



## **American Jewish-Evangelical Interfaith Relations and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

Dr. Amy Weiss

Dr. Amy Weiss holds the Maurice Greenberg Chair of Judaic Studies and is an assistant professor of Judaic studies and history at the University of Hartford. She received a 2024 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend to complete her book, *Interfaith Friends and Ideological Foes: American Jews, Evangelicals, and Israel, 1963–2018*, which is under contract with Oxford University Press. In addition to receiving a PhD from New York University, Dr. Weiss received her MA from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

## UN General Assembly Resolution 32/5

October 28, 1977

### *The General Assembly*

*Stressing* the urgent need to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East,

*Expressing grave anxiety and concern* over the present serious situation in the occupied Arab territories as a result of the continued Israeli occupation and the measures and actions taken by the Government of Israel, as the occupying Power, and designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of those territories,

*Considering* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to all the Arab territories occupied since 5 June 1967,

1. *Determines* that all such measures and actions taken by Israel in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 have no legal validity and constitute a serious obstruction of efforts aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East;
2. *Strongly deplores* the persistence of Israel in carrying out such measures, in particular the establishment of settlements in the occupied Arab territories;
3. *Calls upon* Israel to comply strictly with its international obligations in accordance with the principles of international law and the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;
4. *Calls once more upon* the Government of Israel, as the occupying Power, to desist forthwith from taking any action which would result in changing the legal status, geographical nature or demographic composition of the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem;

5. *Urges* all States parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War to ensure respect for and compliance with its provisions in all the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To undertake urgent contacts with the Government of Israel to ensure the prompt implementation of the present resolution;

(b) To submit a report to the General Assembly and the Security Council, not later than 31 December 1977, on the results of his contacts;

7. *Requests* the Security Council to review the situation in the light of the present resolution and of the report of the Secretary-General.

# EVANGELICALS' CONCERN FOR ISRAEL



We the undersigned *Evangelical Christians* affirm our belief in the right of Israel to exist as a free and independent nation and in this light we voice our grave apprehension concerning the recent direction of American foreign policy vis a vis the Middle East.

We are particularly troubled by the erosion of American governmental support for Israel evident in the joint U.S.-U.S.S.R. statement.

While we are sympathetic to the human needs of all the peoples of the Middle East, mindful that promises were made to the other descendants of Abraham and concerned about the welfare of Christians in all the countries of the Middle East, we affirm as Evangelicals our belief in the promise of the land to the Jewish people—a promise first made to Abraham and repeated throughout Scripture, a promise which has never been abrogated.

We believe the rebirth of Israel as a nation and the return of her people to the land is clearly foretold in the Bible and this fulfillment in our time is one of the most momentous events in all human history.

While the exact boundaries of the land of promise are open to discussion, we, along with most evangelicals, understand the Jewish homeland generally to include the territory west of the Jordan River.

It should be remembered that from the time of Joshua, this land mass has been the exclusive homeland for the Jewish nation. Jerusalem has never been the capital for any other people since the time of David.

We pray for peace in the middle east and we pledge ourselves to work for justice for all of the peoples involved yet we also declare our belief that lasting peace cannot be achieved until the international community accepts the inalienable right of the Jewish people to live and create a nation within the boundaries of their ancient homeland.

Further, from the perspective of Israel's security requirements as well as from our understanding of her legacy, we would view with grave concern any effort to carve out of the historic Jewish homeland another nation or political entity, particularly one which would be governed by terrorists whose stated goal is the destruction of the Jewish state.

As Evangelicals we are convinced that Israel's future should not and will not be determined by political intrigue, fluctuating world opinion or the imposition of world powers. Rather, we put our trust in the eternity of the covenant God made with Abraham and we find comfort in the words of the prophet Amos—

*"And I will plant them upon the land and they shall no more be pulled up out of the land which I have given them, saith the Lord, thy God." Amos 9:15*

The time has come for Evangelical Christians to affirm their belief in biblical prophecy and Israel's Divine Right to the Land by speaking out now.

Here's what you can do:

- Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.
- Write a letter or add your name to this letter and send it to your Government leaders today indicating your support for Israel.
- Place this statement in your local newspapers.

## Evangelicals Concern for Israel (cont)

**Hudson T. Armerding**  
Past President, National Association of Evangelicals  
Wheaton, Illinois

**Pat Boone**  
Los Angeles, California

**W. A. Criswell**  
Pastor, First Baptist Church  
Dallas, Texas

**Paul N. Ellis**  
Bishop, President, Board of Administration  
Free Methodist Church of North America  
Winona Lake, Indiana

**Harry L. Evans**  
President, Trinity College  
Deerfield, Illinois

ORGANIZATIONS LISTED FOR PURPOSE OF IDENTIFICATION ONLY

**George Giacomakis, Jr.**  
Professor of History, California State University  
Fullerton, California  
and President Elect, Institute of Holy Land Studies  
Jerusalem, Israel

**Vernon Grounds**  
President, Conservative Baptist Seminary  
Denver, Colorado

**Kenneth Kantzer**  
Vice President, Graduate Studies and  
Dean of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School  
Deerfield, Illinois

**Harold Lindsell**  
Editor, Christianity Today  
Wheaton, Illinois

**Kenneth M. Meyer**  
President, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School  
Deerfield, Illinois

**Arnold T. Olson, Coordinator**  
President Emeritus, Evangelical Free  
Church of America  
Past President, National Association of Evangelicals  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**B. Elmo Scoggin**  
Professor, Hebrew and Old Testament  
Southeastern Baptist Seminary  
Wake Forest, North Carolina

**Clyde Taylor**  
General Director, National Association  
of Evangelicals (retired)  
Arnold, Maryland

**John F. Walvoord**  
President, Dallas Theological Seminary  
Dallas, Texas

**G. Douglas Young**  
President, Institute of Holy Land Studies  
Jerusalem, Israel

For further information write to: ARNOLD T. OLSON, Box 19092, Minneapolis, MN 55419

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

## Additional Sources:

Amy Weiss, "[Billy Graham Receives the Ten Commandments: American Jewish Interfaith Relations in the Age of Evangelicalism](#)" *American Jewish History*. January 2019.