History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Phillip Mullins · Series: **A Christian's Guide To Islam**

INTRODUCTION

- But when it comes to the Middle East, the point of electrical contact where the sparks fly is Palestine.
- Muslims believe that they have three holy sites: Mecca, Medina, and then Jerusalem.
- How should a Christian, how should a person who is a student of the Bible, how should they look at this and respond to this?

1 The History of Israel Through the New Testament

- The Old Testament prophets explained to us that God allowed these foreign powers to invade them and to cripple them because of their idolatry, because of their immorality, because they turned their backs from the true and living God.
- Such a small number is restored. They are no longer referred to as Israel, but Judea.
- Jesus utters a prophecy that Jerusalem would be overthrown. And history tells us very plainly that in A.D. 70 that Jerusalem was overthrown by the Romans.
- Is this sort of a revival, a resurrection of something that you read about in the Bible? What is modern Israel?

2 Jews Dispersed Into Europe and Muslim Lands

- The ones that were living in Palestine were dispersed. And they began to migrate and live in many places.
- Usually they were segregated. Oftentimes they had a lower standard of living than others around them.
- The Spanish Inquisition actually started to weed out those who were false converts from Judaism.
- Wherever Jews lived in areas, whether it be North Africa or those who still remained in Palestine, usually they were protected by the Muslim government.
- Sometimes you hear this controversy and this conflict between Jews and Arabs described as an ancient conflict that is all the way back to Bible times. That's not an entirely accurate statement.

3 A Hope to Return to Zion

- Many of them were still anticipating that a Messiah would come, as the Old Testament prophesied.
- They had a hope that one day they would return to Jerusalem, live back on their homeland there in Judea or Israel, and live there in Zion.
- Most Jews, nonetheless, did not believe it was appropriate to initiate steps toward the reconstruction of their national home in Palestine.
- Such action would indicate a loss of faith. And the absence of a willingness to wait for the Creator's plan to unfold in its own divinely ordained fashion.

- These European Jews, though they were suffering in many cases, believed in keeping their hope that one day God, in his own time, in his own way, would bring them back to this land.

4 The Zionist Movement and the Enlightenment

- What arises in the 1800s is something called the Zionist movement.
- It was a movement which said that human reasoning could find out all the answers that we need to find out.
- Theory of evolution, the general theory of evolution is a product of enlightenment thinking.
- Instead of depending upon a divine source to give them answers and guidance, they began to look to human sources for guidance and for answers.

5 Persecution of Jews in Russia and Germany

- Not all Jews prospered during the 1800s. There were still many Jews who lived in just terrible situations, in poverty.
- There were two places where persecution of Jews would flare up. Russia and Germany.
- People looked for a scapegoat. And they would blame Jews.

MY NOTES