

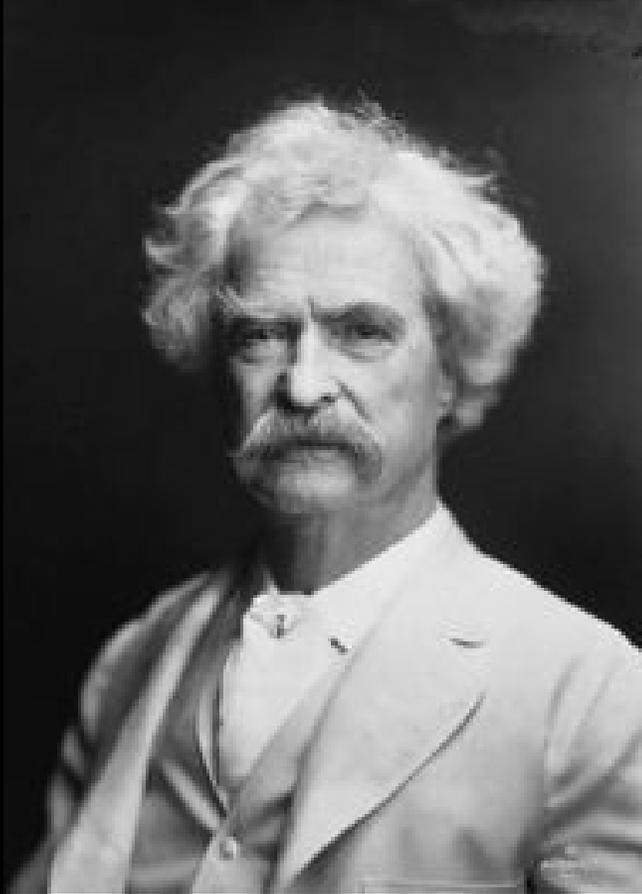


Christian Ethics in Reporting the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Dr. Mike Stallard

The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry

Mark Twain



**If you tell the
truth, you
don't have to
remember
anything.**

George Washington

**It is better
to offer no
excuse than
a bad one.**



Napoleon Bonaparte



**History is
a set of
lies agreed
upon.**

Michael Ende

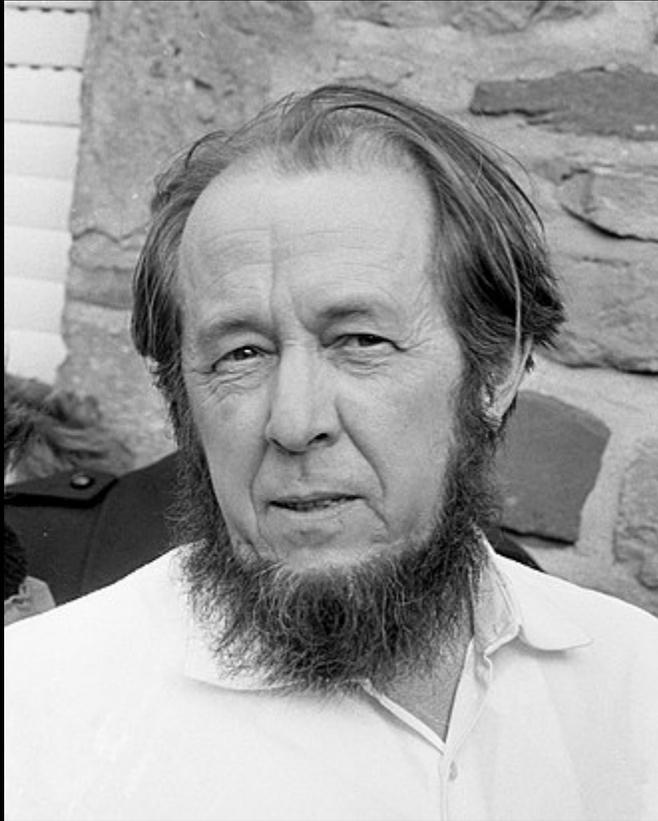
When it comes to controlling human beings there is no better instrument than lies. Because, you see, humans live by beliefs. And beliefs can be manipulated. The power to manipulate beliefs is the only thing that counts.

Vladimir Lenin

To tell the truth is
a petty bourgeois
habit, whereas
for us to lie is
justified by our
objectives



Alexander Solzhenitsyn



**In our country
[USSR], the lie
has become not
just a moral
category, but
a pillar of
the state.**

Yasser Arafat

**Why shouldn't
I lie? For the
sake of
Palestine, I am
willing to lie all
the time.**



Haaretz Opinion Piece



Benjamin Netanyahu is a certified liar. Not for nothing did Bezalel Smotrich, who is now his finance minister, call the prime minister “a lying son of a liar.”

Lying and Deceit versus Truth-Telling

Rom. 3:4

**...let God be found true,
though every man be found
a liar...**

Titus 1:2

**...in the hope of eternal life,
which God, who cannot lie,
promised long ages ago...**

In the Law

Exodus 20:16 & Deuteronomy 5:20

You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor.

Leviticus 19:11

You shall not steal, nor deal falsely,
nor lie to one another.

In the Prophets

Isaiah 59:4

No one sues righteously and no one pleads honestly. They trust in confusion and speak lies; they conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity.

Zechariah 8:16

These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates.

In the Writings

Psalm 34:13

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

Proverbs 29:12

If a ruler pays attention to falsehood, all his ministers become wicked.

In the New Testament

John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

In the New Testament

Col. 3:9

Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices.

Acts 5:4

You have not lied to men but to God.

In the New Testament

Rev. 21:8

But for the cowardly and the unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

The Name “Palestine”

Geographical

- Roman geographical use to separate Israel from its homeland (AD 135 – Syria Palaestina)
- Includes Jewish people, Arabs, Druze, and others who live in the region

Ethnic

- Arab is not enough to describe ethnicity
- Eliminates Jews from consideration
- Drives a specific Arab nationalism for the region

Peter Jennings, ABC News, JPS 1976, 129

I think there is definitely an **anti-Arab bias** in America, and I regret it. There is also some unfortunate **stereotyping** in the media. It is unfortunate, for example, to use simply the word **“Arab”** to refer to **Palestinians** or Iraqis or Libyans or Saudis. But I think we’re beginning to move away from that, although it is a slow process.

Stolen Land

Arabs



**European
Colonialism**

Jews



**Going
Home**

Edward Said quoted by Naim Ateek

- “Zionism never spoke of itself unambiguously as a **Jewish liberation movement**, but rather as a Jewish movement for **colonial settlement.**”
- Is this true?

A Question about Another Land



Oppression & Apartheid



A pro-Palestine protest moves north on Michigan Ave. on Oct. 21, 2023.
(Trent Sprague/Chicago Tribune)



Pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched toward the United Nations on Monday. A pro-Palestinian rally on Sunday led to fierce political backlash. Dave Sanders for The New York Times

Oppression & Apartheid

Hisham Sharabi, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 232

“Israel’s action against the Palestinians in Lebanon is part of a larger pattern, which includes the Palestinians under Israeli occupation. In Gaza and the West Bank, the Palestinians have been subjected to systematic persecution and suppression, deprived of their national and human rights, their elected leaders and intellectuals imprisoned, expelled, physically attacked and maimed, and their cultural institutions dismantled or destroyed.” – **This was written in 1982**

Oppression & Apartheid

“According to the Geneva Convention of 1949, genocide is defined as the systematic destruction of a society or a national or ethnic group not only by means of mass killing but also by the destruction of homes, the confiscation of property, the expulsion of people and the destruction of social, political and cultural institutions. In light of this definition, Israeli action against the Palestinians in the West Bank, in Gaza and in Lebanon may properly be described as genocidal.”

Oppression & Apartheid

“In this action, the United States must be regarded as Israel’s accomplice, and as such must shoulder the same guilt.”

Statement by Arab Mayor (Muslim) of Nablus after 1982 Invasion of Lebanon by Israel (JPS 94)

No one was surprised by the criminal attack on Lebanon

It is a continuation of Israel's policy aimed at exterminating our people, physically and politically

It is a continuation of the battle started by Israel at the very beginning when it considered the land to be its land

And sought to build a "pure" Israel without the inhabitants

Edmund Ghareeb interviewing Peter Jennings of ABC News (JPS, 1976, 128)

Ghareeb comments:

“One can still see bias. For example, in an editorial comment on the ABC morning news, Harry Reasoner, in trying to explain the actions of Israeli demonstrators against the Kissinger mission last August, justified them by saying that **the Arabs started all the wars.**”

**Edmund Ghareeb interviewing Peter Jennings
of ABC News (JPS, 1976, 128)**

“He blamed the Arabs for starting the 1948 war, the 1956 war, the 1967 war and the 1973 war. Whose history is he reading?”

Letters of Mutual Recognition

September 9, 1993

From Arafat to Yitzhak Rabin:

“The PLO recognizes the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security...the PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence.”

**Who is
telling the
truth?**

Holocaust Denial



- **Mahmoud Abbas, head of Palestinian Authority**
- **Ph.D. Dissertation at a Russian University (1982)**
- ***The Relationship Between Zionists and Nazis, 1933-1945***

Holocaust Denial

Holocaust denial is an **antisemitic conspiracy** theory which argues that Jews around the world knowingly **fabricated evidence of their own genocide** during World War II in order to extract financial reparations from Germany, gain world sympathy and facilitate the **theft of Palestinian land for the creation of Israel**. It is founded on the belief that Jews are able to force governments, Hollywood, the media and academia **to promote a lie** at the expense of non-Jews. (ADL.org)

Evidence for the Holocaust

- **Auschwitz and other death camp remnants**
- **Yad Vashem**
- **Nuremburg Repository**
- **Holocaust Survivors Still Alive**
- **Ghettos**
- **Diary of Joseph Goebbels**



Turning the Tables

Some Israeli Jews who are anti-Zionist and do not reject the existence of the Holocaust nonetheless use the image of the Holocaust to describe what is happening to non-Israelis in the nation of Israel

Dr. Israel Shahak, JPS 1976 (77)

I would say the only human response to the Holocaust is to try not to be like Nazis, in word or in deed. What brought the Holocaust was the racist attitude toward Jews, the division of German society into Jews and non-Jews on the grounds of race. This is exactly the same thing that is happening in Israel.

**Who is
telling the
truth?**

Theology

For most **Palestinian Christians**, as for many other **Arab Christians**, their view of the Bible, especially the Hebrew Scriptures, or Old Testament, has been adversely affected by the creation of the State of Israel.

Naim Ateek, *Justice & Only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation* (77)

Theology

Before the creation of the State, the Old Testament was considered to be an essential part of Christian Scripture, pointing and witnessing to Jesus. Since the creation of the State, some Jewish and Christian interpreters have read the Old Testament largely as a **Zionist text** to such an extent that it has become **repugnant** to Palestinian Christians.

Theology

As a result, the Old Testament has generally fallen into **disuse** among both clergy and laity, and the Church has been unable to come to terms with **its ambiguities, questions, and paradoxes**—especially with its direct application to the twentieth-century events in Palestine.

Theology

Palestinian Christians are **looking for a hermeneutic** that will help them to identify the **authentic** Word of *God* in the Bible and to discern the **true meaning** of those biblical texts that Jewish Zionists and Christian fundamentalists cite to substantiate their **subjective claims and prejudices** (79).

Some Questions for This Approach

- Why is your hermeneutic dependent upon political outcomes?
- Why is the meaning of the text not determined by the actual text?
- Why is the Hebrew or Jewish nature of the Bible such a hindrance?
- Is the Bible primarily about political deliverance?
- Who is telling the truth about how to interpret the Bible?

Fair & Balanced

Can we come up with examples
where the modern State of
Israel has done wrong?

We must be truth-tellers