

## **Sabeel-Kairos UK Advent Series**

### **'Challenging Apartheid in Advent'**

#### **A Study Guide**

With the publications by Human Rights Watch<sup>1</sup>, Amnesty International<sup>2</sup> and B'Tselem<sup>3</sup> concluding that the situation for Palestinians and Israelis between the Mediterranean Sea and the River Jordan amounts to Israel committing the crime of apartheid, according to the international legal definition, the academic argument has been resolved. While others have written in support of these reports and the State of Israel and its supporters have sought to rubbish them, there has been no thorough examination of the societal situation in this area that has come up with any fundamental rebuttal of the arguments. With the destruction of any possibility of the 'Two-State Solution' by the rapid increase of Israeli settlements in West Bank, the now 15-year blockade of Gaza, and the ongoing restrictions on the rights and freedoms of Palestinians living under Israeli military law, what was a 'temporary occupation' is now clearly seen by the Israeli Government as a permanent situation. For the threshold of the International Law's definition of Apartheid to be crossed the permanence of the arrangements need to be clear. They are now.

But Israel Apartheid is different in some ways to South African Apartheid. It raises different issues and challenges differing perceptions. This study course seeks to look in much more detail at the issues that arise. In the four weeks of this advent course, we will consider:

Sunday 27th November	'Zionism and Apartheid'
Sunday 4th December	'Colonialism and Apartheid'
Sunday 11th December	'Militarism and Apartheid'
Sunday 18th December	'A future free from Apartheid'

#### **Format for the Meetings**

A Zoom event will take place at 7pm (UK time) on each of the Sundays indicated. A recording of the event will be available from the following day for use at any time.

Palestinians and International speakers will address the subject week by week with the following format:

Welcome and Brief Introduction:	5 minutes
Speaker 1:	15 minutes
Speaker 2:	15 minutes
Question and Answer Time:	30 minutes
Thanks and conclusions:	5 minutes

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<sup>1</sup> [A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution | HRW](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Israel's apartheid against Palestinians - Amnesty International](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Apartheid | B'Tselem \(btselem.org\)](#)

As well as this study guide a series of Bible Studies have been written by Rev Dr Stephen Sizer helping participants to access the biblical foundations for the arguments made in this course.

We would also recommend that participants read and study the Kairos Palestine Dossier<sup>4</sup> on Apartheid, and Sabeel Jerusalem's latest edition of Cornerstone focused on apartheid<sup>5</sup>.

It is hoped that many who participate will be leading House Group discussions using the material we have provided.

## **Your Weekly Guide**

### **Sunday 27th November      'Zionism and Apartheid'**

Zoom event at 7pm UK time.

Recording available from Monday 28th November

This week will cover the following areas:

- What is Zionism and how does it differ from Judaism?
- What is the difference between Zionism and Christian Zionism?
- How does Zionism lead to the establishment of Apartheid?

**Two Speakers:**            Antony Lerman  
                                      Revd. Dr. Stephen Sizer.

For all speaker biographies please visit: <https://www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/apartheid-in-advent-series-find-out-more/>

### **Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. The history of Christian relations to Judaism is a sad one with terrible actions having taken place. How can we refute Zionism without being anti-Semitic?
2. The Israeli Declaration of Independence speaks of developing the country of Israel "for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based upon freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel." Is this compatible with Zionism?
3. Many people living in Israel have little knowledge of the situation for Palestinians 'behind the wall' or in Gaza. How can this be addressed?

**Prayer:** You may like to have a time of open prayer and conclude it with the following prayer:

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<sup>4</sup> A dossier on Israeli Apartheid: A Pressing Call to Churches Around the World (kairospalestine.ps)

<sup>5</sup> <https://sabeel.org/read-more-1518/>

*Lord Jesus, in this advent season we remember that you came to earth at a moment in time and called the people of the land called Holy to a Gospel of truth and love. As we prepare for Christmas may we hold in mind the tragedy of the land of Jesus' birth as it is today. May Christians respond with a passion for justice for all, Israelis and Palestinians alike, and do whatever they can to bring about a land where Jews, Muslims and Christians are safe and live in peace. Amen*

## **Sunday 4th December      'Colonialism and Apartheid'**

Zoom event at 7pm UK time.

Recording available from Monday 5th December

This week will cover the following areas:

- How did the British Mandate period, at the height of British Empire prepare the ground for Israeli Apartheid?
- After the Second World War, America became the dominant power, what colonial attitudes came from the U.S?
- Is colonialism dead today?

**Two Speakers:**            Dr Sylvia Marcos  
                                      John Munayer

### **Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. What is it that lies at the heart of Colonialism?
2. National self-determination and Colonialism are incompatible. Do you agree?
3. Governments of nation states usually act in the self-interest of the country concerned. When does national self-interest cross the threshold of colonialism?

**Prayer:** You may like to have a time of open prayer and conclude it with the following prayer:

*The angels in the fields of Bethlehem said, "peace on Earth and Goodwill to all." Yet even today two thousand years later the people of Bethlehem and so many others across the land called Holy, long for peace and goodwill. Holy Father may this advent and Christmas season bring a new desire for peace with justice. Amen.*

## **Sunday 11th December      'Militarism and Apartheid'**

Zoom event at 7pm UK time.

Recording available from Monday 12th December

This week will cover the following areas:

- What is "Militarism?"
- How does the Israeli Military effect the lives of Palestinians?
- Palestinians in the West Bank live under Military Law. What rights do they have?

**Two Speakers:** Donald Wagner  
Jack Munayer

**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. Britain makes huge profits from the Arms Trade. We continue to sell arms to Israel despite Israel's breaking of International Law. Should Britain maintain its arms industry? If yes, what moral laws or codes should govern this?
2. Palestinians under the age of 50 in the occupied territories have never known life apart from living under martial (military) law. What effect do you think this has upon their attitudes to Israelis and the Israeli Government in particular.
3. Young Israelis know from an early age that they will be called to serve in the military. They are prepared for this at school and by their families. They often speak of defending their country. How do you think the politics of Israel is shaped by the reality of conscription?

**Prayer:** You may like to have a time of open prayer and conclude it with the following prayer:

*During this season of Advent, we remember the Magi traveling to Jerusalem and on to Bethlehem. Today checkpoints and barriers would inhibit their travel, they would meet soldiers time and again. Lord Jesus you too knew what it was like to live under a military regime. Grant to us all the gift of seeing every person as a human being and living every day by you law of love. Amen*

**Sunday 18th December 'A future free from Apartheid'**

Zoom event at 7pm UK time.

Recording available from Monday 19th December

This week will cover the following areas:

- 'Cry for Hope' comes from the Palestinian Christian Community. What does it say about apartheid and how does apartheid effect the Christian Community.
- Young people have an increasingly active role in Palestinian society. What is their vision for the future, and how do they see the prospect for peace with justice?
- The birth of Jesus - even to the poverty of the stable brings Hope. Where can we find hope in Palestine today?
- What is it Palestinian Christians want from the International Community today?

**Two Speakers:** Nadine Bitar

**Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. The numbers of Christians living in Gaza and the West Bank today is a fraction of what it was in 1948. How do you feel about this? Does this matter?
2. Given the history of post Second World War history in Israel Palestine are Palestinians justified in using violence against the Israeli Military?
3. Is Non-Violence a strategy or a principal?

**Prayer:** You may like to have a time of open prayer and conclude it with the following prayer:

*Almighty God, who in the birth of Jesus showed your love for your creation, give to us that same love for all your children. May we work together for a better world in which people of every race and creed can live in peace. Amen.*

**Some Suggested Actions to accompany the series**

- 1) If you have not yet read the Kairos Palestine Dossier on Apartheid, and the Spring Issue of 'Cornerstone' (the quarterly publication of Sabeel Jerusalem, with that issue focusing upon the subject of apartheid) then do so.
- 2) Encourage your church/denomination to engage with the recent statement from the World Council of Churches 'Seeking Justice and Peace for all in the Middle East'<sup>6</sup>, which calls on its member churches to study and discern the reports issued on Israeli Apartheid by B'Tselem, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.
- 3) Consider making your own commitment to no longer buy products from Israel until apartheid has ended. Commit yourself to the BDS movement and respond flexibly over the coming years as more information becomes available that will help us to respond creatively to the BDS campaigns.
- 4) Plan to raise the issue at your next Synod, Circuit Meeting, or other appropriate Church Meeting, preferably with a resolution which will be forwarded to your national Conference, Assembly or Synod urging action (such as a call to participate in boycotting Israeli goods, disinvesting all church funds from companies profiting from the occupation and urging the U.K Government to apply sanctions on Israel as they have applied sanctions to other countries occupying land illegally). This is all aimed to encourage Israel to comply with international law and end its apartheid practices.
- 5) Join Sabeel-Kairos UK<sup>7</sup>, sign up for their weekly Prayer Wave and newsletter and order their most appropriate resources.

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<sup>6</sup> [Seeking Justice and Peace for All in the Middle East | World Council of Churches \(oikoumene.org\)](https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/2013-2014/seeking-justice-and-peace-for-all-in-the-middle-east)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/category/join-us/>

- 6) Obtain the 'Investing for Peace' booklet<sup>8</sup> from Sabeel-Kairos UK and consider joining one of their denominational campaign groups. Visit the Who Profits website<sup>9</sup> and write to the body administering your Pension Fund to ask what their policy regarding investment in companies operating in Israel/Palestine is, highlighting those that profit from the occupation.
- 7) Raise the issue of Israel/Palestine with your MP, if you have not already done so, or send a follow-up message quoting Archbishop Desmond Tutu's call for economic sanctions as a non-violent method applying pressure on the Government of Israel until they comply with international law.
- 8) If you are a preacher, worship leader or house-group leader, remember never to use a Bible reading using the word 'Israel' without reminding people that Israel in the Bible is not the same as Israel today.
- 9) Consider visiting Israel and Palestine and stay in a Palestinian owned Hotel or Guest House. Seek out opportunities to talk to Palestinians and learn more about the struggle to survive in the West Bank and Gaza today. The Alternative Tourism Group<sup>10</sup> in Palestine are a valuable resource if you are planning a trip or pilgrimage.
- 10) Use the internet to learn more about some of the organisations working for peace and justice in Israel and Palestine, including Kairos Palestine, Sabeel Jerusalem, Bethlehem Bible College, Tent of Nations, B'Tselem, Wi'am, Al-Haq, Adameer, Association for Civil Rights in Israel and the YMCA/YWCA.

### **Books and further reading**

*Books that are easily readable and introduce the subject:*

**Apeirogon** (Described as a Novel but based upon the Parent's Circle and Combatants for Peace)  
Colum McCann Bloomsbury ISBN 978-1-5266-0790-4

**Blood Brothers** Elias Chacour Chosen Books ISBN 0-8007-9060-0

**Children of the Stone** Sandy Tolan Bloomsbury Publishing ISBN 978-1-63286-341-6

**Occupied Territories: the revolution of love from Bethlehem to the ends of the earth** Garth Hewitt - <http://www.garthhewitt.org/product/occupied-territories-the-revolution-of-love-from-bethlehem-to-the-ends-of-the-earth/>

**The Lemon Tree** Sandy Tolan Bloomsbury Publishing ISBN 9781596913431

**We belong to the Land.** Elias Chacour University of Notre Dame Press. ISBN0-268-01963-0

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<sup>8</sup> [Investing for Peace \(Free Download\) | Sabeel-Kairos](#)

<sup>9</sup> <https://whoprofits.org/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://atg.ps/>

## *Theology and the Israel Palestine Conflict.*

**The other side of the wall: A Palestinian Christian narrative of lament and hope.** Munther Isaac. Intervarsity Press US. ISBN 0830831991. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Other-Side-Wall-Palestinian-Christian/dp/0830831991>

**A Palestinian Theology of Liberation.** Naim Ateek. Orbis Books, New York. ISBN 978-1-62698-260-4

**Christian Zionism: A road map to Armageddon?** Stephen Wipf & Stock <https://wipfandstock.com/author/stephen-sizer/> ISBN 978-1-84474-050-5

**Chosen? Reading the Bible amid the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.** Walter Bruggemann Westminster John Knox Press 2015 ISBN 978-0-664-26154-2

**The Land of Christ. A Palestinian Cry.** Yohanna Katanacho Bethlehem Bible College Publications ISBN 978-965-7582-00-8

**Zion's Christian Soldiers** Stephen Sizer. Wipf & Stock <https://wipfandstock.com/author/stephen-sizer/> ISBN 978-1-84474-214-1

**The Making and Unmaking of a Zionist: A Personal and Political Journey** (London, 2012) Antony Lerman. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Making-Unmaking-Zionist-Personal-Political/dp/0745332765>

**The Bible and Colonialism: A Moral Critique.** Michael Prior, Continuum International Publishing, 1997. ISBN: 1850758158.

## *Going Deeper into the issues*

**They called me a Lioness: A Palestinian Girl's fight for Freedom.** Ahed Tamimi and Dena Takruri. Random House Inc 2022. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/They-Called-Me-Lioness-Palestinian/dp/0593134583>

**A Month by the Sea. Encounters in Gaza** Dervla Murphy 2013 ISBN 978-1-78060-067-3

**Balfour's Shadow** David Cronin Pluto Press ISBN 978 0 7453 9943

**BDS: Boycott, Disinvestment, Sanctions The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights.** Omar Barghouti 2011 Haymarket Books ISBN 978-1-60846-114-1

**Between the River and the Sea** Dervla Murphy 2015 ISBN 978-1-78060-070-3

**"Hope in Israel Palestine."** John Howard Church in the Market Place Publications. ISBN 978-1-9989908-5-6

**Israel's Palestinians – The conflict within.** Ilan Peleg & Dov Waxman Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-15702-5

**Khirbet Khizeh** S Yizhar Translated from the Hebrew by Nicholas de Lange and Yaacob Dweck. Granta Publications. ISBN 978-1-84708-394-4

**Palestinian Memories.** Alex Awad Bethlehem Bible College Publications  
ISBN 0-978-7839-0-5

**The Forgotten Palestinians – a history of the Palestinians in Israel.** Ilan Pappé Yale University Press. ISBN 978-0-300-13441-4

**Through My Enemies Eyes.** Salim Munayer & Lisa Loden Paternoster Press  
ISBN 978 1 84227 748 5

**Walking to Jerusalem.** Justin Butcher Hodder & Stoughton ISBN 978-1-473-67369-4

**Whose Promised Land?** Colin Chapman Lion Publishing ISBN 978-0-7459-7025-7

**The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine.** Ilan Pappé, Oneworld Publications, 2007.  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ethnic-Cleansing-Palestine-Ilan-Pappe/dp/1851685553>

### *Israeli Apartheid*

**Palestine: Peace not Apartheid.** Jimmy Carter, 2007. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Palestine-Peace-Apartheid-President-Carter/dp/0743285034>

**Israeli Apartheid: A Beginners Guide.** Ben White, Pluto Press, 2014.  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Israeli-Apartheid-Second-Beginners-Guide/dp/0745334636>

**Apartheid Israel: Possibilities for the struggle within.** Uri Davies, Zed Books, 2003.  
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Apartheid-Israel-Possibilities-Struggle-Within/dp/1842773380>

**Apartheid South Africa, Apartheid Israel?** Brian Brown Church in the Market Place Publications.  
<https://apartheid-southafrica-israel.com/>

**Cornerstone Spring Issue 2022.** (The publication of Sabeel Jerusalem). <https://sabeel.org/read-more-1518/>

**A Dossier on Israeli Apartheid.** Kairos Palestine and Global Kairos for Justice.  
<https://www.kairospalestine.ps/index.php/resources/publication/a-dossier-on-israeli-apartheid-a-pressing-call-to-churches-around-the-world>

### *Antisemitism*

**Whatever happened to antisemitism? Redefinition and the Myth of the 'Collective Jew'** Antony Lerman, (London, 2022). <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Whatever-Happened-Antisemitism-Redefinition-Persistent/dp/0745338771>



## *The Holocaust*

**The Holocaust and the Christian World.** Carol Ritter, Stephen D. Smith & Irena Seinfeld's.  
Published by Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies.

**The Holocaust and the Nakba** Ed. Bashir Bashir & Amos Goldberg Columbia Publishing ISBN 978-0-231-18297-3

**Hitler's American Model – The United States and the Making of Nazi Race Law.** James Q Whitman, Princeton University Press, 2018. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hitlers-American-Model-United-States/dp/0691183066>

## *Settlers*

**City on a Hill.** Sara Yael Hirschhorn Harvard Press. ISBN 9780674975057