

Sermon Notes: "Whose Land Is It? Part 2" by Pastor Wes

Introduction

- Title: "Whose Land Is It? Part 2"
- Speaker: Pastor Wes
- Date: Sunday Morning Sermon, 05/19/24
- Theme: Understanding the biblical and historical context of the Israeli-Palestinian land dispute.

I. Biblical Promises and Context

1. Genesis 12:1-3

- God's promise to Abraham:
 - To make him a great nation
 - To bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him
 - To give his descendants the land

2. Prayer for Guidance

- Seeking God's control over thoughts and words.
- Asking for the Spirit to speak to the congregation and eliminate distractions.

3. The Unique Nature of the Bible

- 66 books, written over 1500 years, by 30 different authors in 3 languages.
- Historically and archaeologically accurate.

II. Conflict and Prophecy

1. Genesis 16:11-12

- Prophecy about Ishmael:
 - He will be a wild man, his hand against every man.

2. **Genesis 17:20-21**

- God's promise to Ishmael:
 - Blessing and multiplying his descendants
- Covenant established with Isaac, not Ishmael.

3. **Genesis 21:8-10**

- Sarah's conflict with Hagar and Ishmael, resulting in their expulsion.

III. God's Sovereignty and Human History

1. **Ephesians 2:10**

- Believers as God's workmanship, created for good works.
- God's plan for individuals despite their past or heritage.

2. **Genesis 28:3-4**

- Isaac's blessing to Jacob:
 - Fruitfulness and inheritance of the land.

3. **Genesis 32:22-28**

- Jacob's wrestling with God:
 - Renamed Israel, symbolizing prevailing with God.

IV. Contemporary Implications

1. **Current Geopolitical Issues**

- Rise of anti-Semitism
- Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the two-state solution.
- God's land and the implications of dividing it.

2. **Historical References**

- Roman Emperor naming the land "Palestina" after the Philistines.

- No historical country called Palestine.
- The 1948 UN recognition of Israel as a nation.

3. **Misconceptions and Truths**

- No genocide of Palestinians by Israel.
- Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 for peace.
- The building of barriers for security, not apartheid.

V. Conclusion

- Emphasizing God's sovereignty over land and history.
- Encouraging believers to understand the biblical narrative and God's plan for Israel.
- Call to recognize the importance of supporting Israel according to biblical principles.