



ISRAEL UPDATE

with Pastor Trey Graham



October 15, 2023

Why should followers of Jesus stand with Israel?

We support Israel because the Word of God supports Israel!

“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God. “Speak kindly to Jerusalem...” Isaiah 40:1-2

“...for he that touches you touches the apple of His eye.”
Zechariah 2:8

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem...” Psalm 122:6

This is our 3rd update on the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas on Israel. To listen to the previous two teachings, please visit

firstmelissa.com/sermons



How Many Casualties in the Terrorist Attacks?

- Population of Israel in 2023 is 9.1 million
- At least ~~600~~ 1,300 Israelis killed (soldiers and civilians)
- At least ~~2,048~~ 3,600 wounded

- Population of the United States in 2023 is 340 million
- Equal proportion... ~~22,400~~ 48,500 killed
- Equal proportion... ~~76,500~~ 134,500 wounded

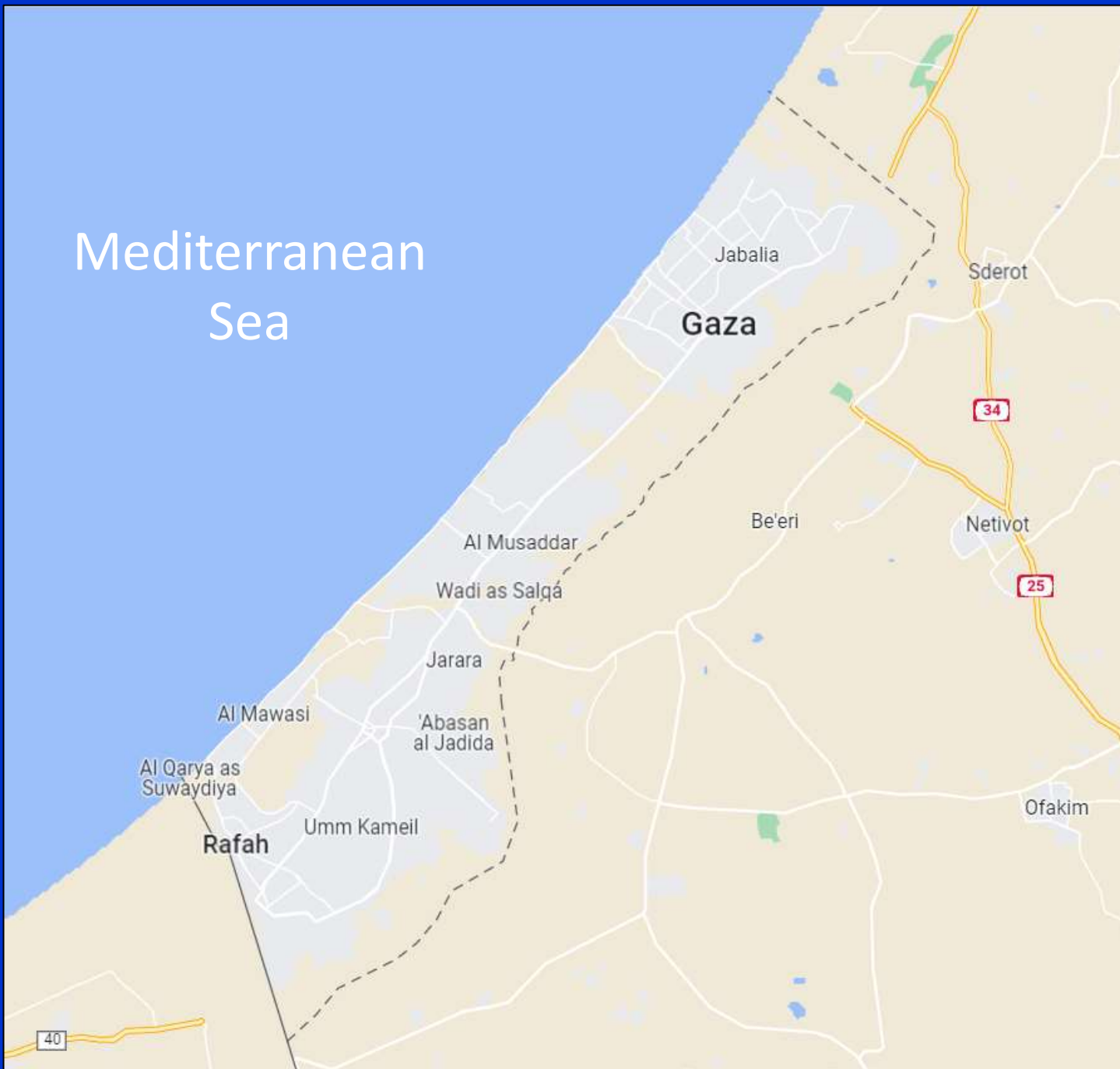
- This event is being called “Israel’s 9-11” and “Israel’s Pearl Harbor”
- 2,996 killed on 9-11-01 in U.S. and 2,403 killed during Pearl Harbor attack

29 Americans now confirmed dead in Israel: State Department

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/live-updates/israel-gaza-hamas/29-americans-now-confirmed-dead-in-israel-state-department-103985148?id=103804516>

Twenty-nine [Americans](#) have been confirmed dead in Israel, according to a State Department spokesperson, up from 27.

Additionally, 15 U.S. citizens and one lawful permanent resident of the U.S. are still unaccounted for, the spokesperson said.



What is Hamas?

- Hamas is a Sunni Muslim terrorist group founded in 1987 which won legislative elections in the Gaza Strip in June 2007 after Israel's unilateral withdrawal in August 2005
- Hamas operates as a wholly owned subsidiary of Iran, directed and funded by the Iranians
- Iran does not want Israel to continue normalizing relations with Arab countries in the Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia
- Hamas leaders have been meeting with Russian leaders since the invasion of Ukraine



Hamas' use of human shields in Gaza

NATIONS INVOLVED: Israel; Palestine

TIME PERIOD: 2008 – 2014

THEMATIC AREA: Lawfare

Created May 2019

www.lawfaremedia.org

Hamas, an Islamist militant group and the *de facto* governing authority of the Gaza Strip, has been using human shields in conflicts with Israel since 2007. According to the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the war crime of using human shields encompasses “utilizing the presence of a civilian or other protected person to render certain points, areas, or military forces immune from military operations.” Hamas has launched rockets, positioned military-related infrastructure-hubs and routes, and engaged the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) from, or in proximity to, residential and commercial areas.

The strategic logic of human shields has two components. It is based on an awareness of Israel's desire to minimise collateral damage, and of Western public opinion's sensitivity towards civilian casualties. If the IDF uses lethal force and causes an increase in civilian casualties, Hamas can utilise that as a lawfare tool: it can accuse Israel of committing war crimes, which could result in the imposition of a wide array of sanctions. Alternatively, if the IDF limits its use of military force in Gaza to avoid collateral damage, Hamas will be less susceptible to Israeli attacks, and thereby able to protect its assets while continuing to fight. Moreover, despite the Israeli public's high level of support for the Israeli political and military leadership during operations, civilian casualties are one of the friction points between Israeli left-wing and right-wing supporters, with the former questioning the outcomes of the operation.



Special: An attack detail file found in one of the Toyotas used by the terrorists and bearing the title "Top Secret", dated October 2022.

Meaning, if this document is indeed authentic, the plans to attack the Gaza surrounding settlements were prepared for at least a year.

The detailed plan to attack Kfar Sa'ad is part of a trove of documents that Israeli officials are analyzing, according to one source in the Israeli army and one in the government. Surveillance video of Hamas terrorists entering a kibbutz on Oct. 7 shows tactics similar to those laid out in the documents obtained by NBC News.

Hamas posts footage of terrorists holding kidnapped Israeli children

In one of the clips in the Hamas video, a man is heard telling a child to say "bismillah" before drinking from a cup.

By SAM HALPERN



Hamas has released new footage of what seems to show Israeli children they kidnapped during their murderous assault on southern Israel on Saturday.

The video, which was posted to a Hamas telegram channel, was captioned, "Hamas fighters, showing compassion for children in the midst of the Kibbutz 'Holet' battles on day one of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood."

Source: Jerusalem Post

0.04 x

الإعلام العسكري



Hamas publishes footage of its fighters keeping Israeli children as human shields.

Hamas actions are war crimes, could constitute genocide – international law experts

Over 100 authorities from Israel and abroad say terror group's massive attack was intended to destroy part of a national group, hostage-taking involved multiple crimes

By **STUART WINER** ✓

Today, 2:17 pm | 0



Israeli soldiers remove bodies of Israeli civilians in Kibbutz Kfar Aza, near the Israeli-Gaza border, in southern Israel, October 10, 2023. (Chaim Goldberg/Flash90)

Over 100 experts on international law issued a statement Sunday assessing that the Hamas terror group committed multiple war crimes in its massive assault on Israel last week and that its actions in slaughtering 1,300 people likely amounted to genocide.

“These acts constitute gross violation of international law, and, in particular, of international criminal law,” declared the document, signed by academic figures and legal authorities in Israel and abroad.

“Videos, released mostly by Hamas, posted on social media, document acts of torture, sexual violence, violence towards children and molestation of bodies,” the document specified.

“As these widespread, horrendous acts appear to have been carried out with an ‘intent to destroy, in whole or in part’ a national group – Israelis – a goal explicitly declared by Hamas, they most probably constitute an international crime of genocide, proscribed by the Genocide Convention and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,” it added.



Tarek Abu-Arar, an Arab-Israeli doctor was on his way to his shift at the hospital when he stopped to help a person who appeared to be injured.

This person was a Hamas terrorist who took Tarek hostage while shooting at civilians. He and a group of Hamas terrorists used Tarek, who was bleeding from a gun wound, as a human shield against the IDF soldiers who came to stop the terrorists.

Tarek miraculously survived.

These blood thirsty murderers go after innocent men, women and children.

Understanding Reality

Q: Are there innocent civilians in Gaza who are suffering?

A: Yes.

The responsibility for that suffering lies with only one side of this conflict... Hamas and the other Muslim terrorist groups directed by Iran.

Understanding Reality

NEWSRAEL

14, OCT 2023 | JLM 74°F

Hamas preventing Palestinians from evacuating northern Gaza

Jerusalem, 14 October, 2023 (TPS) -- Following an Israeli call for Palestinians to evacuate northern Gaza, Hamas has moved to prevent residents of those areas from leaving.

IDF: Please see the attached recording of a phone call between an Intelligence Officer from Unit 504 and a resident of Jabalya in Gaza. In the conversation, the resident claims that Hamas confiscated personal belongings and car keys from the people taking shelter.

Israel informed the UN in the last few hours that the residents of Gaza City (1.1 million people!) must move south across the Gaza Wadi.

Evacuation notices were sent to the residents by phone and there has been an official IDF announcement in Arabic

افخاي ادري @AvichayAdraee
#عاجل بيان جيش الدفاع الى سكان مدينة غزة
يدعو جيش الدفاع الإسرائيلي كافة سكان مدينة غزة
إخلاء منازلهم والتوجه جنوبًا من أجل حمايتهم والتواجد
جنوب وادي غزة، وفق ما يظهر في الخارطة.
لقد فتحت منظمة حماس الإرهابية الحرب ضد دولة
إسرائيل وتشهد مدينة غزة أعمالاً عسكرية. يتم تنفيذ هذا
الإخلاء من أجل أمنكم الشخصي.
لن يسمح بالعودة الى مدينة غزة إلا بعد صدور بيانًا يسمح
ذلك. ممنوع الاقتراب الى منطقة السياج مع دولة إسرائيل.
يختبئ مخربو حماس داخل مدينة غزة في الأنفاق تحت
البيوت وداخل مباني مكتظة بالسكان الأبرياء.
يا سكان غزة، عليكم التوجه جنوبًا حفاظًا على أمنكم
الشخصي وأمن عائلاتكم، وأبعدوا أنفسكم عن مخربي
حماس الذين يستخدمونكم دروعًا بشرية.
سيواصل جيش الدفاع في الأيام القليلة العمل بشكل
ملموس في مدينة غزة وينوي الامتناع عن التعرض الى
المدنيين.

Understanding Reality



Leaflets that the IDF distributes from the air to the residents of the Beit Lahia area.

The IDF asks the residents to evacuate their homes and go to shelters in order not to harm them, and warns that anyone who is present near Hamas terrorists or in Hamas areas is putting their lives in danger.

“Israel is making more effort to try to save Palestinian lives than Hamas is.” – Israeli Ambassador Mark Regev

Israel is now facing a 3-front war

- Hamas in the south
- Hezbollah in the north
- Syrian in the north east

IDF, Hezbollah clash in
Israel's North as Hamas
fires at Tel Aviv

More than 3,600 wounded, 1,300 murdered • IDF:
126 families of Israeli captives in Gaza have been
contacted



**Tragically, the desire to murder
Jews is NOT a new struggle**

Exodus 1

Exodus 3

Now a new king arose over Egypt,
who did not know Joseph. He said to
his people, “Behold, **the people of
the sons of Israel are more and
mightier than we.**” Exodus 1:8-9

* “We must hate the Jews because they are so strong.”

“the sons of
Israel are
more and
mightier
than we”
Exodus 1:9

This is the imbalance of power between Israel and Palestine in real terms

May 11, 2021

Israel has one of the world's most modernised armies equipped with a nuclear arsenal. On the other hand, Palestinians, having no real state and regular army, don't have much to defend themselves.



The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) has nearly 170,000 active military personnel while it lists more than three million males and females available for army service. It's an extraordinary number for an overall population of just 9 million, showing just how heavily militarised Israel has become.

The IDF also boasts a huge budget, with \$20.5 billion available [according to 2019 estimates](#) and ranked 15th in terms of military expenditure globally.

On the other hand, without any real state or regular army, different Palestinian resistance groups have much less manpower than the Israeli army, amounting to circa 30,000 to 50,000 in troops.

[According to different estimates](#), Hamas has between 10,000-20,000 fighters. In 2009, the International Crisis Group estimated the strength of the Qassam Brigades, Hamas' armed wing, as between 7,000 and 10,000. But [most recent estimates](#) say the group's manpower could be as high as nearly 40,000.

Islamic Jihad, another armed group backed by Iran, has fighters in the region of between [8,000-9,000](#).

"If the Arabs put down their guns there would be no more fighting. If the Israelis put down theirs there would be no more Israel."

— Golda Meir

*Former Prime
Minister of Israel
(1969-1974)



Golda Meir's family member murdered in battle with Hamas terrorists

By WALLA! OCTOBER 14, 2023 04:22



. (photo credit:Hadar Kama's family)

The great-grandson of Golda Meir's older sister was laid to rest.

Captain Hadar Kama, 24, an officer in the Sayeret Matkal Commando Unit, from Giv'at Shapira, was laid to rest on Wednesday night.

Kama, aged 24, tragically lost his life in a [battle with Gazan terrorists](#). He was a cherished member of the Golda Meir family, being the great-grandson of Shayna Korngold, Golda's older sister and mentor. He is survived by his grieving parents, Gila and Eyal, and two sisters, Shira and Alma.

<https://www.jpost.com/arab-israeli-conflict/article-767943>

[The Pharaoh in Egypt said...] “Come, let us deal wisely with them, or else they will multiply and **in the event of war**, they will also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us and **depart from the land**.” Exodus 1:10

*We must conquer and control the hated Jews because they can hurt our economy.

So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor. And they built for Pharaoh storage cities, Pithom and Raamses. **But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied** and the more they spread out, so that they were in dread of the sons of Israel. Exodus 1:11-12

*In 1948, when the State of Israel was founded, there were 700,000 Jews living in the Holy Land.

*In 2023, after fighting six major wars against the Arabs, there are more than 7,000,000 Jews living in the Holy Land.

The Egyptians compelled the sons of Israel to labor rigorously; and **they made their lives bitter** with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all kinds of labor in the field, all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them. Exodus 1:13-14



4,161,578,905

Total adult population of countries surveyed



1,090,000,000

People in the world
harbor antisemitic attitudes

Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other was named Puah; and he said, “When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then **you shall put him to death**; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.” Exodus 1:15-16

But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live. So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?” Exodus 1:17-18

*Civilian women were rebuked by the nation's leader for not killing enough Jewish babies.

The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife can get to them.” So God was good to the midwives, and **the people multiplied, and became very mighty.** Because the midwives feared God, He established households for them. Exodus 1:19-21

Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile [river], and every daughter you are to keep alive.” Exodus 1:22

*3,500 years ago, the leader of Israel's neighboring adversary issued a national strategy demanding the murder of Jewish children.

*Guess what is happening today?



'Top secret' Hamas documents show that terrorists intentionally targeted elementary schools and a youth center

Oct. 13, 2023 by Anna Schechter

Documents obtained by NBC News show that Hamas created detailed plans to target elementary schools and a youth center in the Israeli kibbutz of Kfar Sa'ad, to "kill as many people as possible," seize hostages and quickly move them into the Gaza Strip. The attack plans, which are labeled "top secret" in Arabic, appear to be orders for two highly trained Hamas units to surround and infiltrate villages and target places where civilians, including children, gather. The documents were found on the bodies of Hamas terrorists by Israeli first responders. They include detailed maps and show that Hamas intended to kill or take hostage civilians and school children.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/top-secret-hamas-documents-show-terrorists-intentionally-targeted-elem-rcna120310>

US President Joe Biden confirms reports that Hamas terrorists beheaded Israeli children in its surprise onslaught over the weekend.

“It is important for Americans to see what is happening. I have been doing this for a long time. I never thought that I would see... have confirmed pictures of terrorists beheading children,” Biden says during remarks to US Jewish community leaders at a White House roundtable.

“Downplaying Hamas’s atrocities and blaming the Jewish people is unthinkable,” the president adds.

A testimony of a rescue worker on Israeli TV: "We found a pile of 20 children handcuffed, shot, that the terrorists put in one pile and set them on fire."
Full blown holocaust.

UN Human Rights Council marks loss of life in 'Palestinian territory and elsewhere'

By LUKE TRESS

10 October 2023, 5:07 am | 14



The UNHRC holds a moment of silence for the loss of life in "Palestinian territory and elsewhere," after Hamas slaughters over 900 Israelis. (Screenshot/Used in accordance with clause 27a of the copyright law)

The UN Human Rights Council holds a moment of silence for the “loss of innocent lives in the occupied Palestinian territory and elsewhere,” after Palestinian terrorists’ indiscriminate slaughter of over 900 Israelis.

Pakistani envoy Zaman Mehdi calls the motion on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation member states, representing 57 countries.

Mehdi’s statement blames Israel for the attack and “breeding violence,” without mentioning Israel by name at any point. The statement makes no mention of Israeli victims, terror or Hamas.

Later... The angel of the Lord appeared to him [Moses] in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. So Moses said, "I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up."
Exodus 3:2-3

*When the people of Israel pray, God raises up leaders and deliverers from around the world.

When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look,
God called to him from the midst of the bush and
said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”
Then He said, “Do not come near here; remove
your sandals from your feet, for **the place on which
you are standing is holy ground.**” Exodus 3:4-5

*Any place, even a desert or a bomb shelter or a
battlefield, becomes “holy ground” when God shows up.

“the place on which you are standing is holy ground”

Exodus 3:5

I’m scared.

I’m angry.

I’m heartbroken.

And there is nowhere else I’d rather be.

- written by Sarah Tuttle-Singer

He said also, “I am the God of your father,
the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and
the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face, for he
was afraid to look at God. Exodus 3:6

Q: In the middle of an international crisis featuring
continuous attacks upon civilians (including babies),
how did Creator God choose to identify Himself?

A: As the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (the Jews)

The Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings.” Exodus 3:7 (NAS)

Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of My people in Egypt, and have heard them crying out because of their oppressors, and I know about their sufferings.” Exodus 3:7 (HCSB)

What is God saying to the people of Israel today?

Exodus 3:7

“I have surely seen the affliction of My people”

“I have given heed to their cry”

“I am aware of their sufferings”

The Lord said, “So **I have come down to deliver them** from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.” Exodus 3:8



*When God’s people cry out to Him, He shows up.

The Lord said to Moses, “Now, behold, **the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me**; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.”
Exodus 3:9



'It's tearing me apart': A week on, hope wears thin for families of those taken hostage by Hamas

GAZA STRIP

-  Built-up area
-  Refugee Camp
-  Crossing Point

Kilometres
0 2 4 8

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

ISRAEL

Beit Lahia
Jabalia
Gaza
Beit Hanoun
Nahal Oz
(closed since 2010)
Karni
(closed since 2011)
Deir al-Balah
Kissufim
(closed in Aug 2005)
Khan Yunis
Abasan al-Kabera
Rafah
Yasser Arafat International Airport
(inoperable since Jan-2002)
Sufa
(closed since 2008)
Rafah
Kerem Shalom
EGYPT



The Lord said to Moses,
“Therefore, come now, and I
will send you to Pharaoh, so
that you may **bring My
people, the sons of Israel,
out of Egypt.**” Exodus 3:10

Israel evacuated all Jews from
Gaza in 2005. Israel had
captured the Gaza Strip from
Egypt in the Six-Day War in 1967.

The Lord said to Moses, “Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, **so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out** of Egypt.” Exodus 3:10

*This week, hundreds of thousands of Israeli soldiers (men and women) will be sent to bring 150+ of God’s people out of captivity.



REUTERS®

Israel's reservists drop everything and rush home

By **Helen Coster** and **Alexander Cornwell**

October 12, 2023 11:29 AM CDT · Updated 2 days ago

Some were on their honeymoon, others were studying abroad, many were building new lives in foreign countries. But when Israel called up its reservists and declared war this week, the response was swift and overwhelming. "Everyone is coming. No one is saying no," said Yonatan Steiner, 24, who flew back from New York, where he works for a tech company, to join his old army medical unit. Israel has called up 360,000 reservists in the wake of Saturday's assault by hundreds of Hamas gunmen who overran towns, kibbutzes and army bases near the Gaza enclave, killing more than 1,300 civilians and soldiers and wounding over 2,700. The mass mobilization has not only wrecked holidays but also up-ended lives. Oren Saar, 37, runs a food delivery startup in New York City, where he lives with his wife and three young boys. A former captain in the Israeli army, he immediately acknowledged the call-up, but didn't tell his children what he was doing. "The kids are very young and it's not really something that you want to explain. We told them I'm going on a business trip to Israel," he said, adding that it was going to be "tricky" to keep his new business going in his absence. "But you know, there's just no question about what to do when my friends, my family and my country are at risk," he said.

“bring My people, the sons of Israel, out” Exodus 3:10

KIDNAPPED



Israeli Children

Kidnapped from
their home **by Hamas**

KIDNAPPED



85-year-old Israeli Grandmother

Kidnapped from
her home **by Hamas**

“bring My people, the sons of Israel, out” Exodus 3:10

KIDNAPPED



Israeli Babies & Children

Kidnapped from
their home **by Hamas**

KIDNAPPED



Entire Israeli Family

Kidnapped from
their home **by Hamas**

“bring My people, the sons of Israel, out” Exodus 3:10

KIDNAPPED



Entire Israeli Family

Kidnapped from
their home **by Hamas**

KIDNAPPED



Young Israeli Couple

Kidnapped from
their home **by Hamas**

Could God use **me** to help deliver His people?



Nachi Gordon ✓
@gordon770

Many families from the south have lost their homes.

2 anonymous donors from the United States paid for 160 families to stay in the Plaza in Jerusalem.

The families showed up to the lobby and couldn't believe their eyes.. It's full of formula, diapers, clothing, food and entertainment for the children. All FREE.

Because that's what family does!

I just read an account by an El Al crew member.

An Orthodox Jewish man who preferred to remain anonymous stood quietly near the El Al counter at New York's JFK Airport yesterday.

Anyone who showed him an IDF call-up notice got his ticket to Israel paid for.

He paid for 250 tickets.

Could God use **me** to help deliver His people?

Remember... Moses was 80 years old when the Lord met him at the burning bush and assigned him the mission of bringing the Jewish people home.

Ezra Yachin, at 95, is the IDF's oldest reservist. He's been drafted into the reserves to boost morale by talking with soldiers. Despite enduring a tough childhood in Jerusalem marked by riots and unsettling scenes, he and his friends played a role in founding our great nation.

His message — Don't give up, not even now.



Now is the Time to Make a Choice

- For followers of Jesus watching the tragic news, what will we say?
- For followers of Jesus who know and believe God's Word, how can we discern truth from lies?
- For followers of Jesus who recognize light and darkness, where will we stand?
- For followers of Jesus who understand God's covenant, what will we pray?
- For followers of Jesus, now is the time to make a choice.

Let's pray Psalm 20 together

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob set you securely on high! May He send you help from the sanctuary and support you from Zion! May He remember all your meal offerings and find your burnt offering acceptable! May He grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your counsel! We will sing for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners. May the Lord fulfill all your petitions. Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God. They have bowed down and fallen, but we have risen and stood upright. Save, O Lord; may the King answer us in the day we call.