

Apartheid Study Series

Week 2: Biblical and Theological Reflections

based on [A Dossier on Israeli Apartheid: A Pressing Call to Churches Around the World](#)

written by Kairos Palestine and Global Kairos for Justice

Overview

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| Week 1 | Apartheid and the Palestinian Experience – hearing their cries |
| Week 2 | Biblical and Theological Reflections – uniting in faith |
| Week 3 | Faithful Responses – incarnating Advent’s promises |

Materials Needed

- Lesson PowerPoint Presentation
- Video links and ability to play for class
- A copy of the Kairos *Dossier on Israeli Apartheid*

Week 2: Welcome Back & Framing

A. Optional Recap: [Human Rights Watch video](#) – 3 min

B. Who says Israel is an apartheid state? Quickly view part 2 of dossier: Apartheid Israel reports from many sectors of society.

- Consensus among the major human rights organizations

What, then, are we to do?

| | Lesson | Materials |
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| What then are we to do? | <p>Read Dossier Part 3 - What is the role of the international church:</p> <p>→ Neutrality is not a faithful response</p> | Apartheid Dossier |
| Our responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Biblical/moral responsibility</u> –affirm human worth and dignity and name as sinful that which doesn't (p 20) ● <u>Gospel responsibility</u> - Acknowledge the harms of state religion/theology (p 21-22) ● <u>Theological responsibility</u> - <i>Status confessionis</i> - take a clear stand on a particular issue (p 22-23) <p>Where have we seen the church/churches take a clear stand on issues? (Civil Rights, Abolition, LGBTQ+ justice, women in ministry, ...)</p> | Slides |
| What isn't helpful? | Some limited church responses that are unhelpful (p 24-27) | Slides |
| Words of encouragement | <p>A few words of encouragement from Rabbi Brant Rosen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 23:30-28:23 – how does Judaism inspire you to oppose apartheid? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ responses to enslavement of the Hebrew people ● 1:01:30-1:02:30 – what about antisemitic accusations? | <p>Video clip - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nok5U-C93VI</p> |

Closing Remarks

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – one of the great modern prophets calling the church and all people to join together to demand justice for all who are oppressed reminds us of the indivisibility of justice - injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. This was said during his Riverside Speech condemning US involvement in Vietnam, recognizing the impact of our international relationships causing great harm to the world. What would he say about the fact that Israel, who is perpetrating the crime of apartheid, receives more US funding than any other country in the world 10 million/day?