosses throughout the land, Palestinian men, women, and children being crucified. Palestine has become one huge Golgotha. The Israeli government crucifixion system is operating daily. Palestine has become the place of the skull.”**





## Purpose Statement

“Sabeel strives to develop a spirituality based on love, justice, peace, non-violence, liberation and reconciliation for the different national and faith communities”

- *Cornerstone* magazine (56 issues)
- International Conferences (7)
- International Friends of Sabeel (7)
  - USA, Canada, UK, Ireland, Netherlands, Oceania, Scandinavia

# **CHALLENGING CHRISTIAN ZIONISM**

**Theology, Politics and the  
Israel-Palestine Conflict**

edited by  
Naim Ateek, Cedar Duaybis  
and Maurine Tobin

**Christian Zionism is  
“the worst anti-  
Semitism one can  
imagine,” its goal being  
to “bring the Jewish  
people to Israel in  
order to be annihilated  
or converted to the  
Christian Faith.”**

**(Naim Ateek)**



Inter-Faith

# Stephen Sizer

Champion of Christian Palestinianism



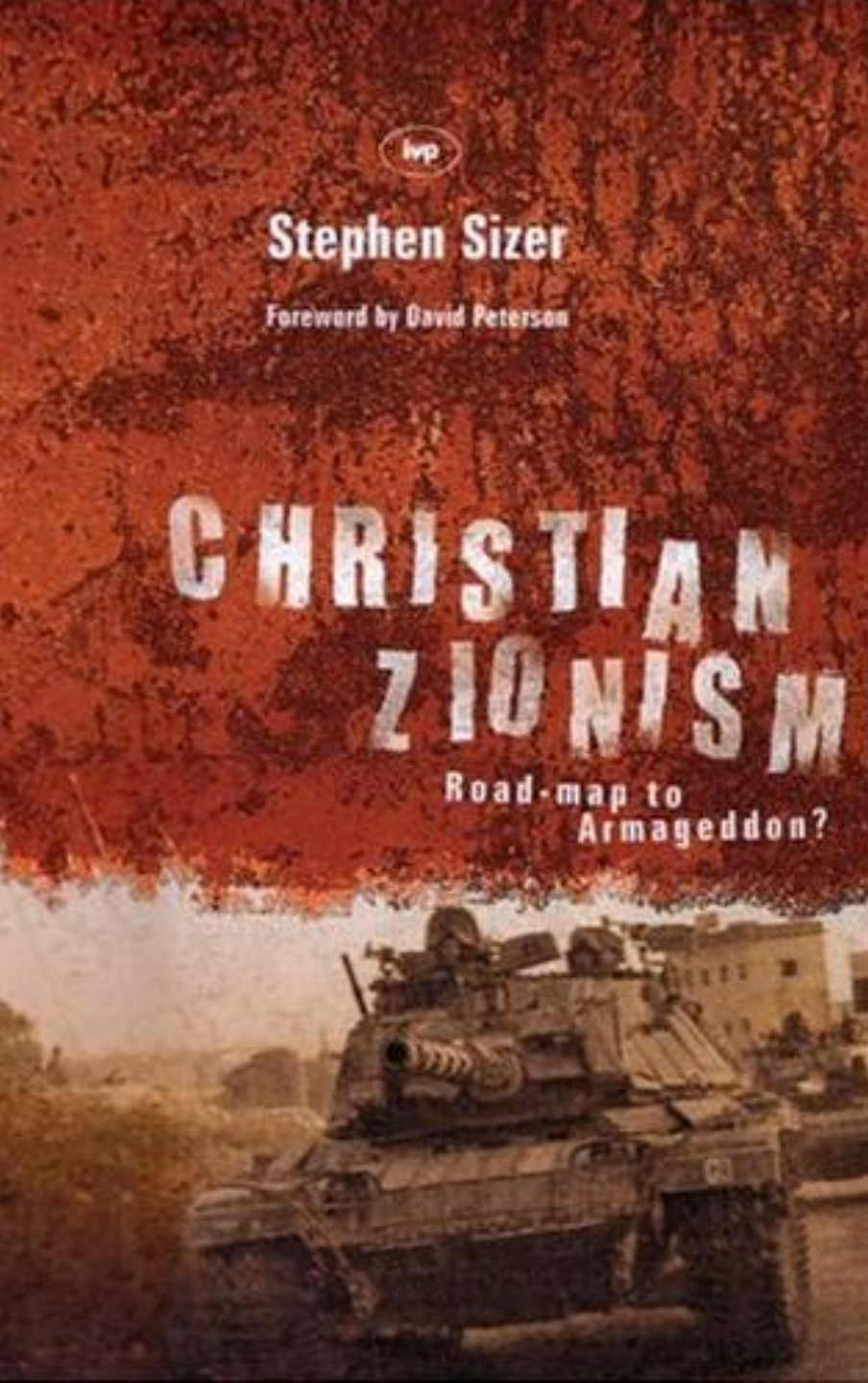
“The British author said that the Zionists have distorted remarks by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad about the Holocaust”

(IRNA web-site, 10/22/07).

# Profile

- Vicar of Christ Church, Virginia Water, England (member church of the Willow Creek Association and the Evangelical Alliance)
- Founding member of the Institute for the Study of Christian Zionism ([www.christianzionism.org](http://www.christianzionism.org))
- Co-author of the Jerusalem Declaration on Christian Zionism, 2006
- Patron of Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions
- Photographer for the Palestine News Network
- Contributor to the *Friends of Al-Aqsa* journal





**“Sizer’s Christian Zionism dramatically demonstrates how a politicized religious movement with a dubious pedigree is a prescription for disaster. From caricaturing Arabs to catalyzing Armageddon, Christian Zionist beliefs and behaviors are the antithesis of biblical Christianity.”**

**(Hank Hanegraaff)**

# CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

Road-map to  
Armageddon?

1. Ultra-Literal Biblical Hermeneutic
2. The Jews remain God's Chosen People
3. The Jews are restored to Eretz Israel
4. Jerusalem the eternal Jewish capital
5. The Jewish Temple must be rebuilt
6. Antipathy toward Arabs and Islam

Iran, 2007





**Iran, 2007**





**Iran, 2007**



**Lebanon, 2008**





Libya, 2008



## **Donald Wagner**

- Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, North Park University, Chicago
- Founding member of the Institute for the Study of Christian Zionism
- Former national director of the Palestinian Human Rights Campaign



## **Gary Burge**

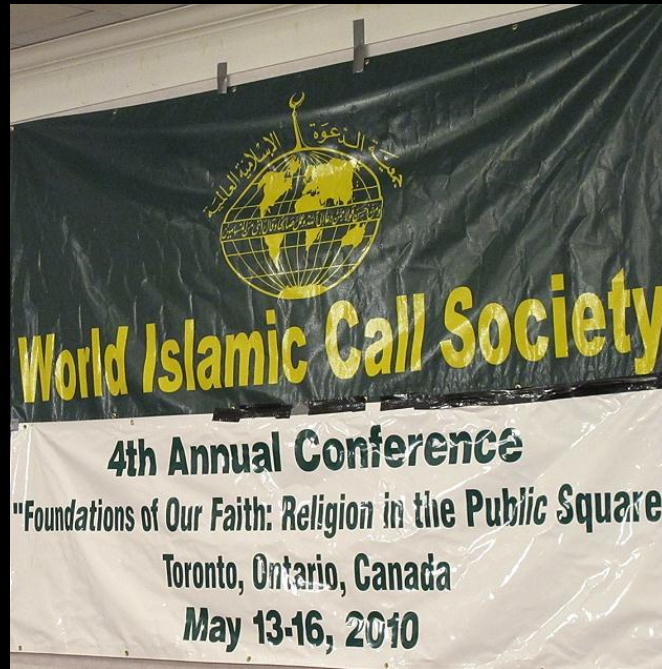
- Prof. of New Testament, Wheaton College
- Advisory Board of Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF)
- Board of Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding (EMEU)





# Bridges of Faith

Evangelical-Muslim  
Dialogue Conference,  
Toronto, May 2010







# World Islamic Call Society

## 4th Annual Conference

### "Foundations of Our Faith in the Public Square"

Toronto, Canada



**“Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other” (Luke 23:12).**



“To declare the ideology of Christian Zionism and the extreme form of dispensationalism that undergirds it to be a distortion of the biblical message noting the impediment it represents to achieving a just peace in Israel/Palestine.”



**Sizer**

**Burge**

*(Reformed Church of America  
General Synod, 2004)*

**Welcome to  
the Reformed  
Church in  
America**

The Reformed Church in America is a fellowship of congregations called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the very presence of Jesus Christ in the world.



**Wagner**





# Despising the Holocaust

# Accusations

- “the Holocaust guilt-card”  
(Charles P. Lutz, *Christians and a Land Called Holy*, 2006).
- “the awful authority of the Holocaust”  
(Kenneth Cragg, *This Year in Jerusalem*, 1982).
- Palestinians are “the last victims of the Holocaust”  
(Marc H. Ellis, *Holy Land Hollow Jubilee*, 1999).
- “On the theoretical as well as on the practical level, the Nazis and the Zionists saw eye to eye”  
(Regina Sharif, *Non-Jewish Zionism*, 1983).

Reflections on the Exploitation  
of Jewish Suffering

**NORMAN G. FINKELSTEIN**  
**THE HOLOCAUST INDUSTRY**

Second Edition



**The Holocaust is “an  
indispensable  
ideological weapon ...  
for deflecting criticism  
of Israel” (pp.3, 30).**

“Norman Finkelstein has my  
deepest admiration for the  
stand he is taking.”

(Stephen Sizer, [www.stephensizer.com](http://www.stephensizer.com))

# Palestinianist Hermeneutic

**The Veneer of Biblical Respectability**

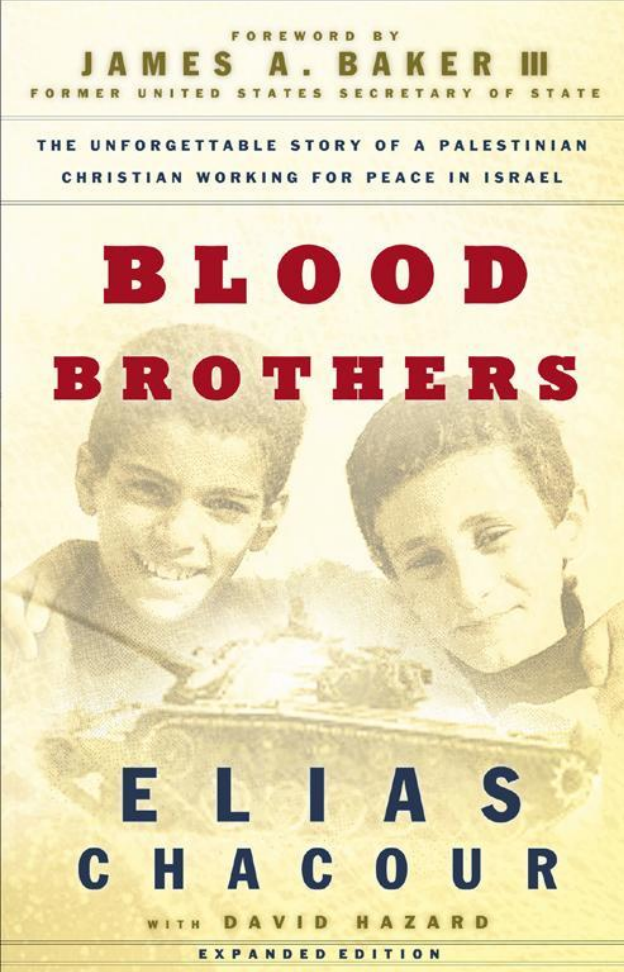
# Elias Chacour

The Godfather of Christian Palestinianism

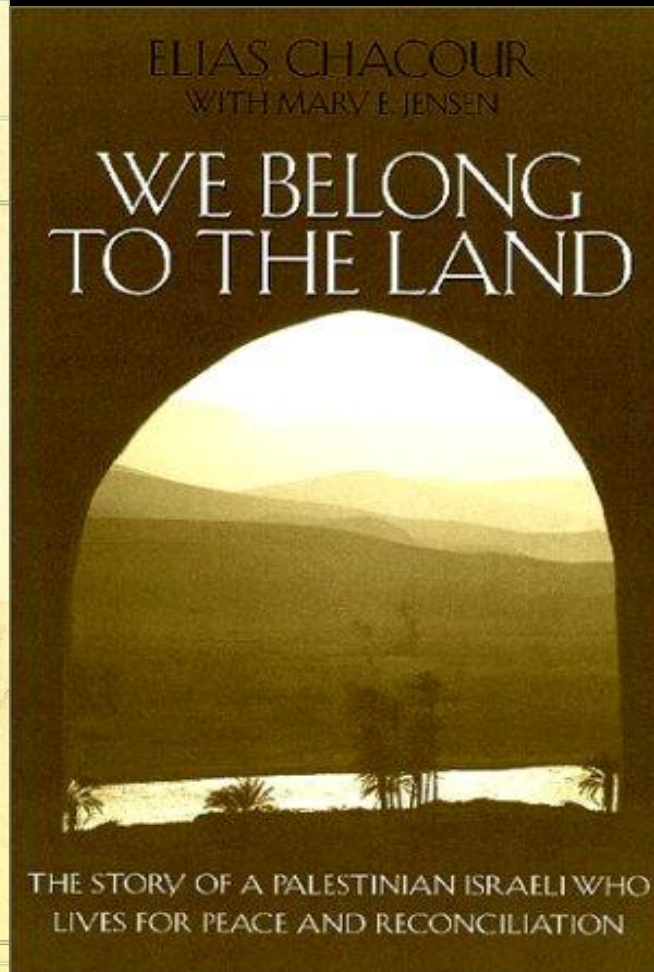


“We have been taught for centuries that the Jews are the Chosen People. We do not believe anymore that they are the Chosen People of God, since now we have a new understanding of that Choseness.”

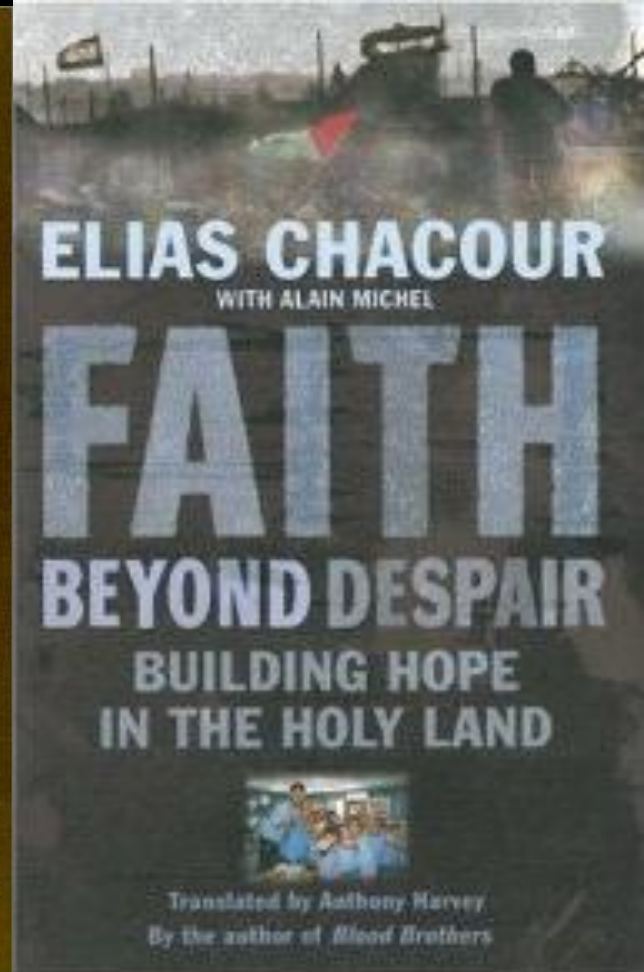




1983



1992



2008

*Blood Brothers* “touched the hearts and opened the minds of thousands of evangelicals concerning Christians in the Holy Land” (Donald Wagner).



# WHOSE PROMISED LAND?

THE CONTINUING  
CRISIS OVER  
ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

COLIN CHAPMAN

The New Testament writers “ceased to look forward to a literal fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies of a return to the land and a restored Jewish state. The one and only fulfilment of all the promises and prophecies was already there before their eyes in the person of Jesus.”



NAIM STIFAN ATEEK

# JUSTICE

AND ONLY

# JUSTICE

A Palestinian Theology of Liberation

Foreword by

Rosemary Radford Ruether

“When confronted with a difficult passage in the Bible ... one needs to ask such simple questions as: Is the way I am hearing this the way I have come to know God in Christ? Does this **fit the picture I have** of God that Jesus has revealed to me? ... If it does, then that passage is valid and authoritative. If not, then **I cannot accept** its validity or authority.”

# The Wrath of Jonah



The Crisis of Religious Nationalism  
in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict



*Rosemary Radford Ruether*  
*Herman J. Ruether*

“For me, the writer of  
Jonah appears to be  
the first Palestinian  
liberation theologian.”

“In my understanding,  
the inclusive text of  
Jonah is a standard  
against which Old  
Testament theology  
must be measured.”

(Naim Ateek)

# A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation



Naim Stifan Ateek

Foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu

**“Strangers shall stand and  
tend your flocks ... you shall  
eat the wealth of the  
nations” (Isaiah 61:5,6).**

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**“This exclusivist text is  
unacceptable today ... It  
must be de-Zionized”**

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**Samson was “the first  
suicide bomber”**





THE NEW TESTAMENT  
CHALLENGE TO  
"HOLY LAND" THEOLOGY

JESUS  
and the LAND

Gary M. Burge

**“Once in a while a book comes along that reshapes the theological landscape. This is such a book and it is destined to become a defining text on the biblical theology of the land.”**

**(Stephen Sizer)**



## Acts 1:6-8

“Jesus does not envision a restoration of Israel *per se* but instead sees himself as embracing the drama of Jerusalem within his own life ... In some manner, the initial restoration of Israel has already begun inasmuch as Christ, the new Temple, the New Israel, has been resurrected.”

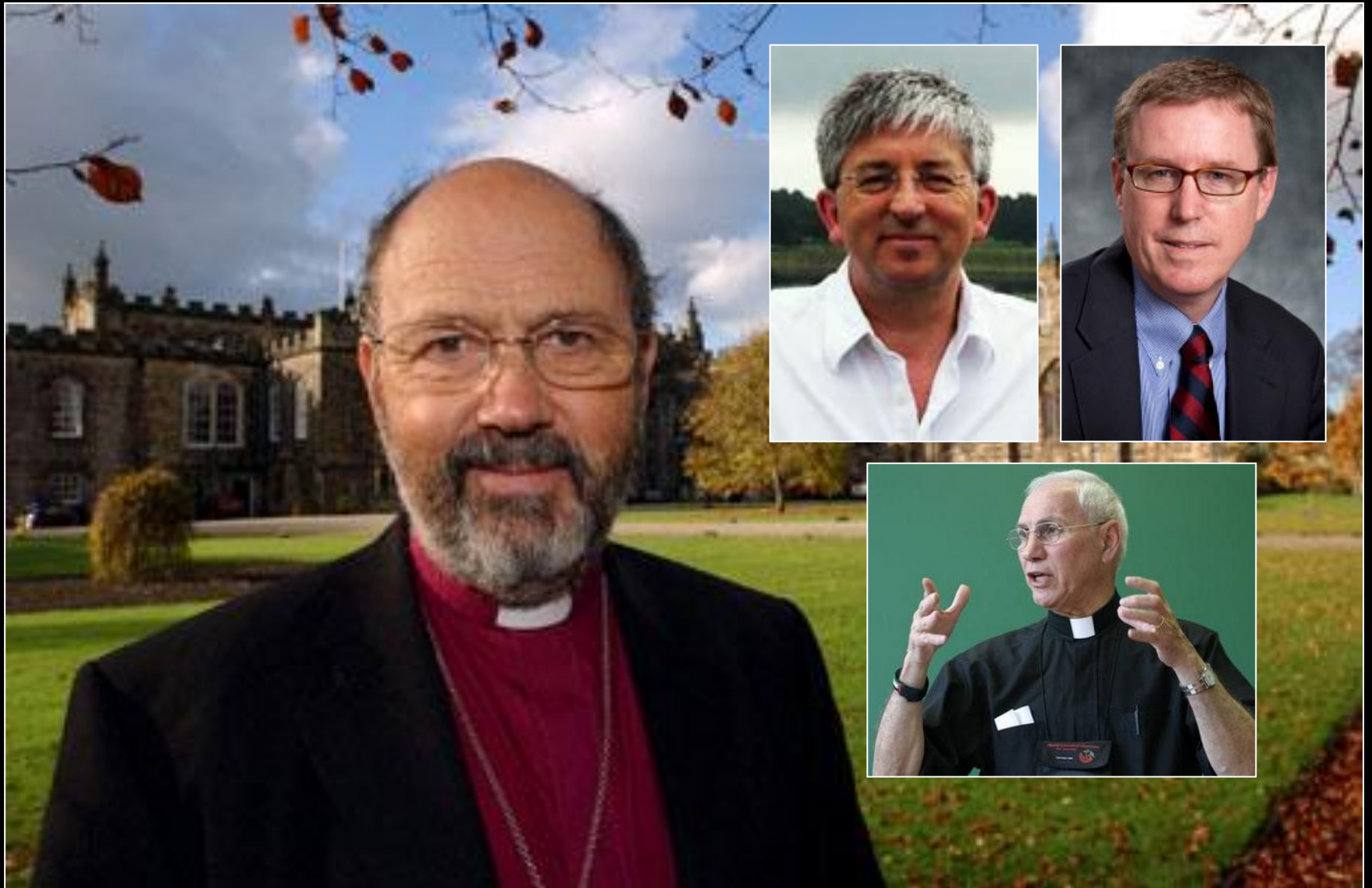


## Galatians 6:16

“This is perhaps the apostle’s most stark example of universalizing the new identity of the people of God. The apostle is redrawing the definitions for self-identity ... And with this redefinition comes a realignment of the privileges that come with all identities.”



# Bishop N.T. Wright

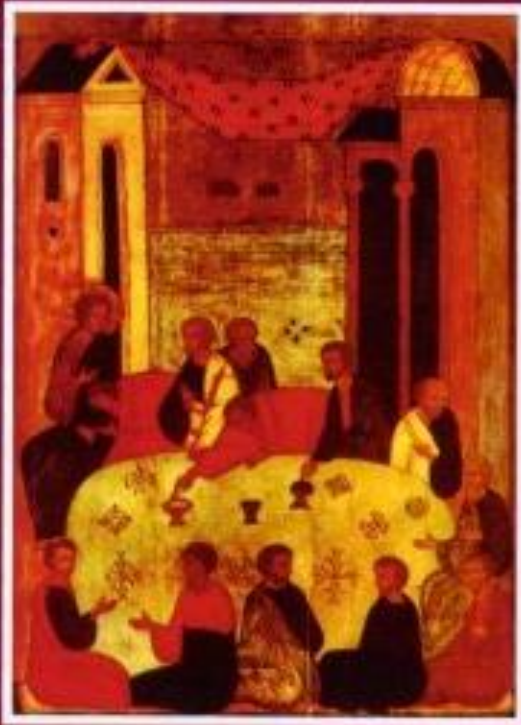


“The American obsession with the second coming of Jesus — especially with distorted interpretations of it — continues unabated. Seen from my side of the Atlantic, the phenomenal success of the *Left Behind* books appears puzzling, even bizarre. Few in the U.K. hold the belief on which the popular series of novels is based: that there will be a literal ‘rapture’ in which believers will be snatched up to heaven”

(N.T. Wright, ‘Farewell to the Rapture,’ 2001).



# THE NEW TESTAMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD



N.T. WRIGHT

- “Israel’s story has been embodied in one man” (p.402)
- “the whole story of Israel ... reached its intended climax with his death [exile] and resurrection [restoration]” (p.366)
- “the church ... seems to have taken the place occupied ... by (Jewish) ethnic identity” (p.367)

# JESUS

AND THE VICTORY OF GOD



N.T. WRIGHT

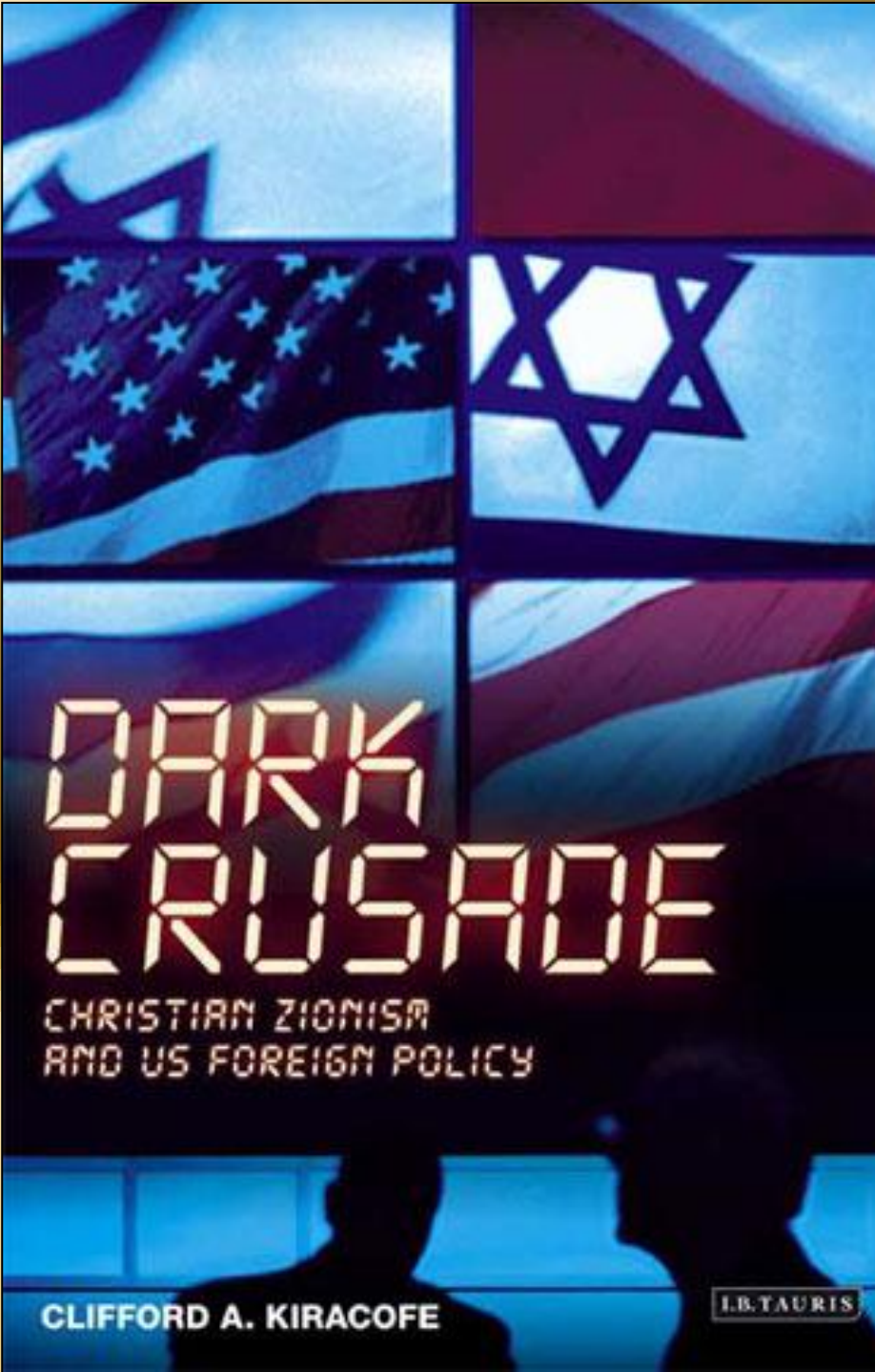
## The Lord Jesus was:

- “reconstituting Israel around himself” (p.131)
- “reinterpreting” Israel’s eschatological hope (p.241)
- “reusing Israel’s prophetic heritage, and retelling its story” (p.349)
- “redefining what the kingdom meant” (p.471)

## Jesus and the Victory of God (2001)

“The promises to Jerusalem, to Zion, are now transferred to Jesus and his people.”

# Propaganda Machine



**“For a century and a half, Christian Zionism has insidiously twisted the American republic’s traditional values of faith, hope, and charity into delusion, fear, and war.”**

**Thanks to “the very old script worked out by John Nelson Darby and his delusional circle.”**

**Darby was “the person who brought the Armageddon theology to America.”**



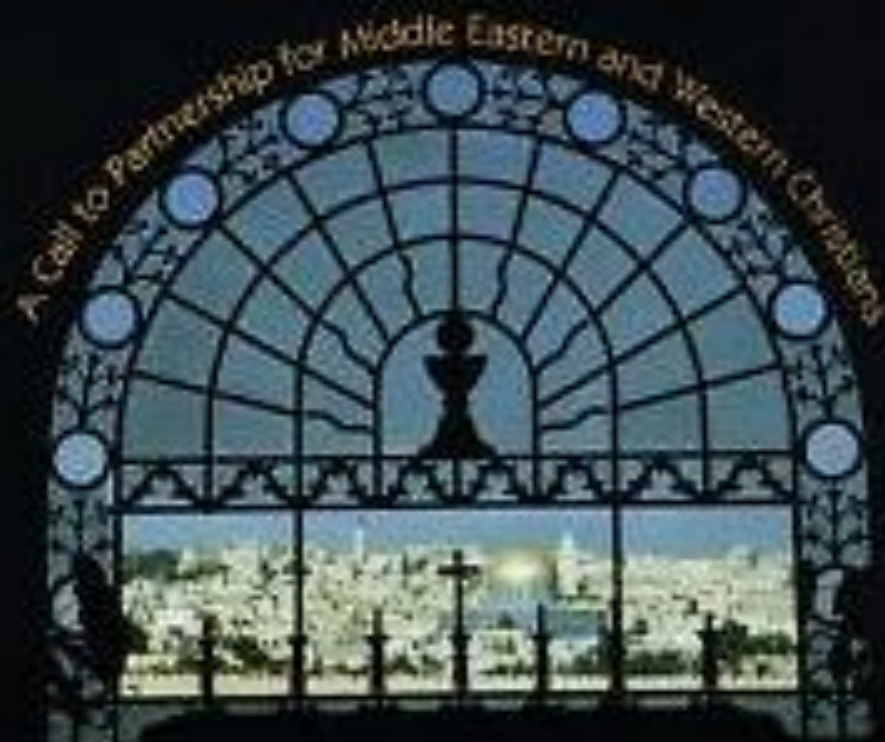
Foreword by Richard C. Halverson

# PEACE *OR* ARMAGEDDON?

*The Unfolding Drama of  
the Middle East Peace Accord*



Dan O'Neill & Don Wagner



# A Anxious for Armageddon

Foreword by  
Elias Chacour

Donald E. Wagner



"An excellent overview."  
- *Library Journal*

# ON THE ROAD TO ARMAGEDDON

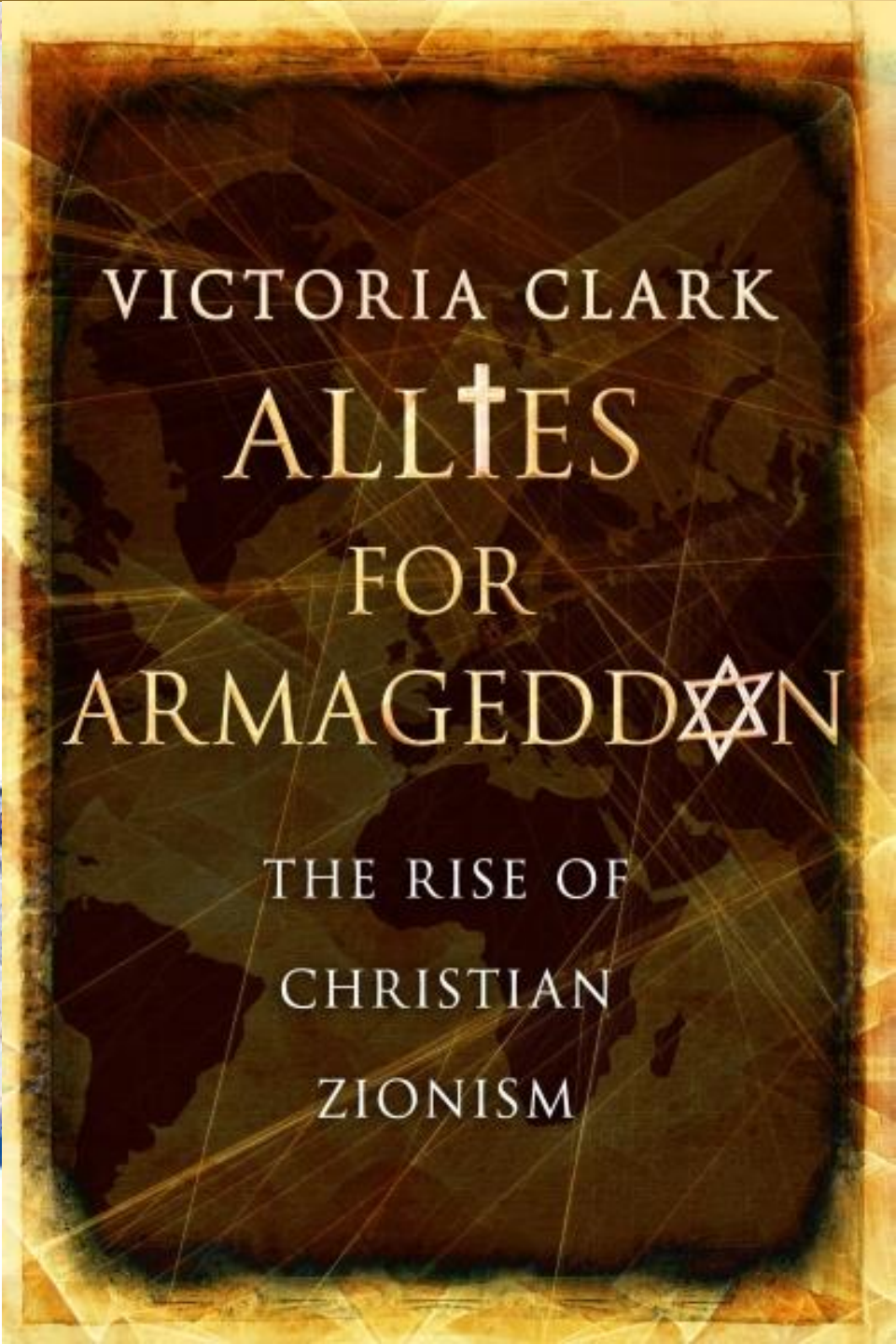
HOW EVANGELICALS  
BECAME ISRAEL'S BEST FRIEND



**TIMOTHY P. WEBER**

# VICTORIA CLARK ALLIES FOR ARMAGEDDON

THE RISE OF  
CHRISTIAN  
ZIONISM



Stephen Sizer

ivp



# ZION'S CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS?

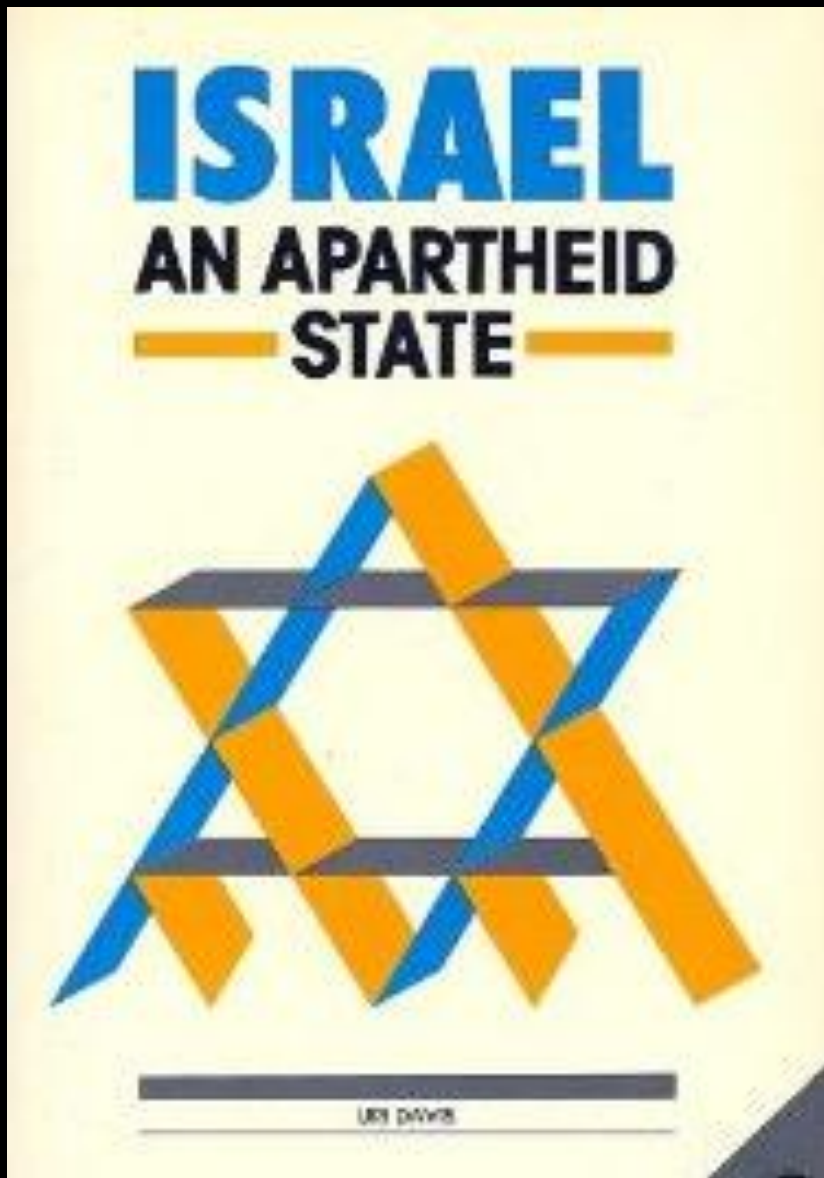
The Bible, Israel and the Church

Including *The Place of Israel* by John Stott

**“Zion’s Christian  
Perverts might  
have been a  
wiser title.”**

(Kenneth Cragg, former  
assistant Anglican bishop of  
Jerusalem)





Uri Davis, 1987



Ben White, 2009

ILAN PAPPE

*The* **ETHNIC  
CLEANSING** *of*  
**PALESTINE**

'Ilan Pappé is Israel's bravest, most principled,  
most incisive historian.'

JOHN PILGER



“My research has highlighted how the Palestinian Christian community has suffered isolation, discrimination, and persecution akin to ‘ethnic cleansing,’ and a form of apartheid.”

Stephen Sizer, ‘The Promised Land: Palestine and Israel,’ in *They Came and They Saw* (2000).

FOREWORD BY WALTER BRUEGGEMANN

# FATAL EMBRACE

CHRISTIANS, JEWS, AND THE SEARCH FOR  
PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

MARK BRAVERMAN

The “root cause of the conflict” is “Israel’s elemental conviction about being God’s chosen people”  
(Walter Brueggemann)

Israel’s goal is the “ethnic cleansing” of Palestinians

Visit to Sabeel in 2006  
“helped open a pathway back to the prophets.”



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FOREWORD BY WALTER BRUEGGEMANN

# FATAL EMBRACE

CHRISTIANS, JEWS, AND THE SEARCH FOR  
PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

MARK BRAVERMAN

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# Which Prophets?

**“They speak visions of  
their own minds ... I did  
not send these  
prophets, yet they have  
run with their message”  
(Jeremiah 23:16-21)**

Unholy Alliance

**2010**

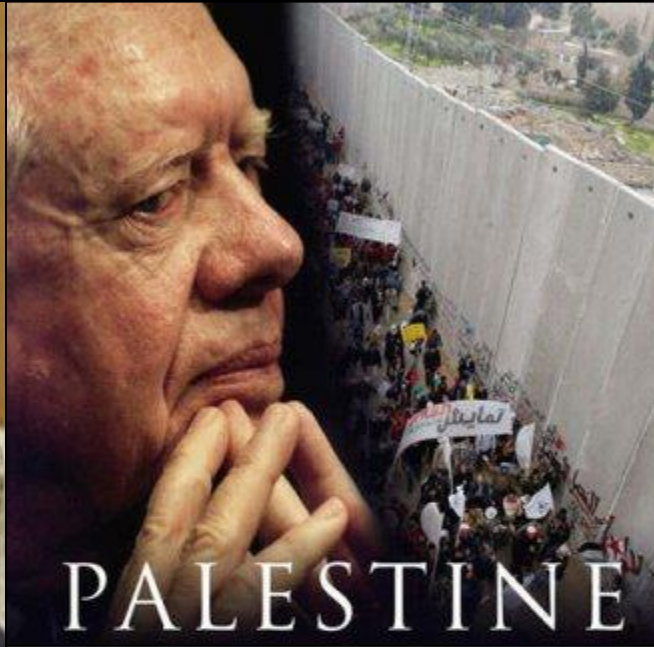
**BOYCOTT  
ISRAELI  
GOODS**



**Don't Squeeze a Jaffa  
Crush the Occupation**

**1933**





PALESTINE  
PEACE NOT  
APARTHEID  

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JIMMY CARTER

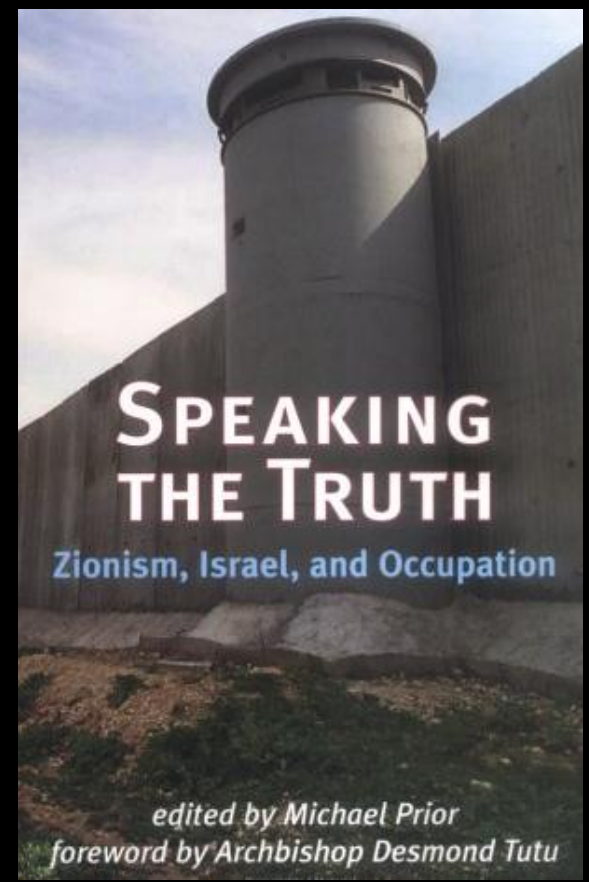




# At the Muqata'a with Arafat

5<sup>th</sup> International Sabeel Conference  
(Jerusalem, 2004)





“Now, alas, we see *apartheid* in Israel ... The apartheid government was very powerful, but today it no longer exists. Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Pinochet, Milosevic, and Idi Amin were all powerful, but, in the end, they bit the dust.”





# The **Sabeel Report** (by Paul Wilkinson)





**Michael Prior (deceased)**

Joshua = “the patron saint of ethnic cleaners”

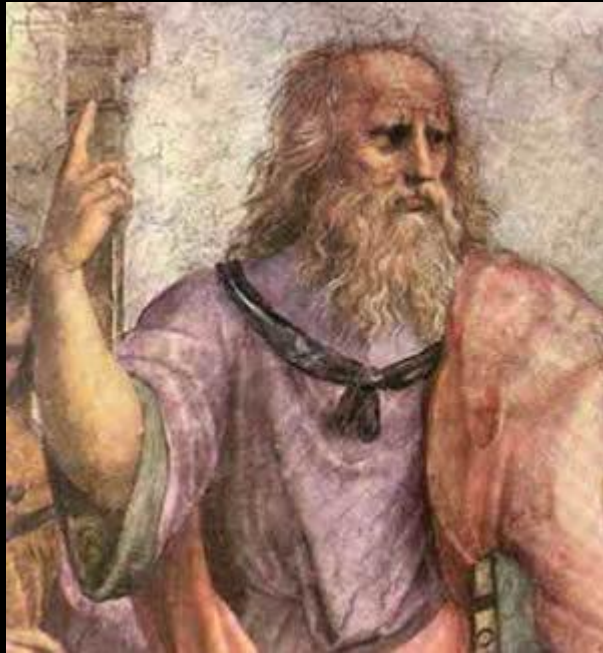
(5<sup>th</sup> International Sabeel Conference, 2004)

The God of the Christian Zionist = “the Great Ethnic-Cleanser, a militaristic and xenophobic genocidist, who is not sufficiently moral even to conform to the requirements of the Fourth Geneva Convention”

Michael Prior, ‘The Holy Land and the Scandalous Performance of the Churches’, *Cornerstone* (Winter, 2003).



# Theological Roots



## **Plato**

**Higher meaning**  
**Matter irrelevant**  
**Salvation of soul**



## **Augustine**

**Church = Kingdom**  
**Jews = Witness People**  
**Amillennialism**



## **Calvin**

**Augustinian**  
**Covenantal**  
**Supersessionist**

<b>DOCTRINE</b>	<b>COVENANTALISM</b>
<b>Israel's National Promises</b>	<b>Spiritualized in the Church</b>
<b>Israel and the Church</b>	<b>One People of God</b>
<b>Eretz Israel</b>	<b>Fulfilled and Annulled</b>
<b>Jerusalem</b>	<b>No Longer Significant</b>
<b>Temple</b>	<b>Redundant</b>
<b>Eschatology</b>	<b>Amill, Postmill, Preterist</b>
<b>Armageddon</b>	<b>Figurative</b>
<b>Return of Jesus</b>	<b>One Visible Event</b>
<b>Millennium</b>	<b>Figurative</b>

Stephen Sizer, *Christian Zionism: Road-map to Armageddon?*, pp. 262-263

# The Goliath Taunt





# WHOSE PROMISED LAND?

THE CONTINUING  
CRISIS OVER  
ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

COLIN CHAPMAN

Sizer's book has  
“thrown down the  
gauntlet in a way that  
demands a response  
from those who  
support the state of  
Israel for theological  
reasons.”

FOREWORD BY JOHN STOTT

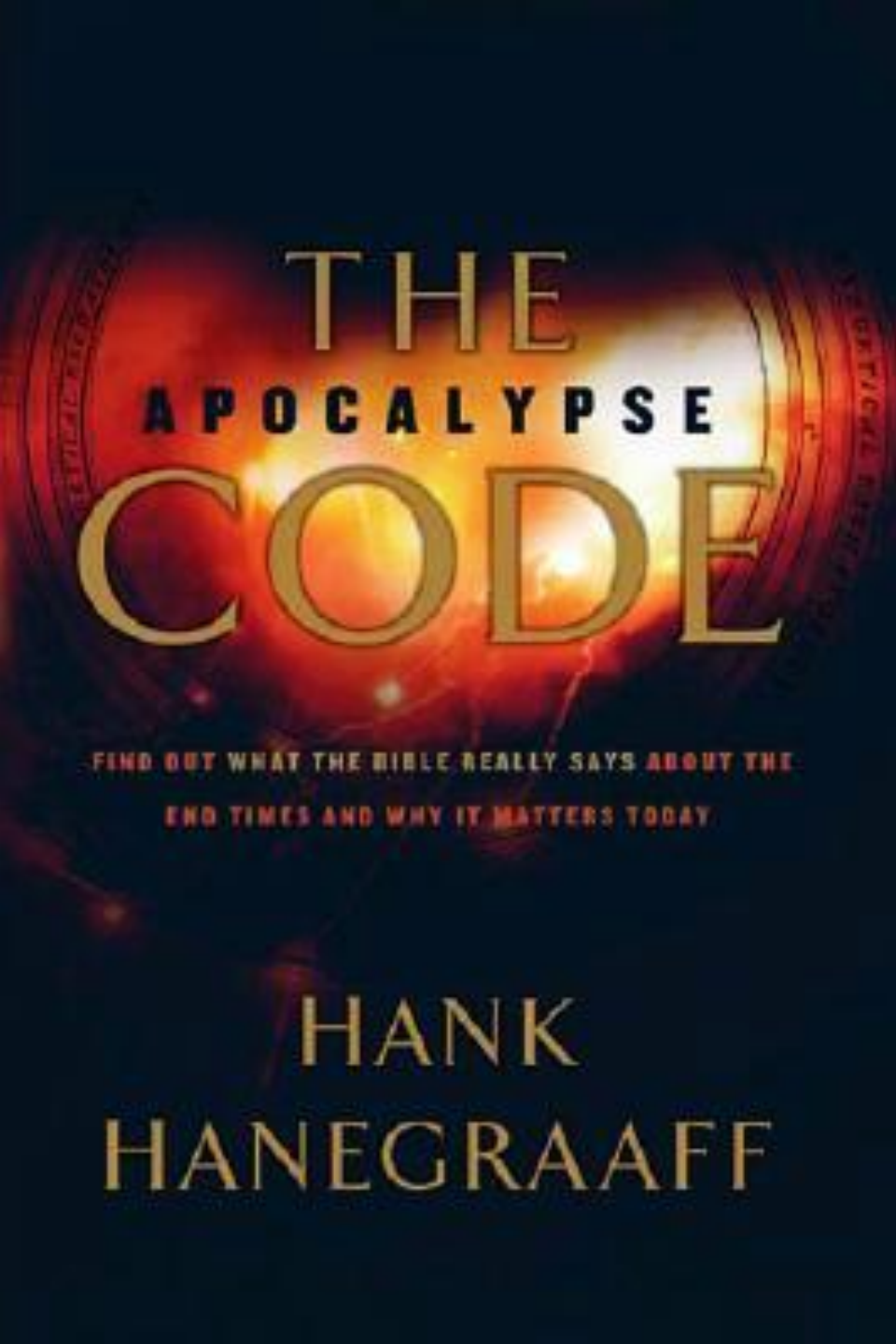
Edited by  
PHILIP JOHNSTON &  
PETER WALKER

# THE LAND OF PROMISE

BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL  
AND CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES

**“The case against Christian Zionists has been supported by new scholarship, as, for example, in the writings of N.T. Wright ... Can work of this quality be matched by Christian Zionists, or are they simply, dare I say, repeating the same old arguments that have been put forward in the past?**

**(Colin Chapman)**



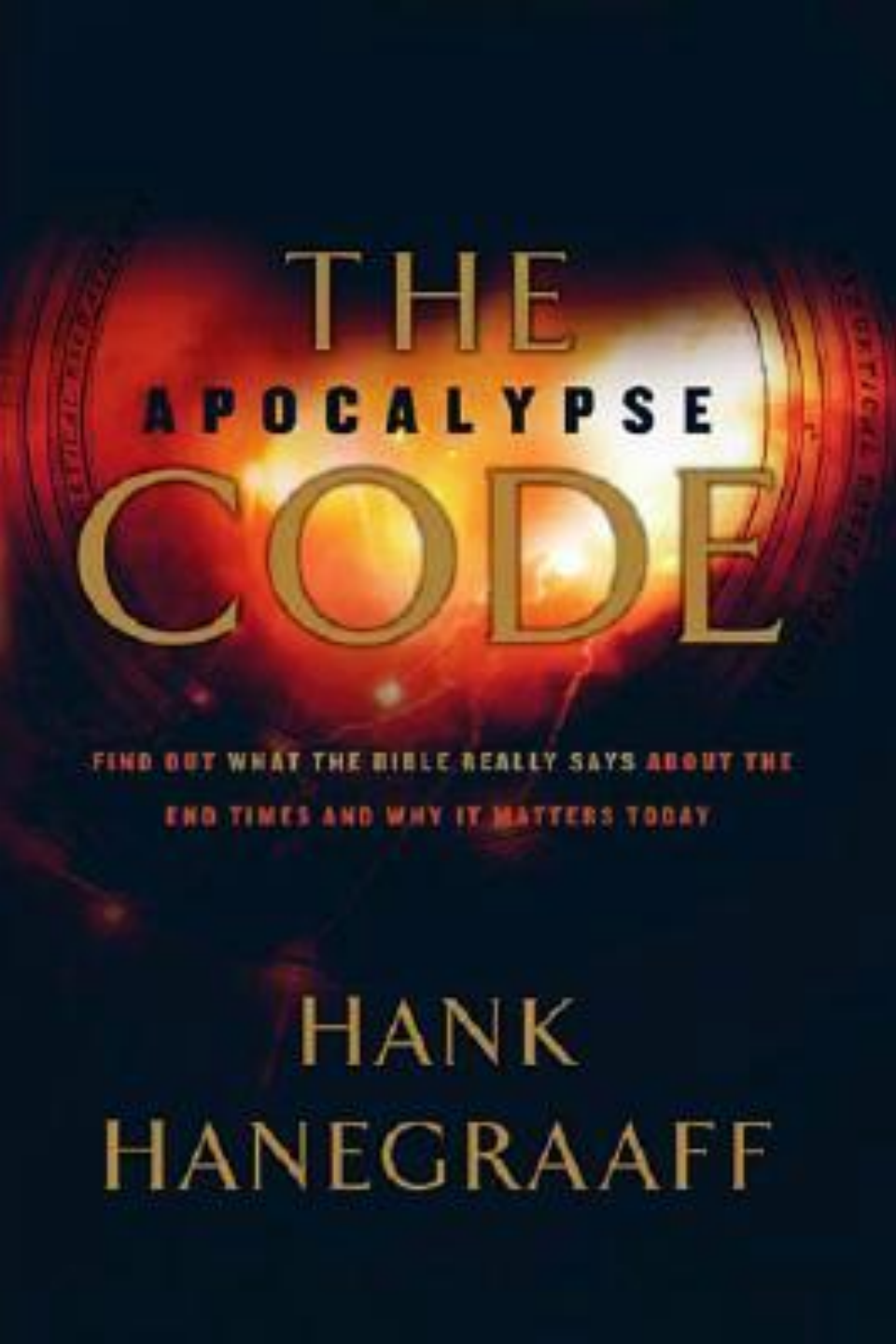
# THE APOCALYPSE CODE

FIND OUT WHAT THE BIBLE REALLY SAYS ABOUT THE  
END TIMES AND WHY IT MATTERS TODAY.

HANK  
HANEGRAAFF

**“I would like to express my deep appreciation for the insights I garnered through such intellectuals as N.T. Wright, Gary Burge, Stephen Sizer, Colin Chapman ...”**





# THE APOCALYPSE CODE

FIND OUT WHAT THE BIBLE REALLY SAYS ABOUT THE  
END TIMES AND WHY IT MATTERS TODAY.

HANK  
HANEGRAAFF

**“Because of this book, not surprisingly, the ‘Pre-Tribs’ are not a happy bunch ... A great book to detox your *Left Behind* friends. I love Hank’s style and we’ve made some great radio programmes together”**

**(Stephen Sizer)**



# On the Campaign Trail

"I read that if any form of violence is used, it will lead to a war that will engulf and powerfully into the most complex region of the world. I don't recommend it either!"  
- Cal Hill, Author of "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints"

**WITH GOD  
ON OUR SIDE**



**“We believe there is a better way, a way of justice, peace and love for Jews and Palestinians. One that is inclusive, not exclusive. That is the heart of God.”**



# USA 2010

- Wheaton College, IL
- Harvard, MA
- Princeton, NJ
- Biola University, CA
- California Baptist University
- Pepperdine University, CA
- Point Loma Nazarene University, CA
- North Carolina State University



PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY

# Porter Speakman and Stephen Sizer

Oct. 20th 2010

06:00pm - 11:00pm

Sec. 21113a CA Vehicle Code Enforced  
Department of Public Safety 310.506.4700

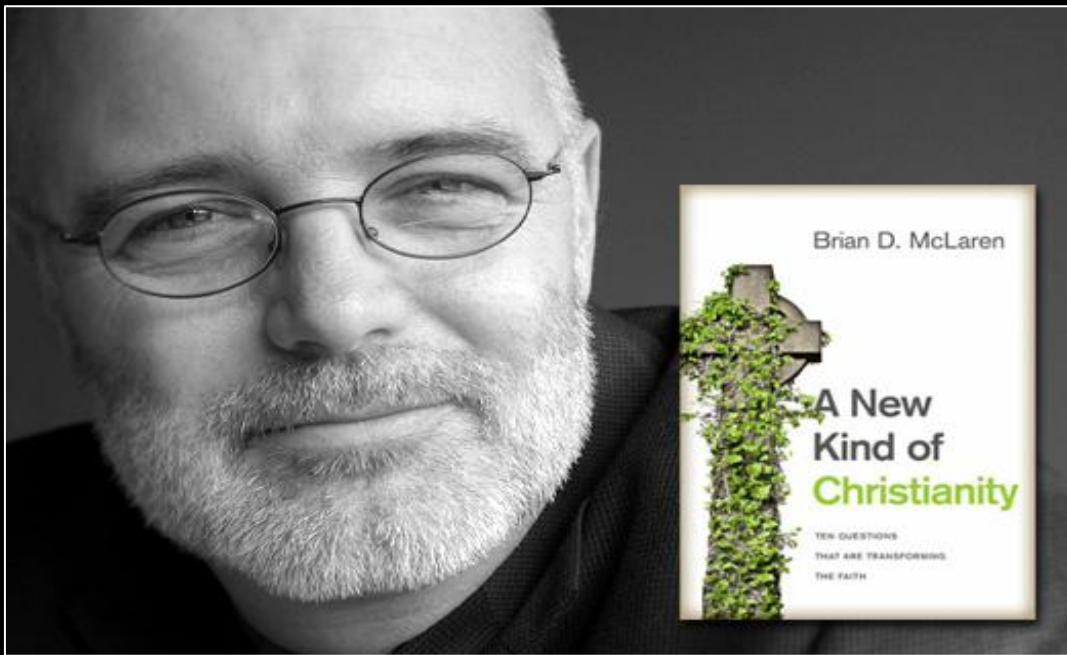
WITH GOD  
ON OUR SIDE

PLAY

CHAPTERS

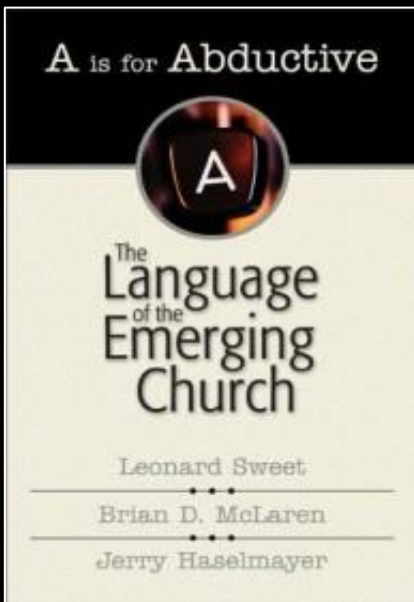
RESOURCES





**“Finally! A look at what Christian Zionism teaches and more importantly, the real implications it has on the people of the Middle East.”**

(Brian McLaren)







**“I don’t know of anything quite like it – and I would have to say the church desperately needs it.”**

(Tony Campolo)



BRIAN D. MCLAREN  
& TONY CAMPOLO

**ADVENTURES IN  
MISSING THE POINT**

HOW THE CULTURE-CONTROLLED  
CHURCH NEUTERED THE GOSPEL



ZONDERVAN



# UK 2010



- Nazarene Theological College, Manchester
- Holyrood – Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh
- Stormont – Northern Ireland Assembly, Belfast
- Trinity College, Dublin
- Cambridge University

# Who Hosted This Private Screening?



Our Response?



# “Robert Murray McCheyne’s Church hosts seminar on Christian Zionism”

([www.stephensizer.com](http://www.stephensizer.com))





ERECTED  
BY HIS SORROWING FLOCK,  
IN MEMORY OF  
THE REVEREND ROBERT MURRAY M'CHEYNE

**McCheyne was “one of my spiritual heroes”  
(Stephen Sizer)**

IN THE THIRTIETH YEAR OF HIS AGE,  
AND SIXTH OF HIS MINISTRY.

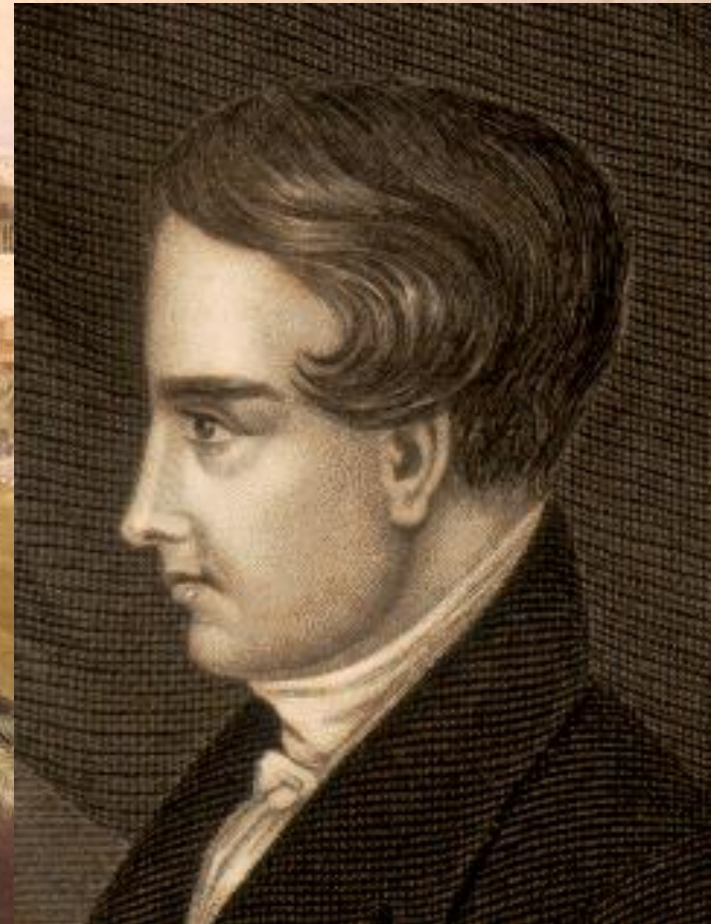
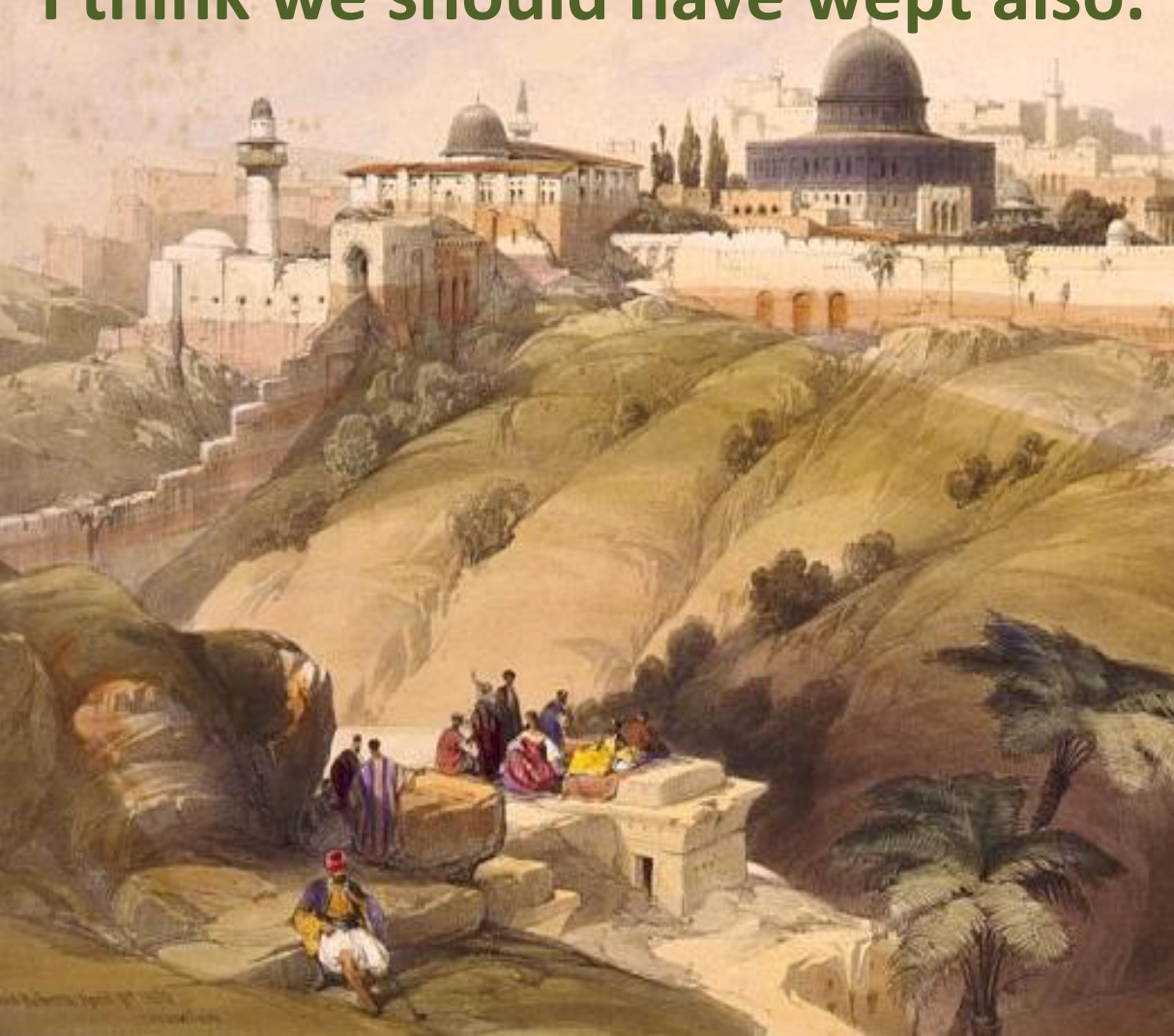
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WALKING CLOSELY WITH GOD, AN EXAMPLE  
OF THE BELIEVERS.

IN WORD, IN CONVERSATION, IN CHARITY,  
IN SPIRIT, IN FAITH, IN PURITY.



**“We stood at the turning point of the road where Jesus came near and beheld the city and wept over it. And if we had had more of the mind that was in Jesus, I think we should have wept also.”**



**Robert Murray McCheyne  
(1813-1843)**

# **'How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place'**

**How lovely is Your dwelling place**

**O LORD of Hosts.**

**My soul longs and faints**

**For the courts of the LORD.**

**Where the sparrow finds a home**

**And the swallow her nest,**

**By Your altars, O LORD of Hosts,**

**I will lie down to rest.**



## Chorus:

*Blessed is he who dwells  
In the House of the LORD (Men)  
In the House of the LORD (Women)  
Forever singing praise  
To the LORD God of Hosts.  
Blessed is he who dwells  
In Your shelter O LORD (Men)  
In Your shelter O LORD (Women)  
He whose trust and strength  
Is in the LORD God of Hosts.*

**A day in Your courts, O LORD  
Is better than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper  
In Your House of Prayer.  
Nothing will the LORD withhold  
From those whose pathways are straight.  
He will honour and favour him  
Who waits at His gate.**

## Chorus:

*Blessed is he who dwells  
In the House of the LORD (Men)  
In the House of the LORD (Women)  
Forever singing praise  
To the LORD God of Hosts.  
Blessed is he who dwells  
In Your shelter O LORD (Men)  
In Your shelter O LORD (Women)  
He whose trust and strength  
Is in the LORD God of Hosts.*



**Who may ascend the Hill of the LORD?**

**Who shall stand in His Holy Place?**

**He who has clean hands and heart,**

**In whose soul there is no disgrace.**

**Those who seek the face of the LORD,**

**Serving Him by day and by night,**

**Shall receive a blessing from God;**

**A chosen people in the LORD's sight.**

# Chorus:

*Blessed is he who dwells  
In the House of the LORD (Men)  
In the House of the LORD (Women)  
Forever singing praise  
To the LORD God of Hosts.  
Blessed is he who dwells  
In Your shelter O LORD (Men)  
In Your shelter O LORD (Women)  
He whose trust and strength  
Is in the LORD God of Hosts.*

Based on Psalms 84 & 24

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Words & Music by Andrew D. Robinson

Musical arrangement by Graham Moir

**Copies of the CD and musical score, and the 'Sabeel Report' (2004),  
are available free of charge from:**

**Hazel Grove Full Gospel Church, 68 London Road, Hazel Grove,  
Stockport, Cheshire, SK7 4AF (UK). Charity No. 1051785.**

**Email: [grainforthefamine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:grainforthefamine@hotmail.co.uk).**

**Telephone: 0161 456 8393**

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