

EXCERPT OF SERMON

22nd October 2023

Sunday 15 October 2023

Title of Sermon : Consequence of Choice.
Minister : Dr Bruce Woolard
Reading : Genesis 17:15-19,
Galatians 4:22-31



The war in Israel has raised questions as to who has the right to the Holy Land? In order to understand the Gaza dilemma, including Israel's response to October 7th massacre of innocent citizens, one would be wise to consider the narrative contained in the Scriptures.

Abraham and Sarah

God had promised both Abraham and Sarah that their child would inherit the land He had promised them. Sarah became anxious about the fulfilment as she was almost a nonagenarian (almost 90). She suggested that her servant Hagar, an Egyptian, be considered a surrogate mother to birth a son for Abraham. Ishmael (father of Arab nations) was born to Hagar. When Ishmael was 13 years of age, miraculously, Sarah conceived and bore a son called Isaac (father of the Edomites and Israel). The conflict between both women and their sons resulted in Abraham having to send away Hagar and Ishmael with the assurance from God that He would take care of them. The Abrahamic covenant was made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The covenant of blessing included the land God promised Abraham. The current Jews occupying Israel, therefore, have a legal right to the land. Through the passage of history the land was invaded several times.

Israel Invaded

The Promised Land was invaded by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans, Ottoman Turks. In 70AD the Romans destroyed the Jewish temple and crucified Jews and destroyed the city. The Romans renamed the region calling it Palestine. The Ottoman Turks occupied the territory for several centuries until the Crusaders took back Jerusalem. The Jews were scattered among the nation but retained their identity. In 1892 the Jews established Zionism in an attempt to find a homeland for Jews.

After the aftermath of the First World War, the British and French demarcated the land to accommodate the Palestinian Arabs, Jews and Jordanians.

The Second World War necessitated that the Jews be granted their own homeland. In 1948 Israel became an independent Jewish state. After 2000 years of wandering the Jews at last had a country they could call home. The Palestinian Arabs agitated leading to a series of attacks on Jewish settlers.

In 1967 the Arab nations united to "kick the Jews" out of Israel. The six day miracle war ended with tiny Israel victorious.

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Consequence of Choice continued

In 1973 another attempt to dislodge the Jews failed. Gaza and the West Bank was taken by Israel. These two areas are considered occupied territory. The Palestinian Liberation Organisation led by Yasser Arafat waged war against Israel. Several peace treaties were signed. A two state solution to the conflict was proposed.

Israel removed its settlers from Gaza and the West Bank to grant independence to the Palestinians. Regrettably this proved to be unwise because the territory was used by “suicide bombers” flowing into Israel. A blockade and boundary wall was set up for the Israeli defence force to monitor border crossings. The Zionist want Israel for Jews only, hence the state’s policy being labelled “apartheid”.

In Gaza the residents replaced the Palestinian authority with a militant group called Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in the south of Lebanon. Both Hamas and Hezbollah’s charter called for the total annihilation of Israel. These terrorist groups are being allegedly sponsored by Iran.

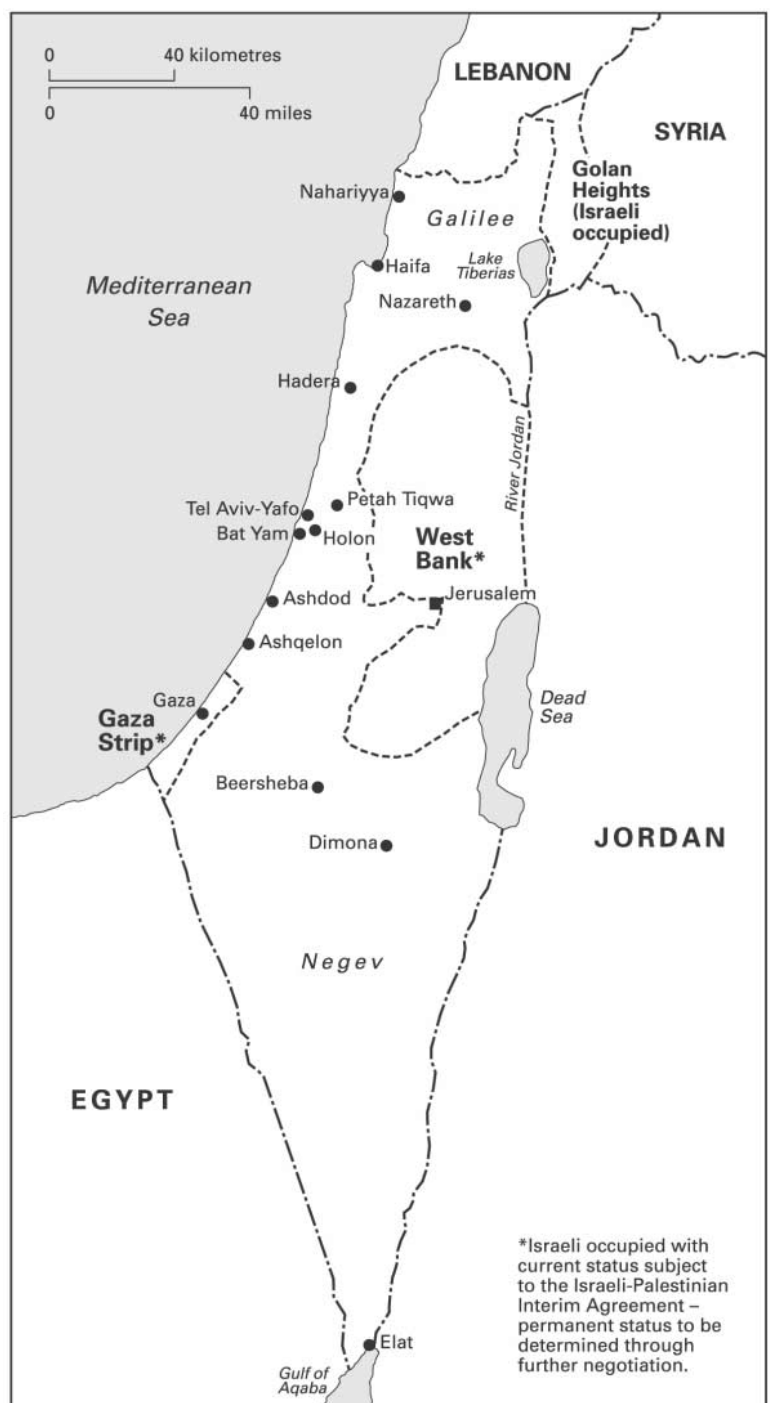
Was October 7 tragedy by Hamas initiated by Iran to destabilise the region? Israel was on the brink of signing an agreement with the Saudis, Moroccans and United Arab Emirates.

This war will, no doubt, lead to another truce. When Israel believes it has finally established peace with it’s neighbours, Russia, Iran, Turkey and Arab nations will launch an attack on unsuspecting Israel. Ezekial 38 & 39 predicts the outcome with Israel’s victory. It will take 7 months to bury the dead killed in battle.

The scene is being set for Israel to

eventually seek reassurance of safety and peace. A pseudo-Christ will provide peace for Israel and break a seven (7) year agreement with them. When Israel is surrounded by nations who try to exterminate her Christ will return to deal with these hostile nations. This battle is referred to Armageddon (read Zechariah 14:1-9).

Take note that the consequences of Abrahams choice is what is currently on display and that we are now witnessing at this time. This is the consequence of choice.



RECYCLING COLLECTION IN RECESS FOR 2023

Please be advised that the collection of all recycled goods like yoghurt & ice-cream containers, cereal boxes, cans, bottle tops, etc, including books, magazines, etc. you have so diligently helped us collect for the various outreach we assist, is now CLOSED and in recess for this year.

Thank You
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

Please be advised that this **also includes** the glass coffee bottles, as we have received an abundance for our Jar of Hope project for this year.

The WA Ladies will be clearing out the cupboards and storage area distributing whatever is left in stock in preparation for the New Year.

We thank you so very much for your diligence and assistance and we will resume our collection in the New Year—so watch the bulletin in 2024 for information.

Draw me Nearer (HS2)

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Refrain:

**Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer,
blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer,
blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.**

Oh, the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my
God,
I commune as friend with friend!
[Refrain]

Give Thanks (HS71)

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus
Christ, His Son
Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus
Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for
us"
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for
us"

Doxology (HS85)

MAY GOD'S BLESSING

May God's blessing surround you each
day
As you trust Him and walk His way
May His presence within guard and
keep you from sin
God in peace, go in joy, go in love.

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Sat 04/11	White Elephant & Take Away 9:00am—12pm
Sunday 05/11	Sunday Communion & New Member Intake @ 9:00am
Tuesday 07/11	OFFICE IS CLOSED <i>Elzunia on a days leave</i>
Friday 10/11	Coffee & Conversation Fellowship @ 10:00am R20pp
Sunday 12/11	Special Remembrance Day Sunday Service @ 9:00am
Thursday Mornings Bible Study	@ 9:00am in the hall. <i>Topic this term is titled:</i> Angeology
BANKING DETAILS:	St Davids Congregational Church Nedbank, Greenacres Branch No: 126817 Acc No: (Chq) 1268 035 025 <i>Thank you for your faithfulness.</i>

CHRISTMAS HAMPER FOOD PARCEL DRIVE

Please assist us with our food hamper drive for the needy. Each Sunday we will ask you to contribute and bring along an item for the parcels.

Collecting Sunday 29/10

Small Tea/Coffee & Small Sugar

A shopping trolley will be made available at the church door for your donation or hand your contribution to the Deacon on duty.
Thank you for your support

FINAL CALL

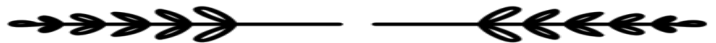
Closing Date for
application 29/10 to
facilitate making up of the
certificates.



Should you wish to become an official member of St Davids please complete an application form available from the Deacons.

A **NEW MEMBER INTAKE** is planned for **Sunday 5th November @ 9:00am.**

You may also email Elzunia for info on stdavids@telkomsa.net



prayer list

Please submit prayer requests to stdavids@telkomsa.net or call 041-3601127 or send a WhatsApp to St Davids on 081 041 0935

Please keep the following in prayer:

Ernie van Vreden, Yvonne and Chelsea Nell, Ashleigh Cummings, Beverley Minnaar, Michael Williams, Alan Campbell, Gail Dorfling, Froneman & Ladds Family, Miranda Paulsen, Connie van Dam, Yvette Danckwerts, Lesley Roux, Bev Slabbert, Sharon Grobler, Debra Langford, Karen, Nicolette Botha, Adele Endley, Roelien Taylor, Shiela van der Merwe, Jane

Oelofse, Joan & Warner Udemans, Roland & Erna Rossouw, Gary Elliott, Gladman Mshumpela, Robert Brown, Robert Daly, Michelle Thomson, Marlene Arnold, Sybil Wilke, Delene Senekal, Danie Lategan, Collette Coates, Jenny Munro, Lesley Cleve-Cross, Peggy Cleve, Dawn & Robin Hadwen, Rowene van Zyl, Val Smith, Diane & Brian Callahan, Dale Laing, Elsabe & Peter du Plessis, Kenneth de Klerk, Sandra Singer, Errol Woolard, Cecily Chase, Hilton Woolard, Doffie Eke, Gerda Claassen.

Please keep us updated on the progress of the folks you ask us to pray for and if you require us to remove their names from the Prayer List.