

Eschatology and Israel: Evangelicals Amid End Times Chaos

Evangelical support for Israel has remained unchanged amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, according to a recent survey. Researchers found the belief that “God’s covenant with the Jewish people remains intact today,” serves as the greatest impact on support for the Jewish state.

“If a respondent professes this belief, the likelihood that this person strongly supports Israel increases almost threefold (180%),” reads a press release from researchers behind the study.

Dr. Motti Inbari, a professor of Jewish studies at UNC Pembroke, and Dr. Kirill Bumin, associate dean of Metropolitan College and director of Boston University Summer Term Programs, explained to CBN News what they found most stunning about the latest data.

“We’ve been doing this research for quite some time,” Bumin said. “And one of the things that I find particularly interesting is the degree to which the attitudes that we see in the Christian community are crystallized or rigid.”

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He continued, “We have seen relatively little change in attitudes towards support for Israel, support for Palestinians, or support for neither from 2021 onward.”

Bumin said this persists even after the Oct. 7 attack and subsequent war broke out.

Another factor of interest was generational differences the

researchers observed among young evangelicals, who have been found to be less supportive—particularly those under the age of 20—of Israel.

“[This is the case] even after we take into account their religious attendance, their specific religious beliefs, political beliefs, socialization in pro-Israel circles,” Bumin said. “There’s definitely something very distinct about the under-30 crowd, especially in comparison to the 50 to 64-year-old respondents who are even more supportive of Israel than the 65-plus crowd.”

Inbari said the younger generation has more access to information on social media and other platforms—tools older generations aren’t as accustomed to. He said these platforms, by design, create an echo chamber dynamic as people are primarily served only the content they want to see and hear.

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“You’re in ... your own mindset [and] you’re not exposed to other views,” he said. “And this creates a lot of polarization also as a result. ... Another aspect is that it’s very visual. You can see things that, back when I was younger, in that age, when I was opening the newspaper, I was reading. Now, they see. They don’t read; they see. It creates a different effect.”

As for evangelical support more generally, Bumin said an embrace of the biblical narrative, particularly the Abrahamic covenant, is “exceptionally important” to explain why evangelicals have such a positive view of Israel.

“Support for Abrahamic covenant – this notion that God’s covenant with the Jewish people is intact and eternal and that, as a result of Gentiles supporting Abrahamic covenant, that there are blessings for the Gentiles to be had ... that

aspect has repeatedly received support, not only in the evangelical community, but indeed across all Christian denominations ... that we have studied," he said. "In fact, in our 2024 survey, that is the No. 1 most impactful variable that we've considered in terms of relative impact on people's attitudes ... in terms of support for Israel."

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