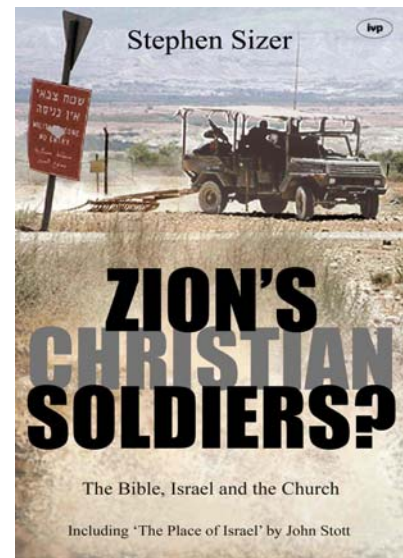


## Zion's Christian Soldiers Reviews

"*Zion's Christian Soldiers*" ought to be on the required reading list for all students of the Bible. Here is basic and fundamental methodology which challenges many evangelical assumptions about "end times prophecy." Here is a sound-minded, Christ-centered critique of a popularly accepted but nonetheless fatally flawed perspective that leads to many spiritual dysfunctions. If you find yourself troubled by saber-rattling political rhetoric coming from many pulpits, "*Zion's Christian Soldiers*" will reacquaint you with the Prince of peace. **Greg Albrecht**, President of Plain Truth Ministries, and Editor-in-Chief, The *Plain Truth* magazine (author of *Revelation Revolution & Bad News Religion*).



"Thank God, here comes at last a book that challenges the pseudo-theology which, by giving precedence to the Old Covenant over the New, relegates the Church to the status of concubine in order to make Israel the Bride of Christ. In clear and measured terms, the author demonstrates from Scripture that God's purposes for history are not driven by a narrowly selective racist obsession but rather by his eternal design to create the Church, the new community dearly secured through the cross for all Christ-followers, both Jews and Gentiles." **Professor Gilbert Bilezikian**, Professor Emeritus, Wheaton College and a founding leader of Willow Creek Community Church, South Barrington, Illinois, (author of *The Liberated Gospel, Beyond Sex Roles, Christianity 101 and Community 101*)

"In this very readable new work, Anglican vicar Stephen Sizer offers a biblically-based interpretation of the relationship of Israel and the Christian church. Turning to the current upsurge of Christian Zionism, Sizer examines its deeply flawed misreadings of key biblical texts and its troubling public-policy implications. Not only Sizer's fellow evangelicals, but everyone interested in this vital topic, will find *Zion's Christian Soldiers* an illuminating and highly valuable study." **Professor Paul S. Boyer**, James Pinckney Harrison Visiting Professor at William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va., and editor-in-chief of "*The Oxford Companion to American History*" (Oxford University Press, 2001) The assistant editor of "*Notable American Women, 1600-1950*" (3 vols., 1971); the co-author, with Stephen Nissenbaum, of "*Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft*" (1974); and the author of "*Urban Masses and Moral Order in America, 1820-1920*" (1978); "*By the Bomb's Early Light: American Thought and Culture at the Dawn of the Atomic Age*" (1985); "*When Time Shall Be No More: Prophecy Belief in American Culture*" (1992); and "*Fallout: A Historian Reflects on America's Half Century Encounter with Nuclear Weapons*" (1998).

"Few themes in biblical studies could be as important. Christian Zionism has brought to the church an interpretation of Israel and the Bible that future generations will criticize harshly. It is every Christian's obligation to understand what they are saying and how it should be evaluated. Writing in a style that is accessible to everyone -- and a passion that is sure to ignite strong responses -- Sizer outlines the landscape of the problem and its solution." **Professor Gary M. Burge**, Professor of New Testament, Department of Biblical & Theological Studies, Wheaton College & Graduate School (author of *Whose Land, Whose Promise? What Christians Are Not Being Told About Israel and the Palestinians*)

'There can't be many other areas where interpretation of the Bible has such an obvious impact on attitudes to contemporary history and politics. Sizer has a remarkable gift for making complicated ideas thoroughly accessible and relevant. He has thrown down the gauntlet to a very significant section of the world-wide Christian community, and this book demands a considered response from them - and from every reader.' **Colin Chapman**, Lecturer in Islamic Studies at the Near East School of Theology, Lebanon. (author of *Whose Promised Land?, Whose Promised City? and Cross and Crescent*).

"I strongly commend this new book by Stephen Sizer and urge all evangelical Christians to read it and consider its warning message. No issue arouses greater confusion and dissent among Christians than does Christian Zionism. Even to question its claims draws sharp opposition. Yet none threatens the future of positive Jewish, Christian and Muslim relationships than does that of Christian Zionism and its connection with the politics of the state of Israel. All too readily confusing labels and bitter acrimony encourage Christians to leave the issue alone, or to regard it as an intractable political problem which does not concern them. Stephen Sizer has shown the greatest courage in facing its challenges and in providing an informative, eirenic and readable exposition of what the issues are and how they have arisen. I urge it upon my fellow Christians to read this book and give it their closest attention." **Professor Ronald E. Clements**, Emeritus Professor of Old Testament Studies, King's College, University of London (author of *Wisdom for a Changing World: Wisdom in Old Testament Theology: Berkeley Tanner Lectures*; *Old Testament Theology: A Fresh Approach*, *Isaiah 1-13: The New Century Bible Commentary*, *Wisdom in Theology*, *Ezekiel: Westminster Bible Companion*, *Prophecy and Tradition*, *One Hundred Years of Old Testament Interpretation*)

'Stephen Sizer's new study offers a fresh and insightful approach to reading the Bible. With magisterial skill he challenges Christian Zionists and provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the true meaning of Scripture.' **Rabbi Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok**, Professor of Judaism and Director of the Centre for the Study of the World's Religions, University of Wales, Lampeter. (author of *Israel: The History of an Idea*, *Messianic Judaism & Antisemitism*).

"Stephen Sizer deftly exposes the many exegetical missteps of contemporary Christian Zionists. He advocates a more just and Christ-centered alternative to the politically and ethically problematic views espoused by many contemporary end-times popularizers. I hope this book prompts a courageous and healthy re-thinking of Zionist theology towards a more constructive, biblical perspective." **Dr Paul Copan**, Associate Professor and Pledger Family Chair of Philosophy and Ethics Palm Beach Atlantic University West Palm Beach, Florida. (author of *True for You, But Not for Me: Deflating the Slogans That Leave Christians Speechless*; *Creation ex Nihilo: A Biblical, Philosophical, and Scientific Exploration*; *How Do You Know You're Not Wrong?: More Responses to Skeptics Who Challenge Your Faith* and co-authored *The Rationality of Theism*; *Philosophy: Christian Approaches in the New Millennium*; *Science: Christian Approaches in the New Millennium*; *Jesus' Resurrection: Fact or Figment?*; *Who Was Jesus? A Jewish-Christian Discussion*; "Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?" *A Debate Between William Lane Craig and John Dominic Crossan*)

"This work deals expertly with a vital theme .... For this Christian zealotry perverts the truth of Christ in three tragic ways. It ignores or repudiates the equal stature under God of all peoples in nature and in grace; it flouts a Christian conscience by discounting injustice and oppression; and it sees no Christian ministry to the hope and pleas of original Zionism itself. Thus it darkly violates both Christian sympathy and Christian faith." **The Right Reverend Kenneth Cragg**, retired Assistant Bishop in Jerusalem (author of *The Call of the Minaret*; *The Arab Christian*; *Mohammed and the Christian*; *Readings in the Qur'an*; *The House of Islam*; *Islam among the Spires*; *Troubled by Truth*; *The Dome and the Rock*)

"In this seminal work based on a careful analysis of how the Bible explains the relationship between Israel and the Church, Stephen Sizer underscores crucial distinctions between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. Just as it is a grievous sin to turn a blind eye to the horrors of anti-Semitism, so it is a grievous sin to turn a blind eye to a Zionist theology that divides people on the basis of race rather than uniting them on the basis of righteousness, justice and equity." **Hank Hanegraaff**, President of the Christian Research Institute and host of the *Bible Answer Man* broadcast (author of *Christianity in Crisis*, *Counterfeit Revival & The Apocalypse Code*)  
[www.equip.org](http://www.equip.org)

"This subject deeply impacts the western world and the so-called "clash of civilisations". This book is a "must" for all those concerned about this vital subject." **The Very Reverend Michael Harper**, Dean of the British Antiochian Orthodox Deanery and a director of The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Wesley House, Cambridge. (author of *Let My People Grow, As at the Beginning, Equal and Different, The Healings of Jesus and The True Light*).

"This is a clarion call to Evangelical Christians to study the Bible more carefully because of the political implications of their beliefs. Stephen Sizer shows that many Christians are espousing views, that they claim come from the Bible, that are in fact leading to bloodshed, dispossession and division in the Middle East. Stephen calls for a more careful look at the Bible that reflects the call of Jesus to be peacemakers." **Garth Hewitt**, Founder and International Director of the Amos Trust. (author of *Pilgrims and Peacemakers, Journey Towards Jerusalem & Candle of Hope*)

"Once again Stephen Sizer has produced a seriously worked out biblical theology which challenges some Christians who give uncritical support to the current political stance of Israel. We have here a serious biblical challenge, evangelical in character which, nevertheless, challenges certain kinds of fundamentalism, both theological and political. I commend Stephen's latest book warmly, not with the conviction that everyone will agree with it, but that all ought to engage in its argument for the very sake of the Peace of Jerusalem itself, now the Holy City of the three great monotheistic faiths, the faiths of the Children of Abraham." **The Right Reverend Christopher Hill**, Bishop of Guildford

"A workmanlike study that confronts many treasured and traditional opinions with frankness and sensitivity. An added bonus is the Stott sermon, hitherto unpublished, a masterpiece of clarity in an area marked too often by confusion and unjustified assertions." **Prebendary Dick Lucas**, Chairman of the Proclamation Trust and Rector Emeritus of St Helen's, Bishopsgate, London (author of *Teaching John Unlocking the Gospel of John for the Expositor, The Unashamed Workman: Tools for Biblical Preaching; Read Mark Learn Romans; The Message of Colossians & the Message of 2 Peter & Jude in the 'Bible Speaks Today' series published by IVP*)

"How should Christians respond to the cascade of prophecy literature flowing from the pens of Hal Lindsey, John Walvoord, Tim La Haye, John Hagee, and others who claim the Bible itself as authorization for Christian Zionism in all its forms and goals? Probably it is high time to stop regarding their overliteral misinterpretations as the curiosities they are and awaken to the fact that they are also *very dangerous* misreadings of prophecy passages in Scripture that could lead to catastrophic conflict in the Near East. To help Christians become the peacemakers they ought to be rather than firebrands inflaming the world with wrongheaded ideas about the end times, Stephen Sizer's new book, *Zion's Christian Soldiers*, is an ever-so-necessary antidote for the present prophecy mania. With crystal logic and gifted pen, he dismantles the often-grotesque claims made by prophecy specialists and restores sanity to the discussion." **Professor Paul L. Maier**, Russell H. Seibert Professor of Ancient History in the Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo and Vice-President of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. (author *Josephus – The Essential Works; Eusebius – The Church History; A Skeleton in God's Closet; More Than a Skeleton; (with H. Hanegraaff), The Da Vinci Code – Fact or Fiction?*)

"Stephen Sizer's book, *Zion's Christian Soldiers?*, is a powerful, easily readable, theological refutation of Christian Zionism. In his analysis Sizer destroys the major arguments of Christian Zionist advocates by primarily citing and interpreting Old and New Testament passages. Although especially valuable reading for evangelical Christians this book deserves careful study by all people interested in the role played by religion in the Arab-Israeli conflict." **Professor Norton Mezvinsky**, Professor of History, Central Connecticut State University, (author of *Jewish Fundamentalism in Israel, Jewish History, Jewish Religion & Open Secrets: Israeli Nuclear and Foreign Policies*)

"This book is an eye-opener to the muddled but militant attitudes among modern evangelicals (particularly Americans) toward the state of Israel. Sizer reveals not only the highly questionable exegeses [plural] of Christian Zionism, but also the movement's alarming political agenda and its

fallout in our war-torn world. This is a book that every thoughtful evangelical should read." Dr **Bruce A. McDonald**, Assistant Professor of Religion, Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, Texas.

'This much needed volume, by a well known Evangelical Christian writer, focuses our attention on contested issues in the Holy Land. Refreshingly, Sizer interprets Scripture from a standpoint of peace and justice rather than of apocalyptic fantasies.' **Dr Duncan Macpherson**, Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Wales, Lampeter (author of *A Third Millennium Guide to Pilgrimage in the Holy Land, The Pilgrim Preacher. Palestine and Pilgrimage & A Living Stone: Michael Prior CM*)

'Once again, Evangelical Christians are indebted to Rev. Sizer for an informative, thorough yet easy to understand look at the vexed question of Biblical prophecy and interpretation in relation to the Palestinian issue. This book is truly prophetic, in that it follows the Biblical prophets in calling for justice and righteousness, and showing how some Christians are undermining these. Sizer's book should be in the hands of everyone wanting to understand the current situation in the Middle East.' **Dr Anthony McRoy**, Lecturer in Islamics, Evangelical Theological College, Wales.

"Sizer hits another home run! His treatment of the Kingdom of God as both present and transcendent points the believer to the future - not the past." **Dr. Stan Moody**, Baptist minister and founder of the Christian Policy Institute, [www.christianpolicyinstitute.org](http://www.christianpolicyinstitute.org) (author of *Crisis in Evangelical Scholarship* and *McChurches: 300 Million Served and Still Hungry*).

"Once again, Stephen Sizer writes courageously on the contentious theme of Christian Zionism. A book for all, but especially for Bible-believing evangelicals of all denominations and none, it will flourish particularly well in Bible Study groups. For this purpose there is a set of questions at the end of most chapters – a great resource for busy leaders! Stephen is fortunate to have been allowed to conclude the book with the text of a sermon by John Stott, whose magisterial standing among evangelicals adds weight to the author's own significant credibility and scholarship." **Patricia Price-Tomes**, volunteer with the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

"This book makes important matters of faith, world and God accessible. For it is far more than a book about Christian Zionism.

It is a model in careful, Christ-centred bible study.

It is a brave challenge to powerful voices.

It raises essential questions of how a Christian is to engage with the world as it focuses on what is happening in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

It is a book that each Christian minister should be asked to read.

It is a book for your church reading-group.

It is a book that should be read by anyone planning to lead a pilgrimage to that area.

It is a book that the leaders of our Christian denominations need to be urged to read and make comment upon.

It is a call to prayer. Since it focuses upon the most crucial area of Christian in-fighting that at present weakens our witness to the Lord. In addition it reminds us of the needs of the Suffering Church and people who are held in the grip of political intransigence." **John Rackley**, President of the Baptist Union 2003-4 and Minister of Manvers Street Baptist Church, Bath.

"Stephen is a faithful minister of the Bible where it concerns Bible Prophecy and the modern nation-state of Israel. I remember that when I began studying the Second Intifada in 2001, finding [Stephen's website](#) was like finding buried treasure! In one spot I stumbled upon every reasonable biblical argument against dispensational Christian Zionism one could need! *Zion's Christian Soldiers* will offer simple and straight forward answers to the major assertions of noted Christian Zionist leaders from a thoroughly evangelical reading of the Bible. Sizer carefully engages American popular figures like Hal Lindsey and John Hagee who are influencing millions of evangelicals into doomsday celebrations. He unpacks in patient detail the heart of the Scriptures that Christian Zionists ignore. I am so very thankful for this kindly teacher. In a day and age in

which cynicism, hate, impatient rhetoric, and stewing resentment mark our conversations on this topic, Stephen Sizer is able to speak the simple truth. Would to God that many hear and receive this very timely message.” **Chris Rice**, Writer and Editor, Jesus People USA, Chicago

"Confused about whether Christians should support the State of Israel? Agonising over the desperate situation in the Middle East today? Stephen Sizer challenges the views that are fashionable in Christian circles and helps us get to grips with the key issues and understand what the Bible really has to say. A very important contribution to a crucial issue." **Canon John Salter** vice-chairman of the Garden Tomb Association & member of the Oak Hill College Council.

"I recommend that any reader turn to page 19 and read it. If what is said is true, then the implications are quite overwhelming. There is indeed, as Stephen Sizer says, an elephant in the room. Turn to page 19 and see what you think." **Rico Tice**, Associate Minister, All Soul's Church, Langham Place (author of *Christianity Explored* & *Song of a Stranger: Daniel*)

“There was a time when Christians believed that the earth was the center of the universe. It was not only an error in science but also false church doctrine lasting long after Copernicus and grasping the hearts and minds of Christian literalists who sanctioned punishment and even death for proponents of a larger view of faith and the universe. The history of Christianity is not lacking in false ideas that enjoy popularity for a time then fade under pressure of reason, knowledge, and experience. Rev. Sizer exposes a modern version of serious religious error in *Zion's Christian Soldiers*, focusing on the tenets of a dangerous Biblical literalism whose vision of God is nationalistic in its bizarre loyalty to the Jewish state of Israel and militaristic in its enthusiastic anticipation of a literal Armageddon. This is an important book for theologians and peacemakers.” **The Rev. Canon Richard K. Toll**, Chair, Friends of Sabeel—North America

“A timely and important book. Controversial but persuasive, it deserves to be read by everyone who is prepared to think afresh about God's purposes for the church, Israel and the politics of the Middle East.” **Dr Stephen Travis**, former Vice-Principal, St John's College, Nottingham (author of *Exploring the New Testament; The Doctrine of the Atonement: a Question and an Affirmation; Christ and the Judgment of God; Getting to Know the New Testament; I Believe in the Second Coming of Jesus; Starting with the Bible; Christian Hope and the Future of Man*; Editor, *All Things to All People – Mission Beyond 2000*; Assistant Consultant Editor, *The NIV Thematic Study Bible*; Consulting Editor, *The Macmillan Dictionary of the Bible*; Consultant to *The New Lion Handbook to the Bible*).

“In recent years, Tim LaHaye's best-selling *Left Behind* series has enjoyed high visibility in some Christian bookshops and can often be seen prominently displayed on bookshelves in airports, particularly in the USA. A previous generation will remember the phenomenally popular *Late Great Planet Earth* by Hal Lindsey. Such sensational books seem to take the market by storm in spite of their very fanciful approach to the themes which they cover. What is needed is a book more genuinely submissive to Scripture and more Christ-centred in its approach, and happily in *Zion's Christian Soldiers?* we have such a book. Although Stephen Sizer does come out fighting and makes his points with some vigour, it is probably true that, given some of the statements made on Christian television by such men as John Hagee, it probably needs someone to stand their ground firmly with something of a combative attitude. In his well-argued book, Stephen Sizer challenges the views held by dispensationalists and demonstrates from Scripture that the apostles were very clear regarding the identity of God's chosen people. Issues of land and temple are well handled. Dismissing the 'replacement theology' tag, Stephen Sizer argues, 'It is not that the church has replaced Israel. Rather, in the New Covenant church, God has fulfilled the promises originally made to the Old Covenant church.' Though you may not dot every 'i' or cross every 't' in this book, you would be well-served to own it, read and digest it to help you stand on clear New Testament ground and withstand the tide of fanciful and sadly often emotive teaching that surrounds these themes. You will also appreciate John Stott's previously unpublished but superbly argued chapter on the place of Israel which concludes the book and which Dick Lucas describes as 'a masterpiece of clarity in an area marked too often by confusion and unjustified assertions'. This is a book you would do well to have.” **Terry Virgo**, Pastor of the Church of Christ

the King, Brighton and leader of New Frontiers International (author of *No Well-Worn Paths, Does the Future Have a Church?, God's Lavish Grace* and, his latest, *The Tide is Turning*.)

“Stephen Sizer’s thorough research, theological analysis, and historical contextualization make this volume the “go to” book on the topic of Christian Zionism. As Christian Zionism continues to grow not only within western Evangelical churches and para-church agencies, we are reminded that it is now a significant political force in shaping U.S. policy in the Middle East. Additionally, its global reach through satellite broadcasting and the internet add another significant challenge to Christian missions. Now the Gospel of Jesus Christ is represented in a militant, Crusader, western Zionist construction that is not only hostile to Muslims and Arabs, but is an utter contradiction to the message of love, reconciliation, and good news to the poor and marginalized, whatever their economic status, political orientation, race or creed. After studying this volume and utilizing resources at [www.christianzionism.org](http://www.christianzionism.org), you will be better equipped to challenge the false gospel of Christian Zionism.” **Professor Don Wagner**, Professor of Religion and Middle Eastern Studies, Executive Director: Center for Middle Eastern Studies; Director: The Institute for Christianity, Faith and Culture; North Park University, Chicago (author of *Anxious for Armageddon & Dying in the Land of Promise*)

“With his pithy and provocative style Sizer in this book tackles the challenge of Christian Zionism 'head-on'. Looking at key issues such as Temple, City, Land and People, he demonstrates that the New Testament does have vital things to say on this urgent, present issue. In his hands we begin to see how the Bible can and must be interpreted holistically through the lens of Jesus Christ, and to realise you can be fully faithful to the Bible and its authority without being woodenly literalist. A great guide for those who are beginning to see the problems with this movement and who need some theological resources. Accessible and contemporary; well-researched and hard-hitting.” **Peter Walker**, Tutor in Biblical Studies, Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford and Fellow of the Anglican Communion Institute (author of *Holy City? Holy Places?, Jesus and the Holy City, Jesus and His World and The Weekend that changed the World*).

“In a challenging and fraught field, Stephen Sizer has provided an excellent, incisive and insightful assessment of the Christian Zionist movement. He precisely and accurately identifies the methods of biblical interpretation that supports this damaging group and indicates how the Bible can be more convincingly interpreted. With a collection of clear and helpful diagrams he illustrates a far more coherent understanding of the biblical message. He writes clearly and precisely in a style that is easily accessible and readily understandable.” **Dr John Wilks**, Director of Open Learning, The London School of Theology, London.