

Israel and Hamas Excursus

TWO BROTHERS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

Israel and the Gaza Strip - What's the Issue

1. Israelis are primarily Jewish.
2. Gaza Strip residents are primarily Muslim (along with Muslim residents of the West Bank, they are known as Palestinians).
3. Hamas is a radical Islamic militant group set on destroying the country of Israel (and therefore inherently Jews).
4. Hamas "controls" the Gaza Strip.
5. Over the weekend of Oct. 7-8, Hamas invaded Israel and killed or took captive hundreds of Israelis.
6. Since then, Israel has declared war on Hamas and retaliated.



Israel and the Gaza Strip - What's the History?

Vv. 9-12

1. Israel and surrounding territories are controlled by the Ottoman Empire up until WWI.
2. After WWII, in 1948, the country of Israel was established (which had been endorsed by the United Nations).
3. War broke out, Israel won and extended its territory.
4. From 1948 to 1967 skirmishes and other violence created Palestinian refugee crises and Israel continued to extend its territory, particularly the inclusion of Jerusalem.
5. In 1973 (50 years ago), the Yom Kippur War started as a surprise attack on Israel by Egypt and Syria. Initially they were advancing, but Israel thoroughly routed them and established military dominance in the region.
6. Since then, ongoing peace accords (Oslo, Camp David, etc.), the giving and taking of land by Israel, terroristic activity by Palestinians, and world events have shaped the region in multiple ways.
7. Important organizations and leaders from the 80s on have been Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), and Ehud Barak, Ariel Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu as leaders of Israel.
8. In 2007, Hamas takes over the PLO. Since then an overwhelming number of Palestinians have died compared to Israelis.

Israel and the Gaza Strip - What's Misinformation?

1. The Bible requires Christians to defend Israel.
2. From a geopolitical standpoint, the US should be neutral.
3. Hamas' actions are justified because of years of Israeli oppression.
4. Israel has constantly stolen land from Palestinians.
5. Israel has the right to do whatever they want because of their "9-11."

