



HOW TO PRAY

FOR THE CONFLICT IN
ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Genesis 12v1-3

Genesis 16v1-16

Genesis 21v1-21

Ishamel and Isaac as Symbols

**Ishmael: Human Attempt to Bring about
Blessing in Our Own Strength**

Isaac: The Promised Blessing of God Realised

Jesus is both a true and better Isaac and a true and better Ishmael.

Ishmael: The son 'rejected' by his people who is actually of great value and significance.

Isaac: The 'chosen' promise-fulfilling Son who only does what He sees His father do.

The Jews and the Arabs in the Old Testament:

Ishmael's Descendants: Ishmaelites, Midianites, the Amalekites, Kedarites and others: mostly become polytheists, worshipping all sorts of different gods

Isaac's Descendants: The people of Israel, who often behave badly but are favoured by God, and from whom will come the Messiah.

The New Testament: Jesus Changes Everything

What does all this mean for ethnic Israel?

The Romans Challenge

1-8 The Gospel message

**9-11 Super-difficult-to-understand theological stuff
about Israel**

12-16 The Gospel lived out

It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Romans 9v6

What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. Romans 9v30-32

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

Romans 10v1

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Romans 11v1

I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” Romans 11v25-26

Key Theological Perspectives on Israel

Supersessionism (Replacement Theology)

Dispensationalism

Covenantal Theology

Christian Zionism

Dual-Covenantal Theology

PRAY

Thank God that all people are made in His image

Express that no-one perfectly lives up to that image

Thank Him that all are loved and declared valuable

**Thank God for the Jewish people and the Arab
people of any nation, beliefs etc.**

2000 Years in a Nutshell

Arabs: The Growth of Islam

Jews: Global Diaspora

The Land: Ever-changing Hands









Understanding the Israeli Perspective

Understanding the Palestinian Perspective

Non-debatables in how we think and pray about the Middle East

God, remarkably, loves everyone involved on any side, whatever they have done

Sin is sin, whoever commits it.

Sadly, more evil has been done than we can comprehend

The Church is called to care about God's purposes, His promises, and

His people—both Jews and Gentiles. This does not mean uncritically endorsing any military or political action.

In the coming of Jesus, the definition of God's people was expanded beyond ethnic and national lines.

The situation will be fully resolved when Jesus returns, and probably not before then.

Debatables in how we think and pray about the Middle East

The role of ethnic Israel 'now' within God's plans.

The legitimacy of the current state of Israel as the fulfilment of Biblical prophecy.

The best way of creating short or long term peace in the region.

The accuracy/context of reports we hear from the region (from any side).

How to pray

- **'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem',* whoever lives there.**
- *Mourn for all innocent lives: Israel, Palestinian, or others. Every life bears the image of God.**
- *Express that our allegiance and hope is not to a flag, but to the Kingdom of God.**
- *Pray for acts of personal and corporate repentance where required**
- *Ask for wisdom, restraint, forgiveness to shape decision makers**
- *Pray for justice: especially for the vulnerable, the displaced, the oppressed.**
- *Lift up ministries and churches on the ground, both Jewish and Arab, that are working for reconciliation and peace.**
- *For people to come to know Jesus - the true King of Israel.**