A TEXT BETWEEN FRIENDS

Sermon Concept:

Two Jews arguing with each other via text/FB about whether Israel is a colonialist, supremacist, apartheid state guilty of genocide against the Palestinian people. What do they say to each other? I need examples of both sides of the argument.

I want to act out this dialogue/debate on the bema - display some of the most salient points of each position as ‘text messages’ on screen

The goal is not just to give point and counterpoint but to acknowledge that this is a growing position WITHIN the Jewish community, particularly amongst younger, socially conscious Jews. Pitting Jew against Jew and tearing our people apart. Again we are becoming our own worst enemy. Golden Calf, Maccabees, First & Second Temple - infighting led to exile.

The nechemtah: We cannot dismiss or cancel each other. You don’t abandon your family and this is family. There is some truth and a great deal of hyperbole and inflammatory language in both positions. How do we hear them and keep a place for them at the table? How do we find the center?

Critical of Israel	The statement/text	Supportive of Israel
Israel is guilty of aparthied against the Palestinians. Creating two laws for two peoples. Separate and unequal.		
So many of us ignore the day-to-day indignity that the Israeli military and police forces enact on Palestinians, and sit idly by as Israel upholds two separate legal systems for the same region		
our institutions tell stories of Israel rooted in hope for what could be, but oblivious to what is.		
The Reform movement must make clear its opposition to anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian racism. We must affirm full access to human rights and		

equality of protection under the law for Palestinians and Israeli Arabs.		
Our tzedakah money funds a story we wish were true, but perpetuates a reality that is untenable and dangerous.		
Zionism must include vocal and ardent defence of Palestinian human rights		
Our political advocacy too often puts forth a narrative of victimization, but supports violent suppression of human rights and enables apartheid in the Palestinian territories, and the threat of annexation.		
Israel is a settler colonial state	When academics call Israel a "settler colonial" state, it is not meant as a mere descriptor. Rather, the phrase is a deliberately pointed charge, part of an ongoing campaign to undermine Israel by challenging its very founding – akin to the now-revoked UN General Assembly declaration that "Zionism is racism." Its aim is to isolate the Jewish state from the legitimate family of nations. The characterization of Zionism, and thus Israel, as a "settler colonial" enterprise is political, derogatory, and highly contested. It is not an objective description of Israel's origin or current population. Central to the Zionist enterprise was the conviction that they were returning home. No other transplanted	When applied to modern-day Israel, advocates of "settler colonialism" do not engage in scholarly analysis but rather the political contention that Zionism is morally illegitimate.

	society made such a claim. Jews had lived in Palestine continuously for thousands of years. The Hebrew language is Semitic, not Indo-European. Ancient Jewish artifacts could be found everywhere. It is therefore more accurate to see Zionism as a form of nationalism – and Zionists as refugees, rather than settlers – fulfilling a people's aspiration for self-determination in what they regard as their own land.	
How many Palestinians must lose their homes, their schools, their lives, for us to understand that today, in 2021, Israel's choices come from a place of power and that Israel's actions constitute an intentional removal of Palestinians?		
The silence of mainstream Jewish institutions about the underlying human rights issues and growing Jewish-supremacist attitudes in Israel runs counter to the Reform Jewish concern for human rights and our calling to repair the world as G-d's partners.		
		Decolonize Palestine.' And I was like: 'What does that mean in practical terms? Does that mean, you know, kick all the Jews out [of Israel]?'