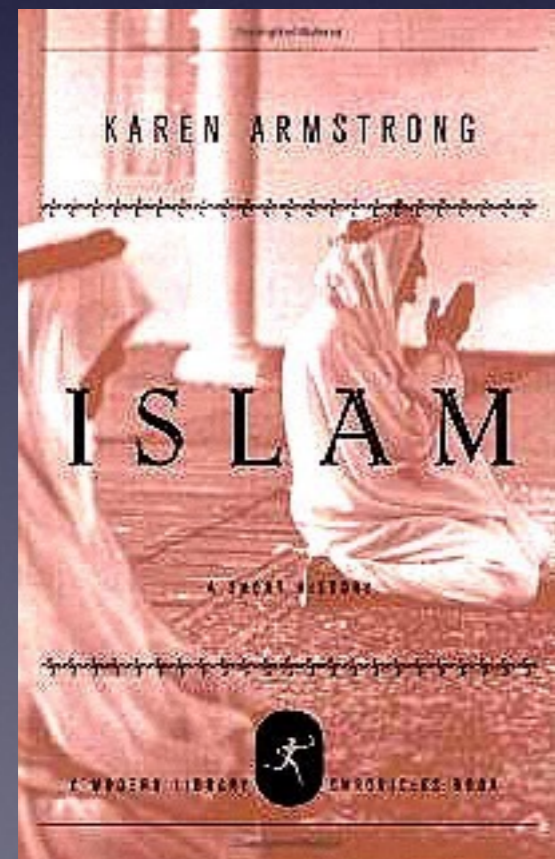


Israel - Palestine 2 studies



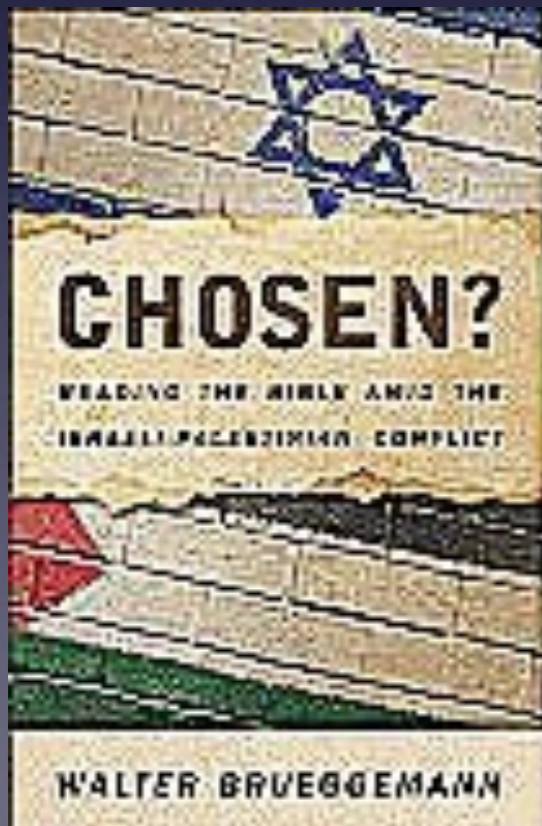
ACTS
Winter 2016

St David's United Church
Calgary

Chosen: Ch 3. Holy Land?

Session # 4

- Opening
- Introductions
- Chapter Summaries
- Media
- Discussions
- Closing



Opening

40 Arabic children and 40 Israeli children
singing John Lennon's "Imagine"
at Shimon Peres's 80th birthday in 2006
with President Clinton helping.

4m29s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0F_6pIYyTM



Introductory Thoughts

Since the end of World War II and the demise of European colonialism, LAND has played an important role in at least three major regions of the globe -

South Africa
Northern Ireland
The Holy Land

Outline of Ch 4 Holy Land?

The Gift

Gift With Strings Attached

The Torah Only 'Anticipates' Land

Land Restored

How Important is the Land?

Is Today's Israel Biblical Israel?

The Value of Theological interpretation

An interpretive principle:

Reading the Hebrew Bible texts critically is NOT reading them naively, or with innocent simplicity.

Context and comparison is everything.

Pre-During-Post-exilic texts

Important to consider because of the "precedents" and "perspectives" offered, but must be understood for what they are.

Compare:

Genesis,
Deuteronomy,
Joshua,
Isaiah,
Jeremiah,
Ezekiel,
the Psalms

Holy Land?

We need to discover the time-frame and the context existing when these writings emerged concerning different perspectives on "the land".

Holy Land?

Thus -

Formulation and reformulation of the Covenant evolved and changed over time and circumstance.

Reading individual texts without knowing the context leads to confusion and conflict

Holy Land?

General Principle:

Israel had different perspectives on the meaning of the land depending on whether the people were "In exile from the land" or "inhabiting the land".

Important Insights:

1.

You can interpret Torah Covenant
with or without land.

Important Insights:

2.

Critical faith for Jew and Gentile alike will resist a direct line between ancient text and contemporary claim.

Important Insights:

3.

Theological tradition has a place, but it is not a substitute for contemporary realpolitik. What is that place?

Video

A Walk through Jerusalem
where 3 religions consider the land “holy”

An excellent video of a visitor, Gabriel Hudson.
4m29s

<https://vimeo.com/24856096>



JERUSALEM

Gabriel Hudson

May 2011

Video

“Origins of Ancient Israel” by Prof Carol Meyers, Duke U.

The whole lecture is 63m, very educational and worth watching. The following extract is the last 6 minutes, where she reviews the emergence of the proto Israel people and their relationship to Biblical traditions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/hS2MEpqBWrMnjn>



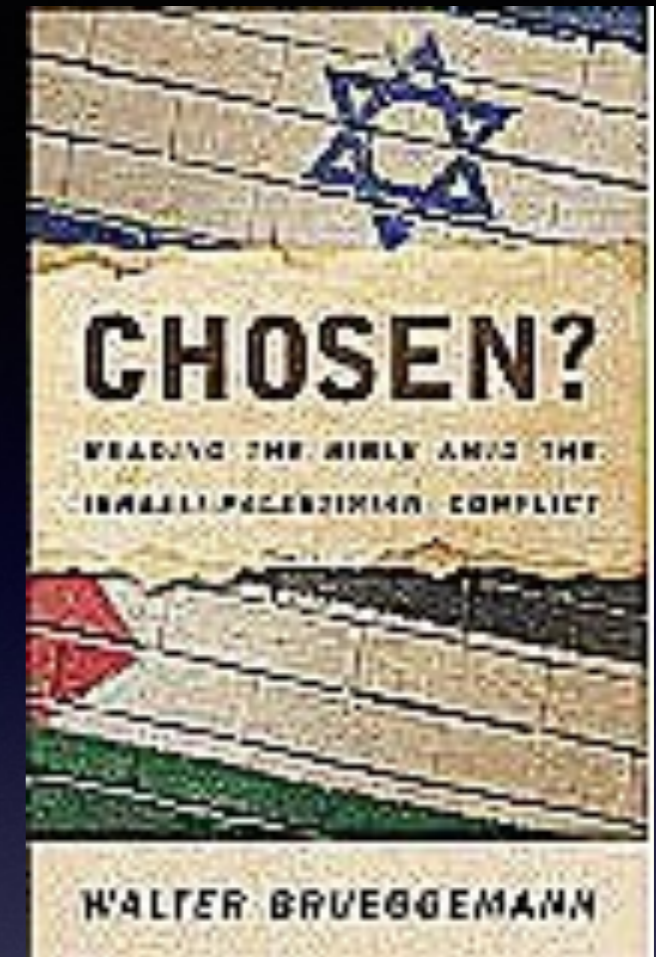
Discussion Questions

1. "Judaism is primarily a culture of interpretation"
- Robert Alter
3. Is there any place for Israel's "land-based" theology in the contemporary debate?
2. In preparation for next week - Ch 4 - "Zionism and Israel"

At this point in your understanding of this issue:
Discuss the pros and cons of Zionist thinking
(e.g. what it did well, what it is doing badly)

Break

Chosen



Next Readings

Ch 4. Zionism and Israel?

Study Website

<http://chosen.stdavidscalgary.net>

Closing

Bob Clare