

ELCA & NATION OF ISRAEL

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has formally taken positions that are not supportive of the nation of Israel. The ELCA is closely affiliated with and supportive of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). The ELCJHL is an organization of Lutheran Palestinians in the Middle East. The first sentence from the ELCJHL Mission Statement, taken from the official ELCJHL website, states (underline added):

“God calls the ELCJHL to proclaim the Gospel within an Arab context in the Holy Lands. This proclamation of the Kingdom of God and the message of salvation is to Arabs, including Palestinians, and is expressed both through witnessing to the Gospel as well as through diakonia.”

Much of the efforts and focus of the ELCJHL is supportive of the efforts of the Palestinian Christians to the exclusion of the Jewish population living within Israel. Over the years the ELCA has subsequently adopted many of the positions taken by the ELCJHL. Specifically, the ELCA has formally adopted support of such policies as Israeli withdrawal from many parts of the nation currently under control of the Israeli government and most concerning, support of a division of the city of Jerusalem itself. A division of the city of Jerusalem would put many of the locations of Biblical importance to Christians, like the Wailing Wall, Calvary, and the Garden Tomb under Muslim control. Excerpts from the “Peace Not Walls” section of the ELCA website include the following language (bold print & quotations added):

*The ELCA has urged U.S. leaders to seek facilitating the withdrawal of Israeli forces from “**Palestinian**” areas, bringing about an end to the “**occupation**”, and ultimately, for a “**shared Jerusalem**”.*

Additionally, the ELCA has formally considered boycotting Israeli products to show support for the ELCJHL and the Palestinians living in the Middle East. This action is referenced on the ELCA website as follows:

*In 2007, the ELCA made more explicit the **call for economic initiatives** – looking at the possibility of “**purchasing...products from Palestinian providers and...the feasibility of refusing to buy products produced in Israeli settlements.**”*

The above motion was approved at the 2007 ELCA churchwide assembly, however, a motion for a complete boycott of the nation of Israel was defeated. Another area of concern is the ELCA support for the demolition of the Israeli security fences which have proven to be very effective in dramatically reducing terrorist violence in Israeli neighborhoods. The ELCA’s commitment to the demolition of these security fences is demonstrated in the name of their Middle East peace campaign entitled “Peace Not Walls”.

Additional information regarding the ELCA’s position on Israel can be found at the following websites: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls.aspx>; <http://www.elcjh.org/>

The following page contains many Biblical references which document why it is important for Christians to support the nation of Israel.

Israel is the most frequently mentioned subject in the entire Bible next to the Lord Himself!

- The word Israel appears in the Bible 2,566 times.

God has chosen Israel out of all of the nations!

- Deut. 7:6; “For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the people on the face of the earth.”
- Isa 41:8, 43:1, 44:1, 45:4, 48:10, (many other verses)

God identifies Himself with Israel!

- The Bible never identifies God with any other nation except with Israel.
- The Bible says, “Lord God of Israel” 108 times.
- The Bible says, “the God of Israel” 203 times.
- The Bible says, “the Holy One of Israel” 31 times.

God calls Israel “My” land!

- Isa 14:25 (many other verses)

God has a special love for Israel!

- Duet. 7:8 “...but because the Lord loves you....”
- Jer. 31:1 “.....I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall by My people.”

God gave Israel to His people!

- Gen. 15:18 “....To your descendants I have give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.....”
- Lev. 25:2, Gen 17:7-8

God will never forsake Israel!

- God promises not to forsake Israel; Isa. 41:17, 49:13-16, 54:5-8, 60:15-16, 62:11-12, Psm. 89:30-37, Lev 26:44, Jer. 31:3-37

God will destroy all nations who attack her!

- Isa 41:11 “Behold, all those who were incensed against you Shall be ashamed and disgraced; They shall be as nothing, and those who strive with you shall perish.”
- Zec 12:2-3 “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in the day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all the peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.”

God will restore Israel to her promised land!

- Duet 30:3-10, Isa 35:10, 43:5-7, 51:11, Jer 30:1-2

God will come and dwell in the midst of Israel!

- Zec 2:10-12

God will bring Salvation to the whole world through the Messiah of Israel!

- Isa 11:1-10, 42:1, 42:6, 43:11, 43:25, and many more!