



Image credit: “Apartheid Street”, taken in Hebron, Palestine on January 27, 2014 by Deanna K. Roberts

FROM THE EDITOR

Our second issue focuses particularly on Christian Zionism as it relates to the authoritarianism currently wielded by the second US Trump administration. The authors – Halah Ahmad, Ben Lorber, and Robert O. Smith – examine how Christian Zionism shores up American tyranny both at home and abroad, bolstering the repression of activism around Palestine in the United States and partnering with Christian nationalism as well as fueling Israel’s genocide in Gaza.

Smith looks at three cases that demonstrate the real-world effects of Christian Zionist commitments and political activities: 1) Judge Julia Sebutinde’s jurisprudence for the International Court of Justice; 2) the Heritage Foundation’s Project Esther; and 3) the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. Ahmad examines how Christian Zionist groups and individuals have for decades aimed to suppress democracy and gain electoral power in the United States, bringing us to the present authoritarian moment. Lorber does a deep dive into one such group actualizing the Christian Zionist policy agenda: the New Apostolic Reformation and its leader, Florida-based Mario Bramnick. Lorber argues that Bramnick’s increasing influence in the realm of Christian Zionism “illustrates the dominionist, messianic agenda, and increasingly transnational and multiethnic character of [the ideology], a bedrock of today’s authoritarian and Christian nationalist upsurge.”

Works written by Kathleen Christison (*Justice on the Cross: Palestinian Liberation Theology, the Struggle Against Israeli Oppression, and the Church*) and edited by Susan Landau (*‘Thou Shalt Not Stand Idly By’: Jews of Conscience on Palestine*), reviewed by Dr. Michael Spath and Dr. Mark Braverman, respectively, then provide a welcome template for how to engage critically and ethically as Christians and Jews in the face of Christian Zionism.

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Forthcoming journal issues will consider Christian Zionism in Latin America and indigenous Palestinian responses to Christian Zionism. Please also check out our new podcast, *Bad Theology: Busted*, co-hosted by ISCZ team members Dee Roberts and Jesse Wheeler which features such figures as founders of the Institute, Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer and Rev. Dr. Don Wagner, as well as academics, analysts, theologians, and activists from Latin America, South Africa, and beyond.

We hope you'll consider supporting our work. To make a donation, please go to: <https://studychristianzionism.org/donate/>.

In solidarity,
Mimi Kirk
Washington, DC
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