

What is the difference between Christian Zionists and denominational Christians?

This may sound simplistic, but the consequences are certainly not. Much of the difference between Christian Zionists and mainstream denominational Christians really does boil down to their view of Scripture.

[Editor's note: the following paragraph generally applies to the RI State Council of Churches]

In the last 50-75 years, the vast majority of mainstream denominational Christians have gotten away from the belief that the Bible is the word of God, that it is to be interpreted literally, and that therefore, what the Hebrew prophets all said about the future restoration of the Jewish people in the land of Israel is true. As a result, mainstream Christians do not see anything biblical or prophetic about what is happening in Israel now, and view the Arab-Israeli conflict simply as an issue of peace and justice in which the cause of the perceived underdogs - the Palestinians - needs to be championed.

[Editor's note: the following paragraph generally applies to non-denominational churches in RI]

Christian Zionists believe that the Bible is the word of God and interpret it literally, including everything that is written about the return of the exiles to Israel. Therefore, the establishment of the modern State of Israel and the in-gathering of the exiles from the four corners of the world is seen as a fulfillment of the biblical prophecies. Christian Zionists take literally the commands found throughout the Bible to bless the Jewish people, to honor them as God's chosen people and the older brother in the faith, and to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. As a result, Christian Zionists support Israel's right to exist and defend itself against those who intend to destroy it.

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2/15/2018