

Serpents in the Wilderness
Rise & Shine, March 14th

John 3:14-21

Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Commentary from Facilitator, Maggie Gough:

In continuation of the conversation last week with Melanie on the topic of idolatry; with a long and messy history the ability for Israel and Palestine to create peace seems insurmountable. When Christians overlay scripture and biblical tradition into those politics, it becomes even messier and more challenging to resolve.

In the News

U.S. announces restoration of relations with Palestinians

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration announced Tuesday it was restoring relations with the Palestinians and renewing aid to Palestinian refugees, a reversal of the Trump administration’s cutoff and a key element of its new support for a two-state solution to the decades-old conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

Acting U.S. Ambassador Richard Mills made the announcement of Biden’s approach to a high-level virtual Security Council meeting, saying the new U.S. administration believes this “remains the best way to ensure Israel’s future as a democratic and Jewish state while upholding the Palestinians’ legitimate aspirations for a state of their own and to live with dignity and security.”

Continue reading U.S. announces restoration of relations with Palestinians by Edith M. Lederer of AP News <https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-world-news-israel-united-nations-a5f546bf188f808ba29f381d76d44729>

'GOD TV' spat exposes tensions between Israel, evangelicals

JERUSALEM (AP) — An evangelical broadcaster who boasted of miraculously securing a TV license in Israel now risks being taken off the air over suspicions of trying to convert Jews to Christianity.

The controversy over "GOD TV" has put both Israel and its evangelical Christian supporters in an awkward position, exposing tensions the two sides have long papered over.

Evangelical Christians, particularly in the United States, are among the strongest supporters of Israel, viewing it as the fulfillment of biblical prophecy, with some seeing it as the harbinger of a second coming of Jesus Christ and the end of days.

Continue reading 'GOD TV' spat exposes tensions between Israel, evangelicals by Joseph Krauss of AP News <https://apnews.com/article/5e8c72a2c07852ed6cd5128cf36cece2>