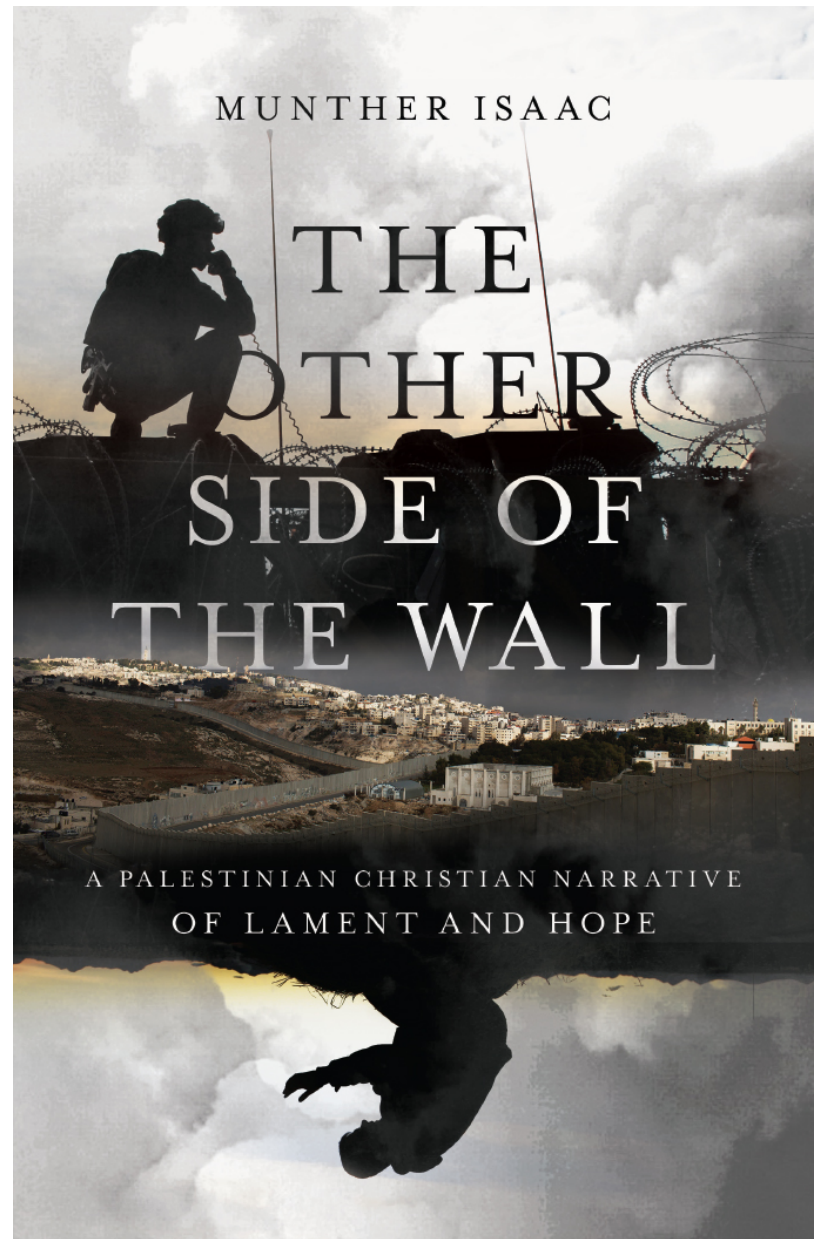


The Other Side of the Wall

By Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac
muntherisaac@gmail.com

muntherisaac.blogspot.com

dean.assistant@bethbc.edu





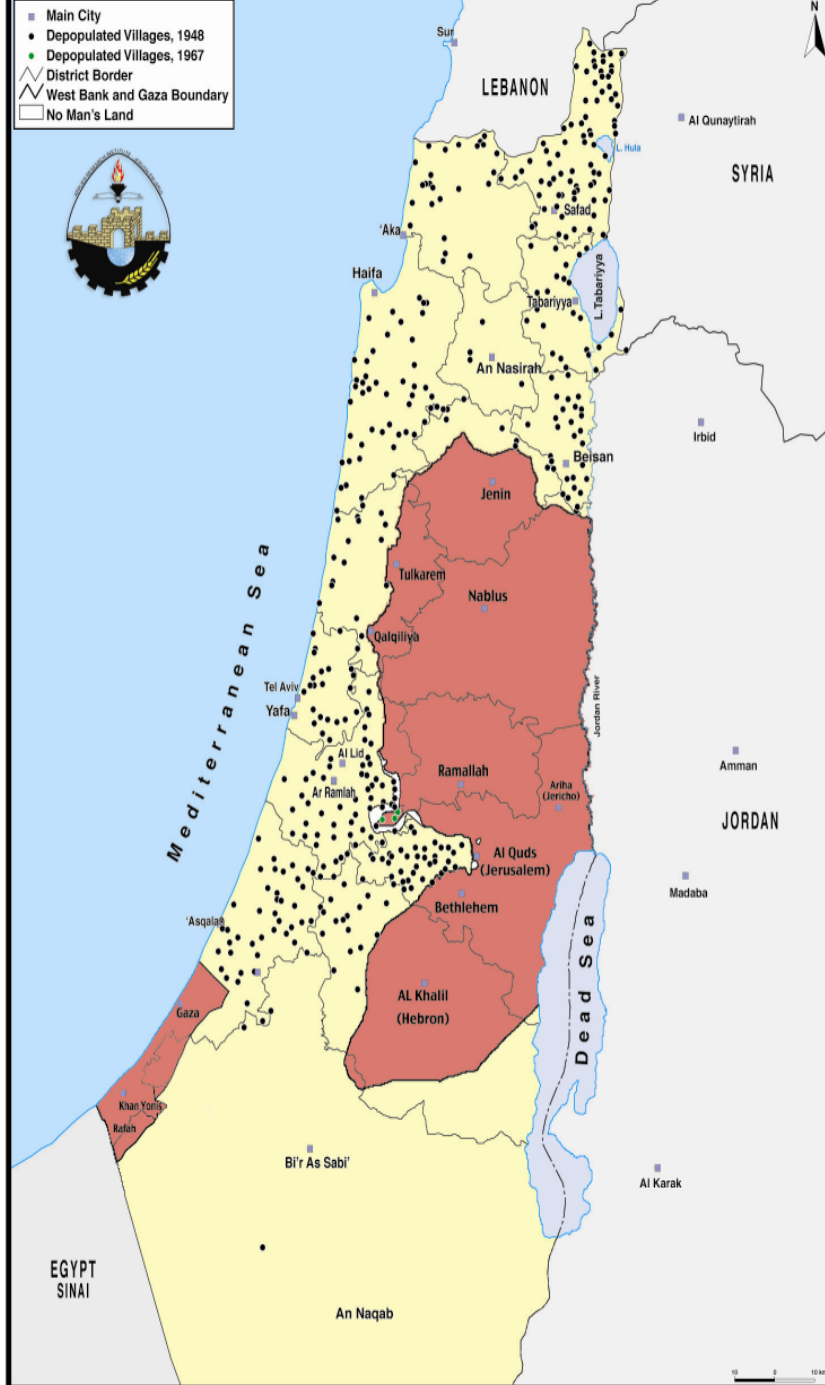
We are Palestinian Christians

*Speaking out of
hurt and pain*



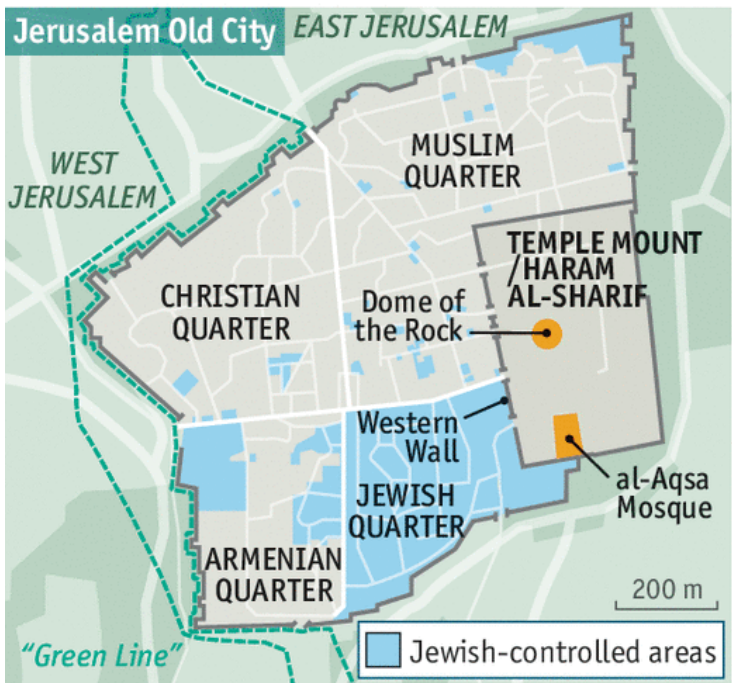
We are Palestinian Christians

*Speaking from
the other side of
the wall*



The Nakba

- Around 530 villages evacuated and/or destroyed
- Around 800,000 refugees (including almost 50,000 Palestinian Christians)
- Palestinians lost 78% of historic Palestine
- Thousands killed and injured



Inequality and injustice on the ground



[Home](#) ›

THE MIRACLE OF ISRAEL'S REBIRTH



By: David Parsons, ICEJ VP Senior Spokesman

Posted on: 12 Apr 2018 (All day)



The modern-day rebirth of the nation of Israel seventy years ago is such an unprecedented act in world history, and is considered an outright 'miracle' in the most classic sense of the word. That is, it could only have been achieved by divine intervention.

This is especially true in light of the uniquely dire circumstances under which Israel's re-emergence among the family of nations took place. The prophet

Isaiah alludes to these travails when he asks: "Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labour, she gave birth to her children." (Isaiah 66:8)

Christians and Israel

- “The Abrahamic covenant continues with the Jewish people today, and by association with the State of Israel.”
- “The creation of Israel in 1948 is a fulfillment of prophecy / or a sign to God’s faithfulness to the Jewish people.”
- “If you bless Israel, God will bless you. If you stand against Israel, God will curse you!” – based on Gen. 12:1-3.
- “God gave the land to the Jewish people as an eternal possession. The Jews have a divine right to the land today.”



Palestinian Christians, Western Christians, and Israel

Ignored at best

Dehumanized at
worst!



Holy Land Christians feel abandoned by U.S. evangelicals

In and around Bethlehem, Christians have gone from being 80 percent of the population when Israel was founded in 1950, to around 12 percent today.

by F. Brinley Bruton , Lawahez Jabari and Paul Goldman / May.05.2018 / 11:02 AM ET



Birth of Zionism

Zionists propagated the now-infamous slogan promoting Palestine for the Jews as:

**“A land without a people, for
a people without a land”**

(But Christians have used this slogan before!!)

Zionism and the Palestinian

- Zionism was a response to Jewish persecution in Europe; for those Europeans, the Palestinian Arabs were a “complete irrelevance”
- “For the Zionist, Palestine was ‘empty’; not literally, but in terms of people of equal worth to the incoming settlers” (Ben White)
- Colonial (Christian?) mentality

Christianity Today

Theology+Spirituality Church Life+Ministry Media+Culture Politics+Current Affairs

HOT TOPICS: Copts | Bob Dylan | Football | Elections - Campaign 2012 | Planned Parenthood | [View all](#)

FEATURE

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Do Jews Have a Divine Right to Israel's Land?

Part one of a conversation between John Piper and Jews for Jesus head David Brickner.

David Brickner [posted 6/20/2012 10:04AM]



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What about the people of the land?!

This is the original wall

- We are invisible in theology books; in the language of the church
- The “myth” of “returning” to an “empty” land
- We are invisible to pilgrims; sometimes by choice
- The other side of the wall: stereotyped / dehumanized / feared
- Violence is then justified against against those on the other side of the wall. “It is actually their fault”.



Christian Zionism

*The Employment of God:
God is on Israel's Side.*

A Chosen State

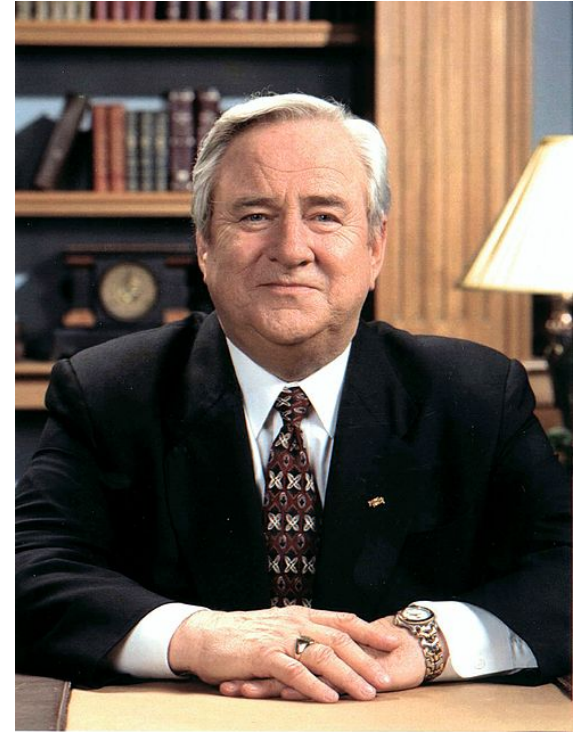
CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL

BECAUSE I AM A CHRISTIAN
I STAND WITH
ISRAEL

CUFI.ORG

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL

*“To stand against Israel
is to stand against God.
We believe that history
and scripture prove that
God deals with nations in
relation to how they deal
with Israel.” (Jerry
Falwell)*



Opposing God

Christianity Today

Theology+Spirituality

Church Life+Ministry

Media+Culture

Politics+Current A

HOT TOPICS: Copts | Bob Dylan | Football | Elections - Campaign 2012 | Planned Parenthood | [View all](#)

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Judeo-Christian Tradition and Cultural superiority



- “Only two nations have been in relationship in history: Israel and the United States of America” (Messianic Jewish Rabbi Kirt Schneider)



“We stand with Israel because your cause is our cause, your values are our values, and your fight is our fight. We stand with Israel because we believe in right over wrong, in good over evil, and in liberty over tyranny.”



Attacking Palestinian Christians

Liberation
Theology

Invented

Christian
Palestinianism

Anti-Semitic

Socialists

Threatening the
existence of Israel

Liars

Anti-Israel
Propaganda

Cessation
Theology

Mouth peace
for the PA

Biased

Wolves in sheep clothing

Anti-Jewish

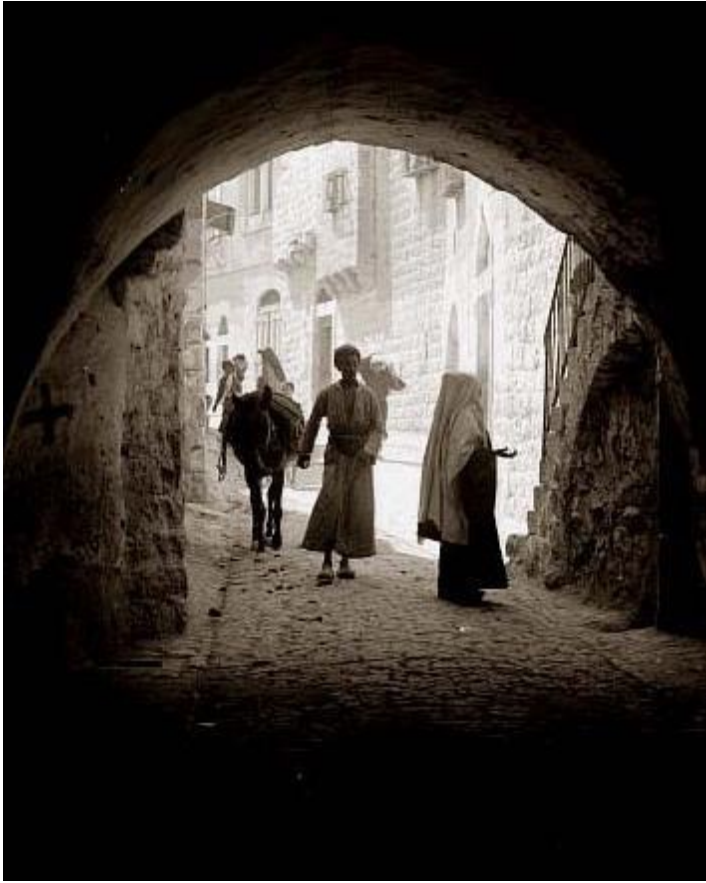
Chrislam

Liberals

Replacement
Theology

Theological Terrorism

Political Theology



Silencing Palestinian Christians

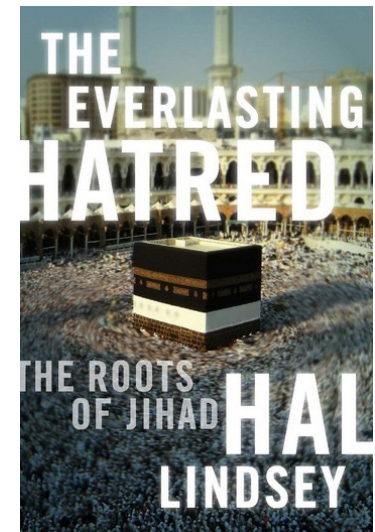
Silenced...

- Invited... Disinvited
- A Christian Conference on Palestine and Israel...with no Palestinian speaker!
- "It's because you're a Palestinian"
- A Mission conference... where the nationality of the speakers disqualifies him/her



Why are Palestinian Christians silenced?

- We break the stereo-type.
- We challenge the common narrative:
 - This is not a clash between Judeo-Christian civilization and Islamic terrorism.
 - The conflict is political!
 - Religious extremism is a challenge, but occupation is the core issue.
- We challenge Islamophobia and Prejudice.



Holding Bible, Israeli Ambassador Slams UN Security Council

Sunday, December 25, 2016 | Israel Today Staff

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17



The Bible and Power

- “Therefore, we declare that any use of the Bible to legitimize or support political options and positions that are based upon injustice, imposed by one person on another, or by one people on another, transform religion into human ideology and strip the Word of God of its holiness, its universality and truth” (Kairos)

JUSTICE MATTERS!!!

If our theology trumps the biblical ethical teachings of Jesus of love, equality and justice, then we must rethink our theology!

Justice, and only justice,
you shall follow, that you may live
and **inherit the land** that
the LORD your God is giving you.
(Deuteronomy 16:20 ESV)

Justice Relativized



Justice Relativized:

“If Palestinians refuse to recognize what God says about the Jewish people and their connection to the land of Israel, then suffering will result... Justice in regards to the Land requires that there be a submission to what God has declared about this Land... So if the Palestinians do not acknowledge God’s promise, they are foundationally unjust and are themselves resisted by God and lose their rights in the Land” (Daniel Juster)

The Silence of the Church

- Lamenting
- Silence... apathy... indifference
- Charity
- Where was the church?



Our Message

- To My Christian sisters and brothers – it is time to become part of the solution!!
- Blessed are the Peacemakers
 - Did Jesus mean it?
 - The context: A politically charged environment
 - Do we take Jesus seriously?
 - A child of God



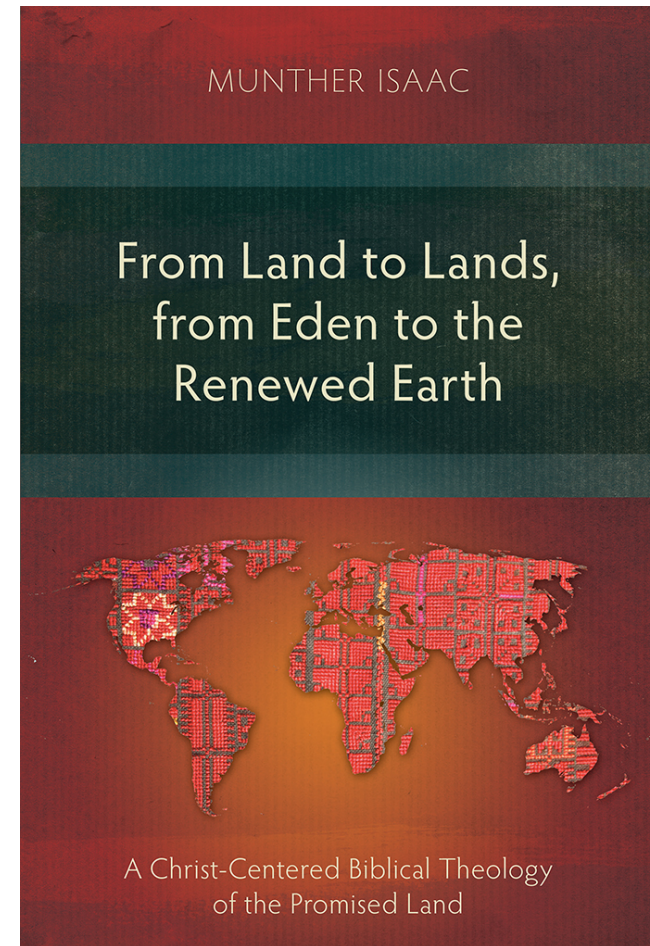
Peacemaking

- The risk of stepping to the other side
- Listening... and taking a stand
- Standing with truth and justice
- Speaking truth to power



A New Vision: Sharing the Land

- The land belongs to God; not to any nation or religion... We all belong to the land; God land.
- We must share God's land
- Sharing vs. Dividing



Sharing the Land

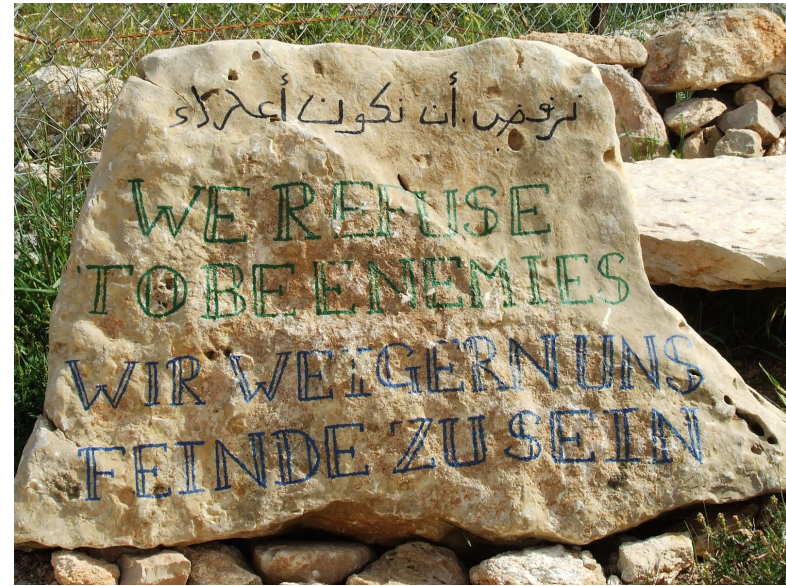
- All the dwellers of the land share the land and its resources equally and have the same rights – regardless of their ethnicity or religion.
- A shared-land theology emphasizes that there are no “second-class” citizens in this land. No one is marginalized in God’s vision of the land.

Sharing the Land

- The reality on the ground is that of “walls”, yet what is needed is a vision of “bridges”.
Palestinians and Israelis must think collectively in terms of a common future in which they cooperate – not a divided future in which they separate.
- Regardless of which political solution is adopted and implemented – the vision and ideals of God of justice and equality in the land – indeed any land – must be respected.

Sharing the Land

- “Through our love, we will overcome injustices and establish foundations for a new society both for us and for our opponents. Our future and their future are one. Either the cycle of violence that destroys both of us or peace that will benefit both.” (Kairos)



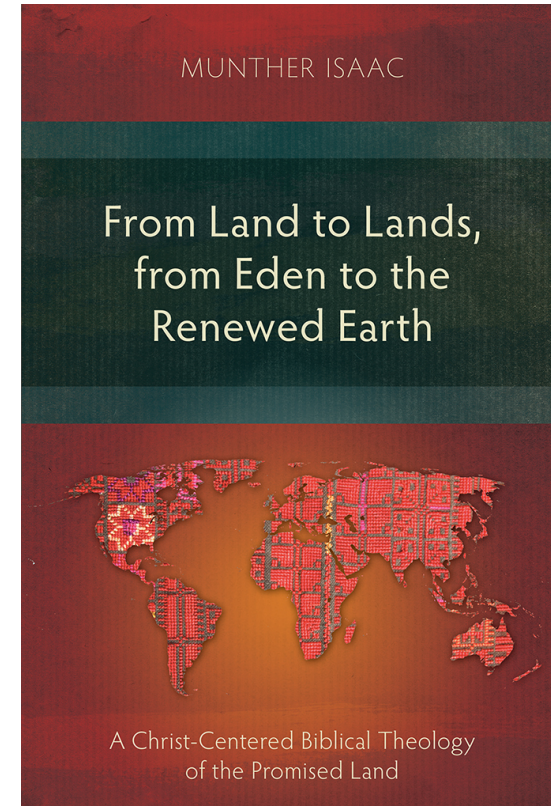
Sharing the Land

- “Even though we have fought one another in the recent past and still struggle today, we are able to love and live together. We can organize our political life, with all its complexity, according to the logic of this love and its power, after ending the occupation and establishing justice.” (Kairos)



Hope for the Future

- A shared land is not an option; it is the only option!
 - Does our theology promote this?
 - Do our prayers promote this?
 - Does our action promote this?



What to Do: "Cry For Hope"

<https://www.cryforhope.org/>

- Initiate processes
- Engage theologically
- Affirm right to resist
- Government Pressure
- Oppose anti-Semitism / Shared Land
- Support initiatives on the ground
- Come and see... and Tell
- *Pray... Partner... Stay informed...*