



## November 2023

Dear friends,

As we watch the conflict in Israel and Palestine unfold, here are a few thoughts and resources we'd like to share with you.

I (Josh) want to echo these words from a statement put out by over twenty human rights organizations in Israel, including some organizations that we work with: B'Tselem, Parents Circle-Families Forum, Breaking the Silence, Rabbis for Human Rights, and Combatants for Peace.

*“Even now – especially now – we must maintain our moral and humane position and refuse to give in to despair or the urge for vengeance. Keeping our faith in the human spirit and its inherent goodness is more vital than ever. One thing is clear: We will never surrender our belief in humanity - even now, when doing so is more challenging than ever.”*

Making sense of the war in Gaza may not be fully possible. The scale is too large, the loss too overwhelming. But we can and must learn what we can about the larger Israeli/Palestinian conflict, which has led us to this moment.

Below are a number of resources that can provide context and analysis of the current war and the larger historical context.

- [The Daily](#): Michael Barbaro interviews former Jerusalem bureau chief at the *New York Times*, Steven Erlanger
- [Lever Time with David Sirota](#): Journalist David Sirota with two foreign policy experts, Matt Duss and Daniel Bessner
- [Pod Save the World](#): Another episode with ex-Obama foreign policy advisors Tommy Veitor and Ben Rhodes, and guest Gregg Carlstrom, the Middle East correspondent for *The Economist*

Here are some links to articles/tweets. These lean toward information/explanation from the Palestinian perspective. I am assuming that the Israeli viewpoint is more mainstream and accessible to most of you.

- This [interactive piece](#) is already a couple of weeks old, but it helps paint a picture of the massive scale of Israeli bombardments.

*Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at [kgilmore@rca.org](mailto:kgilmore@rca.org) to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.*

- This is [an earlier entry](#) from a running diary by a Palestinian woman named, Maram Humaid, who lives with her family in Gaza.
- This is a [Twitter thread](#) on a brief history of Gaza and Hamas from 1967-1986 from an expert on Palestinian history, Zachary Foster. Dr. Foster's thread is biased, purposefully so, I assume. Perhaps he would disagree. I see his thread as an attempt by a reputable scholar to explain the Palestinian side of Gaza and Hamas, in which Israel plays a bigger role than most people might assume.
- Orly Noy is an Israeli journalist whom I have met (she spoke to one of my groups) and whose work I follow. [This essay](#) is excellent and beautiful. It's so difficult to write this well, this personally, on something so complex and fraught.
- I've started a [Twitter list](#) of journalists, academics, and political analysts whom I follow for information on Israel/Palestine. [Click here](#) to access that list.

We hope these resources are helpful and we will continue to pray and call for peace.

Josh and Chris

P.S. Our film, the Law and the Prophets, was recently uploaded to YouTube. If you have the chance, we would really appreciate if you watched the film but also visited [this link](#) and "liked" the film. If you're able to also "subscribe" to the YouTube channel, that would also be appreciated. Both of these actions will help boost our views on YouTube through their algorithm. Thanks!