



Caspari Center
for Political and Jewish Studies

OPEN LECTURE

Tuesday / February 27th / at 7pm

The Relationship Between the Christian Mission and Israel as a Modern Jewish Nation State:

Israel's Response in Light of Christian Missionary Activity, 1948 -2008

Shai Wineapple

Converting Jews to Christianity has always been an objective of Christian missionary activity. Although non-coerced Jewish global conversion to Christianity was uncommon across history, each case shocked the Jewish community, and led to ostracizing the converted people socially and culturally. The Jewish motivations for conversion were various, such as gaining access to certain privileges and genuine choice.

Christian missionary activity among Jews in the land of Israel intensified during the 19th and 20th centuries. The establishment of the State of Israel and the mass immigration of Jews in the early years of the State altered the theological ideology in the Protestant Church circles, who interpreted these developments as the fulfillment of Biblical prophecies. As a result, Christian missionary organizations began to act more vigorously in Israel and succeeded in converting some Jews.

This increased missionary activity in Israel was perceived by Jewish religious groups as a threat to the religious and national identity of Jews in the country and created a great deal of concern.

Here we question whether there is ambiguity regarding Israeli institutional response to the activities of the Christian missionary organizations and demonstrate various aspects of the official Israeli position towards Christian missionary activity in the country. We will also relate to the following issues:

Which elements in the Israeli society established NGOs in order to combat missionary activity? How do they act? What are the reciprocal relations between the State and these organizations?

Shai Wineapple is a Ph.D. candidate at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, under the supervision of Professor Ruth Kark from the Department of Geography. The subject of his Ph.D. thesis is "The Response of the Israeli Government and Other Organizations to the Missionary Activity in the State of Israel, Between 1948-2018."

The lecture is open to the public and is free of charge. It takes place at 55 HaNevi'im Street, Jerusalem.

The Caspari Center Library is open to the public prior to the lecture.

This lecture as well as a selection of past lectures will be available for download on our website www.caspari.com under Resources / Audio.

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