

HOW TO PRAY FOR ISRAEL

From and audio study by Bible teacher Derek Prince – this compilation by Albert Chipps



STUDY 1: UNDERSTANDING ISRAEL'S ROLE IN PROPHECY

With due respect for the people who say, 'don't confuse me with the facts', I want to give you a series of facts about Israel. First of all, Israel is the name for the nation descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And later on they were called 'Jews'. So really 'Israel' and 'Jews' are today more or less synonymous - they were not always. The name 'Israel', or 'Israelite' occurs in the Old Testament more than 2500 times. Now if the name England or Scotland or Wales or Ireland had occurred that many times in the Bible we would all be quite sure that you really couldn't fully understand the Bible unless you knew something about England or Scotland or Wales or Ireland. The same applies to Israel, you cannot fully understand the Bible unless you know something about Israel. And if you're confused about Israel, you're confused about the Bible. In the New Testament it occurs 79 times and it never, never describes the church. The word 'Jew', occurs 84 times in the Old Testament and 192 times in the New Testament. On the other hand the word 'Christian' occurs only 3 times in the New Testament.

I want to point out the uniqueness of Israel stated by David in 1 Chronicles 17:21. David is praying to the Lord and he says, ***"And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth whose God went out to redeem a people for himself, and to make a name for yourself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt?"*** David is saying, 'there is no other nation whom God set out to redeem as a nation from other nations.' This is an unchallengeable fact, it's there, it's unique.

And then there's a remarkable word in Revelation 5:5 which in a way is so exciting it almost takes my breath away, if you can understand why I'm excited. This is a scene in heaven when John is there and a scroll is presented and it's sealed with seven seals and no one is able to take the scroll and open the seals. And John the revelator began to weep bitterly because he so longed to know what was inside that sealed scroll, ***"Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."*** I don't want to go into the details of the scroll but I just want to point out to you that title. Who was the 'Lion of the tribe of Judah?' Jesus! Now, this was many years after His death and resurrection and He's still called the '*Lion of the tribe of Judah*' (it is from 'Judah' that the word 'Jew' comes)

I want to point out to you, the identification of the Jewish people was not temporary, it was not just for the few years of Jesus' earthly life and ministry but it was *eternal*. Many years later, in heaven, after His death and resurrection, He's still called '*Lion of the tribe of Judah*.' Not only *was* He a Jew, He *still is* a Jew! To me that's breathtaking! That's astounding! And you see, we need to remember, there is a *Lion* up there, and He's a Jew and one day that Lion is going to *roar*! And *woe* to the enemies of the Jewish people when the Lion of the tribe of Judah roars. I wouldn't want to be against Him for anything at that time!

And one final and perhaps the most important statement made about the Jewish people is in John 4:22, where Jesus is speaking to a Samaritan woman and He says to her, "***You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.***"

There are five breathtaking words, "*salvation is from the Jews*" Where did salvation come from? From the Jews! No Jews, no salvation! Now I am Gentile but I want to tell you that my whole spiritual inheritance, every spiritual blessing I've ever enjoyed I owe to one people, the Jewish people! Without them, no patriarchs, no prophets, no apostles, no Bible and no Savior! How much salvation would you or I have without those five things? "***Salvation is of the Jews!***" We'd better remember that dear brothers and sisters. We'd better conduct ourselves accordingly. Every one of us who's blessed in Jesus Christ owes all our spiritual blessing to one nation, the Jewish people.

I'm going to point out to you another unique fact about the Jewish people, absolutely unique, their whole history was foretold in prophesy. That's not true of any other nation. The whole history of the Jewish people from Abraham onward was foretold in prophesy in the Bible and I'm going to give you, altogether, sixteen stages in the outworking of prophesy which are predicted concerning Israel. The first three were all given to Abraham:

- 1. The prediction of their enslavement in Egypt**
- 2. Their deliverance with wealth from Egypt**

Remember Abraham had said they'd come out with much possessions – they'd been slaves and in *one night*, one period of 24 hours, they became wealthy with the wealth of the Egyptians, a remarkable fact predicted before.

- 3. Their possession of the land of Canaan was predicted to Abraham.**

Then we go on the Deuteronomy (and other books):

- 4. That they would turn to idolatry in the Promised Land – this was clearly predicted (and certainly fulfilled).**
- 5. That God would establish a center of worship in Jerusalem.**
- 6. That the northern kingdom called Israel would be carried into captivity in Assyria.**
- 7. That the southern kingdom called Judah would be carried into captivity in Babylon.**
- 8. The destruction of the first temple** (that was the one built by Solomon – this was predicted in detail)
- 9. The return of a small remnant from Babylon.**
- 10. The destruction of the second temple** (the one that stood in the days of Jesus. He Himself predicted it in detail)
- 11. It was predicted that because of disobedience they would be scattered among then nations.**

12. **That they would endure persecution and oppression among the Gentiles** (that *certainly* has been fulfilled!)
13. **That they would be re-gathered from all nations** (that is being fulfilled before our eyes and it's important that we see that!)

So thirteen of the predictions have been fulfilled. There remain three more, as I see it that are still to be fulfilled:

14. **The gathering of all nations against Jerusalem in war.**
15. **The supernatural revelation of Messiah to His people.**
16. **The coming of Messiah in glory and power to establish His kingdom on earth.**

So, out of sixteen predictions, thirteen have been fulfilled. According to my mathematics, that's about 81%. Now I would have to say, I don't think we're crazy fanatics if we believe that the remaining three predictions will be fulfilled. People look at us strangely as if we believe strange things but to me (and I was a professional logician before I became a preacher!) to me it's logical to believe that if a book can predict thirteen events in advance with correctness and accuracy, any other predictions that book gives should be taken pretty seriously.

Now I want to come to possibly the most controversial topic in contemporary politics which is God's plan for the nation of Israel, mistakenly called 'Palestine'. Let me point out to you, that is totally contrary to Biblical truth to call it 'Palestine'. Palestine means the 'Land of the Philistines' and it was never used until the Romans had conquered and destroyed the first temple. Then they used the name 'Palestine' to assert that the Jews no longer had any claim to it. It was a deliberately chosen, anti-Semitic word.

But let's talk about God's plan for that land. Biblically it was called the land of Canaan and in the New Testament, do you know what it's called? The 'Land of Israel!' In the first two chapters of Matthew it's twice called the 'land of Israel'. That's the *Biblical* name for that land!

Now let's see what God had to say about it. In Genesis 17: 8 – 8, God appeared to Abraham and He made a covenant with him, ***"and I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations for an everlasting covenant to be God of you and your descendants after you. Also, I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger all the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession and I will be their God."*** So there's no dispute as to who the land belongs, if you believe the Bible. Whether Israel are in it or outside of it, it makes no difference, God has given it to them as an *everlasting possession*.

And then there's a remarkable passage in Psalm 105:7-10, the most remarkable passage, I think, in the Bible. This is a statement about God's plan for a land and in it are used more words describing God's total commitment than any other passage in Bible I know of, ***"He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth."*** In other words, what God decrees applies in every part of the earth. ***"He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant..."*** In those four verses, God uses more words to describe His total commitment to something than anywhere else in the Bible! You cannot find another passage in the Bible. Let me just list the words: 'covenant', 'word', 'command', 'oath', 'statute', and 'everlasting covenant'. Now the interesting question is, to what is God making such a total, authoritative, unreserved commitment? My breath is taken away when I discover what it is, ***"...to you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will***

inherit.” So all those words, ‘covenant’, ‘word’, ‘command’, ‘oath’, ‘statute’, and ‘everlasting covenant’, are all applied to Gods giving all the land of Canaan. Now I think anybody going against that is going against God!

Then in Jeremiah 30:3 we have the prediction, one out of countless passages, predicting the return of the Jewish people to their inheritance in the last days, ***“for behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah, says the Lord, and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers and they shall possess it.”*** And then God gives a warning, ***“for thus, says the Lord, we’ve heard a voice of trembling, fear and not of peace. Ask now and see if a man is ever in labor with child. So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor and all faces turned pale.”*** That’s a description of tremendous terror, oppression, opposition. ***“Alas, for that day is great so that none is like it and it is the time of Jacobs’s trouble but he shall be saved out of it.”***

So the return of the Jewish people to their land is not immediately going to produce peace. On the contrary it’s going to climax in a time of trouble such as they’ve never experienced before. But the promise is, they shall be saved out of it, no *from* it but *out* of it.



STUDY 2 - WHY ISRAEL?

I want to turn to one of the most exciting chapters in the Bible that's Ezekiel 36. Here is a brief, stage by stage description of the return of the Jewish people to their own land. Beginning in verse 16, ***"Moreover, the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land they defiled it by their own ways and deeds. To Me their ways were like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity...'"*** Notice it was their own land but they defiled it by their sin. So God goes on to say, ***"therefore I poured out my fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols with which they had defiled it."*** So God brought judgement on the people while still in the land for their sin and their idolatry. Then the next stage of Gods dealings is in the next verse, ***"So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds."*** So the next judgement was to be dispersed *from* the land. And then God says, 'they embarrassed Me when they came to the other nations!' ***"When they came to the nations, wherever they went they profaned my holy name when they said of them, 'These are the people of the Lord and yet they have gone out of His land.'"*** So the Lord said, 'I was embarrassed by the behavior of the people who were scattered out of the land as they didn't behave like My people at all!'

Now the next verse is very significant because you'll never understand Gods dealings with Israel until you understand His primary motive. Verse 21, ***"But I had concern for my holy name which the house of Israel had profaned amongst the nations wherever they went."*** God is not doing it for the sake of the Jewish people, He's doing it for the sake of *His name* and if you don't understand that you will not be able to follow what follows in the events of history. God has *intervened for the glory of His name!*

Now God says, 'this is the way I'm going to deal with it'. It's very interesting, it's very simple. It's a stage by stage depiction of the restoration of the Jewish people to their land *and to their God*. And you might say, 'God, why did You do it that way? I think they ought to have repented first and then come back to the land' Well, you'll have to argue that out with God because God says it's not going to happen that way. They're going to come back to the land and *then* they're going to repent. I've heard many Christians say, 'I can believe in the restoration of the Jewish people if they repented and acknowledged Jesus as their Messiah.' Well, you'll have to argue that out with God because God had arranged it a different way.

He says, verse 22, ***"Therefore, say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God, 'I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for my holy name's sake which you have profaned among the nations***

wherever you went and I will sanctify my great name which has been profaned among the nations which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord," says the Lord God, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes." 'I am going to reclaim the glory of My name by what I do for you and in you!' And then he goes on in two simple steps being *exactly* fulfilled in our days, **"for I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land."** Whose land? *Your own* land! Weather they were in it or not, it was always their land because God *gave* it to them by an everlasting covenant! But now God says, 'I'll take you from out of the nations, gather you from all countries and bring you into your own land.'

I've been a student at the Hebrew university in Jerusalem and I sat in a class of about thirty people and they came from about at least ten different nations and its estimated that altogether the Jews have been regathered from more than one hundred nations of the earth - in *this* century! That is an amazing miracle! In my opinion it is possibly greater than the miracle of the deliverance from Egypt!

My first wife as some of you know was Danish and she used to say, 'if you took the Danes and dispersed them among all nations, after two hundred years, when you came back you wouldn't find a single Dane anywhere. They would have merged with the nation.' But the Jewish people have been scattered basically for *two thousand* years and they're *still* an identifiable separate group! That's a miracle! Furthermore, to regather that number of people from that number of nations is in *itself* a miraculous intervention of God!

I was in Israel at the end of World War Two and I heard some of the testimonies of Jewish people as they'd said where they'd been gathered from and what had happened, I'd have to say, in many ways, in my eyes, the total scenario represents a greater miracle than the exodus from Egypt! It could not have happened unless God made it happen. And God said, 'I *will* do it!'

Now the next verse, **"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols."** Notice they are to be regathered *still unclean*. That upsets some people's theology. I can't help it. It was just the way it is. You'll have to clear that with God. God says, 'when I've got them back in the land, *then* I will deal with them!'

So the first thing the Lords going to do is sprinkle 'clean water'. Now I really think the clean water is the word of God. I think the Jewish people are being just sprinkled, not deluged, but sprinkled with the word of God. You have to know that, in many ways, the history of the Jewish people is like the history of the Catholic Church, of course there are many differences, but basically, in the Catholic Church, the priest was the one who knew the Bible (or was *supposed* to know the Bible). People didn't read for themselves, they believed what the priest told them. To a certain extent that was true of the Jewish people, the Rabbi was the one who knew the answers. They didn't have to think for themselves, they just had to do what the Rabbi told them. But now they're being sprinkled with clean water. The word of God is coming to them! And this is in an ever increasing way. I mean, the increase in the number of congregations of Jewish people believing in Jesus as the Messiah is growing with amazing rapidity. I can remember when I was in Jerusalem in 1948, if you met one Jewish believer in a year that was exciting. Now, every time you turn around there's a new Jewish believer! I forget how many Hebrew speaking congregations there are I Jerusalem, I think it's about eighteen. That's eighteen Hebrew speaking Jewish congregations in Jerusalem. That's happened in the last few years! God is sprinkling clean water upon them. The clean water of the word of God.

Then he says in the next verse, ***“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”*** So during the centuries of their dispersion the Jewish people had a heart of stone (as a judgement of God). A heart of stone cannot respond to the Holy Spirit! They were incapable of responding. They were always the exceptions. Now God is taking away the heart of stone and giving them a heart of flesh and one of the exciting changes is their attitude toward Jesus, toward Jesus. I remember in 1947 or 48, I was speaking to a Jewish man and I said, ‘I believe Jesus is the Messiah’ and he turned around and spat on the ground! That was his reaction to the name of Jesus. A professor of religion at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem made this comment a few years ago, he said, ‘some time back my students all wanted to know about theological arguments, now they all want to know about Jesus!’ See, there’s a change, a very significant change coming. God said it would come, *‘I’ll give you a new heart, put a new spirit within you, I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh!’*

Next verse, ***“And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”*** Then God says, not only will I put a new spirit within you (that’s the re-birth) but I will put *MY* spirit within you. For me that’s the baptism in the Holy Spirit. And then God says, *‘now you’ll be able to keep My commandments.’* How many of you know that without the Holy Spirit you *cannot* keep God’s commandments?

I remember as a boy at Eaton in 1932 I was ‘confirmed’. As a matter of fact I didn’t really want to be confirmed. So they appealed to my father as to whether I should be confirmed (my father was serving in India at the time) he wrote back as said, ‘all the boys your age are being confirmed, *you will be confirmed!*’ So, confirmed I was. Well, before I was confirmed I was a sinner and after I was confirmed I was a confirmed sinner! I don’t say that to belittle anything, it’s just the way it was. Almost exactly ten years later God filled me with the Holy Spirit and for the first time I could obey God joyfully, it wasn’t a struggle. And that’s how it’s going to be with the Jewish people, he said, *‘I will put My spirit within you then you will walk in My statutes and keep My laws.’* And then we come to the last verse, verse 28, ***“Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.”*** You have to look to the end you see, all these are stages but the climax is, ***“you will be my people, and I will be your God.”***

Now, I just want to point out, if you read this passage in Hebrew between verse 23 and verse 30, God says ‘I will’ eighteen times! You understand, were dealing with a sovereign God. We’re not dealing with a God that needs our approval or doesn’t know what He’s going to do, He’s got it all worked out! And He says eighteen times, ‘I will, I will, I will, I will, I will!’

All this has a very important application to you and me and if you turn to Isaiah 11:11-12, God says what the significance of the restoration of Israel is to be for other nations, ***“In that day [‘that day’ in Isaiah and other prophets is usually the ‘end time’, not always but usually] In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.”*** So Isaiah predicts that there’s going to be a *second* regathering, this is remarkable about the Bible because the first regathering had not yet taken place but God looks beyond that. The first regathering was a brief partial regathering after the Babylonian captivity but God says there will be a second regathering and this regathering will be worldwide not just the few areas to which the Jews were dispersed in the Babylonian captivity but it’ll be worldwide, ***“the Lord will reach out his hand a***

second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people,” Now when God sets His hand to do something, He’s going to do it! And woe to the person who gets in His way! Now, this is such a vivid description to me. What is the significance of it? ***“He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.”***

Notice, this is to be a worldwide ingathering. The regathering from Babylon was partial, limited to certain areas. This one is worldwide and it’s been *exactly* fulfilled. There are more than a hundred nations from which the Jewish people have been gathered. You cannot find any area on the earth from which the Jewish people have not been regathered. But it was all predicted before the *first* scattering and the first gathering. And then God says (and this has become so vivid to me) ***“He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel”*** The ‘nations’ is the other nations, the Gentiles. So the regathering of the Jews to Israel is Gods ‘banner’ to the nations, and we’d better give heed.

Now what is a banner? This is my simple definition: a banner is usually something like a flag that is hoisted to make it visible to a long distance and usually it has a few simple words on it. So that’s how I understand the regathering of the Jewish people, its Gods banner lifted up for all the nations to see. And you see, all the nations *do* see because you never open your newspaper for a week without getting news about Israel! I mean it’s amazing when you think that it’s a nation of less than six million people with a tiny strip of territory less than the principality of Wales and it’s on the news week by week by week! Why? Because its Gods banner! He wants all the nations to see it! It’s lifted up! What are the words on the banner? Now this is just my own personal interpretation but for me, what God says through that banner is this, ‘GOD KEEPS HIS COVENANTS!’

How many years ago, about 3800 years ago God made a covenant with Abraham He said, ‘I’ll give this land to you and your descendants.’ Most people forgot it! Most Israelites forgot it! People thought it was buried in their past. There’s one person who never forgot – GOD! He said, ‘I’m keeping My covenant.’ How important that is for all of us to know, GOD KEEPS HIS COVENANTS! It’s very important for us as Christians because our relationship with God is based on a covenant made through the blood of Jesus. If God could break His covenant with Israel, why shouldn’t He break His covenant with the church? But He won’t! He’s not a covenant breaker! He made a covenant and He’s keeping a covenant! And that’s good news, it exciting!

I remember we were in Jerusalem, my first wife and I and our family, on the 29th November 1947 when the United Nations voted to partition this little strip of territory and give Israel just a little strip and down in the center of Jerusalem the young Jewish people, the boys and the girls, linked arms and danced the ‘hora’ around the ‘Zions Square’ almost all night. Why were they so excited? Because ***GOD WAS KEEPING HIS COVENANT!***

Oh how wonderful He is!



STUDY 3 - WHY ISRAEL? (Part 2)

Now one final fact about this situation which is very, very critical is, 'what is the real issue behind it all?' I mean it is absurd – approximately half the resolutions of the United Nations have been made about *Israel*. You couldn't imagine anything less appropriate or more ridiculous! There must be a reason! Why is it that every time you open your newspaper there's something about this little strip of territory that contains about six million people? A drop in the bucket of the world! What is the reason for the pressure? For the opposition? For the conflict? I'll try to tell you.

Let me turn to Matthew chapter 23: 37 - 39, the last words of the chapter, very sad words. This the farewell of Jesus to Jerusalem and it's a very sad and tragic farewell, ***"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing."*** And it's plural. There is a certain collective will of the Jewish people. 'They', as a people, were not willing. And then he says, ***"Look, your house is left to you desolate."*** When he says, 'your house', it means the temple because they called it 'habiak', the 'house'. And true enough, within a generation it was totally desolated, ***"For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'"*** Now this is plural. 'You' = plural. It's not Jerusalem, it's 'you (the Jewish people) will not see Me again until you (the Jewish people) say Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'. That's a standard Jewish greeting. So He says, 'I'm not going to come back until you are ready to welcome Me.'

So, He's got the have the heart of the Jewish people prepared before He will return. And if you turn to Zechariah 12:10 you find a final filling in of this picture. Zechariah 12, 13 and 14 all deal with the situation in the land of Israel at the close of this age. The Lord is speaking and He says, ***"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplications."*** Notice, you cannot supplicate unless God gives you the spirit of grace! ***"They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son."*** Now, it is the Lord who is speaking and He says they will look on Me whom they (the Jewish people) have pierced. It is the most astonishing thing that they can read that without knowing what it means because it's the clearest statement anywhere in scripture, that they will crucify the Lord! ***"They will look on Me whom they have pierced!"*** and then it says, ***"they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son."*** So there's going to come a revelation of Jesus to His own people, the Jewish people, by the Holy Spirit as to who He really is – and then there will be a mourning as has never been experienced in the history of Israel. For the first time they'll realize, ***'We crucified out Messiah!' 'We rejected our God!'*** Then it goes on, ***"On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be as great as the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of***

Megiddo. The land will mourn, each clan by itself, with their wives by themselves: the clan of the house of David... I want you to see, if you put together Matthew and Zechariah - before the Lord returns, certain things have to be established. The Jewish people have to be re-established, in Jerusalem, and in the land because the Lord Jesus is not coming back until they are! Then there has to be a supernatural revelation of Jesus which will turn the hearts of the people to Himself.

Now, what do you think Satan, the 'god of this age' fears most? What is the *one thing* that he's most upset about? I would say the return of Jesus! Because until Jesus comes back he may lose a lot of souls but he'll still be the 'god of this age'. That will not change until Jesus returns in person. So what does the devil fear most? The return of Jesus. What does he oppose the most? The setting up of a situation which will prepare the way for Jesus to return. The Jewish people have to be in Jerusalem as their city and they have to be occupying the land before Jesus will come back! You see? So this is what's behind all the uproar and all the fuss. *Satan is doing everything he can to prevent the setting up of the scenario which will bring back the Lord.*

I'm trusting that you and others who eventually receive this message will be prompted by the Holy Spirit to pray for Israel. So I'm going to give you eleven suggestions to make prayer for Israel effective in your life and ministry. I'm not suggesting that you could go through all of these in one prayer session, they're different aspects of approaching prayer for Israel and they are all based on personal experience and observation. So here we are:

Suggestion number one, STAY WITHIN THE PARAMETER OF GOD'S WORD.

That's one reason why I took so much time to go through what I believe is revealed in Scripture concerning God's purposes for Israel. Because, to pray outside the purposes of God or contrary to the purposes of God is to waste your time. I gave some examples of that, I won't go back. But let me give you just one pattern prayer in Matthew 24:20. Jesus, speaking about a crisis that has not yet developed but will develop in Israel. He says to those who are followers of His, ***"Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath . . ."*** Now that sets very clear parameters to how they are to pray. He doesn't say, 'pray that you won't have to flee', because you *will* have to flee. That is fixed in the purposes of God. The only limitations you have that you can pray, that you may not have to flee in the winter because it would be a great hardship, especially for pregnant women, and pray that you may not have to flee on the Sabbath because in the present state of Israel, fleeing on the Sabbath would be very difficult and would make you very conspicuous.

So I'm suggesting that's a pattern of how to pray within the parameters of the Word of God. Don't ask God to do something He said He will not do because you won't change God. You need to have an understanding of God's prophetic purposes for Israel in order to pray effectively for them. There is a good deal of praying for the Jews which is sentimental. It's soulish. And, I don't think it accomplishes much. One of the features of American culture today is the slogan *"The customer is always right."* And a lot of people approach God as 'customers'. They have their wants and their requests, they want a certain style, a certain color, a certain price. But, it's not true that the customer is always right. The truth of the matter is only one person is always right and that's God. If you want to pray intelligently and effectively, you've got to start from the fact that God is right and what He says is what's going to happen.

Now in the New Testament the Virgin Mary received the astonishing news that she was to be the mother of the Messiah and when the angel gave her that message she didn't understand it, she didn't know how it could happen but she said, ***"Be it unto me according to thy Word."*** And I believe the greatest miracle ever experienced by a human being, other than Jesus, was the birth of the Messiah through a virgin. It came to pass when she said, ***"Be it unto me according to thy Word."***

You cannot pray anything higher than the revealed Word of God. And one of the great functions of intercessors is to pray into being what God has already said will happen. That's why God has set intercessors on the walls of Jerusalem.

I said it, I think, in my first meeting, at any rate, in one of my meetings, the Hebrew word for an intercessor in Isaiah 62 is *Maskir*, which means someone who 'reminds' someone else. So, according to the Hebrew understanding, the function of a secretary is to remind her boss of what's on his calendar. And as an intercessor, a *maskir*, masculine; *maskira*, feminine, your job is to remind God of what's on His prophetic calendar and say to Him, ***"Do as you have said."*** There's more to intercession than that but that is the base of intercession. Therefore, an intercessor has to be familiar with the Word of God, has to be clear about God's purposes and their outworking. So that's the first principle I want to lay down. When you pray for Israel *stay within the parameters of the Word of God.*

Second is based on Psalm 100:4 which says, ***"ENTER INTO HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING AND INTO HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE..."***

This is a great fundamental principle which unfortunately many Christians are not familiar with. The only way of direct access into God is through the gates of thanksgiving and the courts of praise. If you do not come with thanksgiving and praise you can lift up your voice like the ten lepers who cried to Jesus from a distance and, He will hear you but you don't have direct access to God. There is no way into His presence except through the gates of thanksgiving and the courts of praise. This applies to praying for Israel. The most effective way to pray for Israel is to begin by thanksgiving. And God has given us a pattern in the prophet Jeremiah 31:7 where God says this, ***"Sing with gladness for Jacob and shout among the chief of the nations . . ."*** How many times have you read the word 'shout' in the psalms? Have you ever shouted? (Someone shouts Hallelujah!) That's right. That wasn't much of a shout but at least it was a good try! I'll show you how it should be done. Hallelujah!! Will you join me and shout Hallelujah? (Everyone shouts.) That's more like it! I tell people I'm not a singer, I can't keep a tune, but I can shout!

Going back to Jeremiah 31:7, ***"Sing with gladness for Jacob and shout among the chief of the nations..."*** Would you count the United States among the chief of the nations? All right, then you have an obligation to shout!

'Sing with gladness for Jacob and shout among the chief of the nations'. Proclaim! You know this little book of ours, *'Prayers and Proclamations,'* that's a way you can proclaim. Proclaiming is releasing the Word of God into a situation. I've told people, and it's in this little book, when Moses stood before the Lord and the Lord said, "I want you to go back and redeem my people from Egypt," Moses said, "I've got nothing to go with. What can I take?" And the Lord said to Moses, "What have you got in your hand?" Moses said, (and this is a little paraphrase), "Just a staff like every shepherd carries." He didn't think there was much to his staff. The Lord taught him a lesson. He said, "Throw it down on the ground," and it turned into a snake. Moses ran from his own staff, he had no concept of the power that he held in his

hand. Well, then the Lord said, "Pick it up by the tail." And I'm sure in Arizona you have some experience of snakes. Everybody knows you don't pick a snake up by the tail! But Moses did it, I'm sure, with trembling and it became a staff in his hand again. The Lord said to Moses, "*Take your staff and go...*" This is a little paraphrase, "*That's all you'll need.*" And if you follow the story of the exodus, Moses never needed any other instrument or weapon but his staff. Every miracle was released through the staff of Moses including the opening of the Red Sea and the closing of it on the Egyptians.

Now, I want to suggest to you, you may be like Moses, you have a staff in your hand and you don't know how powerful it is. The staff in your hand is *your Bible!* You release its power by *proclamation!* Boldly and in faith you proclaim the Word of God into any given situation and you release God's supernatural power into that situation. And so, the Lord says in this verse "*proclaim!*" Release my promises into the destiny of Israel. And then He says, "*... give praise ...*" So, there's a time for giving praise. I believe probably at the end of this message we will take some time to praise the Lord. I hope so, and say, 'O Lord, save your people, the remnant of Israel.' Notice there are five things the Lord said to do: sing, shout, proclaim, praise and pray. Because to say, "O Lord, save your people" is prayer. So those are five responses we can make to the promises of God. Sing, shout, proclaim, praise and pray. But notice pray comes at the end. What makes prayer effective is going through the previous stages. So, enter into God's gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. And specifically give Him thanks and praise for what He is doing and for what He's going to do for Israel.



STUDY 4 – HOW TO PRAY FOR ISRAEL (Part 1)

The third suggestion I have applies both to Jews and to Gentiles and it is:

CONFESS YOUR SINS AGAINST ONE ANOTHER TO THE LORD.

You see, the true intercessor is one who has come to confess sin before the Lord. The perfect pattern of this is Daniel. Daniel was one of the most righteous men recorded in the New Testament. In fact, there are two major characters in the New Testament of whom no sin is recorded. One is Joseph, the other is Daniel. But when Daniel saw that the time had come to pray for the restoration of his people to Jerusalem, he came before the Lord in prayer and although he was an outstandingly righteous man, he identified himself with the sins of his people.

You see, if you're going to be an intercessor you cannot stand there and say, *"They have done wrong."* That doesn't get you anywhere with God. You have to say, *"We have done wrong."* You have to identify yourself with the sins of your family, your inheritance, your culture, your nation, whatever it is you're praying for. And let me say to you dear Americans, there are plenty of sins in the history of America with which to identify. When you've dealt with the sins against the blacks, then move on to the sins against the Indians which have hardly been touched on by most Christians.

But now let's look at the pattern of Daniel in regard to Israel. He says in Daniel 9:5, ***"We have sinned . . ."*** (Not *they* have sinned but *we* have sinned), ***"and committed iniquity. We have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from your precepts and your judgments."*** Is that true of Israel? *It certainly is!* ***"Neither have we heeded your servants the prophets who spoke in your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongs to you, but to us shame of face as it is this day. To the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off, in all the countries to which you have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against you. O Lord, to us belong shame of face, to our kings, our princes and our fathers, because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against you. We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws which He set before us by His servants the prophets. Yes, all Israel has transgressed your law and has departed so as not to obey your voice. Therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out upon us because we have sinned against Him."***

We could continue but you see the pattern? Don't be self-righteous. Don't stand at a distance like the Pharisee in the temple who said, "I am not as this Publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all I

possess.” And the Publican, the tax collector, said, “Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.” And Jesus said the Publican went to his house justified, the Pharisee didn’t. Pharisaical prayers are abominations to the Lord. *Confession is an essential part of effective intercession.*

Now my next suggestion, number four, is:

IDENTIFY WITH GOD’S ULTIMATE PURPOSE

Which is what? Why has God tolerated the appalling wickedness of humanity for hundreds and hundreds of years? What is He waiting for? My answer is: *He’s waiting for a people for Himself.* That’s what God is going to get out of history. Not an institution, not a lot of buildings, not a lot of government schemes, but a *people for Himself.* Ruth and I have had impressed upon us Titus 2:11–14, which we will now say, ***“The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”***

That’s what God intends to get out of history, *His own special people, zealous for good works.* That’s why He waits with endless patience while wickedness runs its course, because God has a chosen remnant, both Jew and Gentile, and He’s not going to let history close till *every one of them* has come to Him through Jesus.

So when you pray for Israel, don’t start by praying for political issues. You can do that but that’s not primary. What’s primary is that Israel will become the special people that God is after. And He’s going to go on until He gets it.

The next principle is connected with that, it’s based on Zechariah 4:6. This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel, ***“NOT BY MIGHT, NOT BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS.”*** That’s the ‘Lord of armies.’ So, if it was a question of might or power, God has it all. But might and power, laws and military power will not do what needs to be done because what needs to be done is to change the heart of men and women. The only agent that can do that is the Holy Spirit.

So, you can get very upset about the political situation in Israel, and we often do. But, bear in mind that God is tolerating a lot of things He doesn’t approve of because He’s waiting for His *own special people.* And the only power that will accomplish that is the mysterious, invisible power of the Holy Spirit. It’s only in the measure that the Holy Spirit flows through us that people’s hearts can be changed. God is looking for a people whose hearts have been changed from hard stone to vibrant, responsive flesh. And He’ll wait till He’s got it. It’ll often inconvenience us, we’ll have to deal with awkward people who get in our way and interfere with our pleasures, and make life difficult for us but God says, “Too bad. I’m waiting till I’ve got the people that I’m looking for.” That will only come by the Holy Spirit. And one of the greatest and most effective intercessory prayers is to pray for the release of the Holy Spirit upon Israel. And it’s beginning to happen but it needs a great deal more.

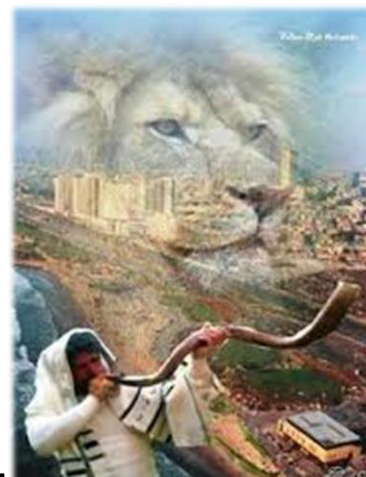
Suggestion number six,

PRAY ACCORDING TO PSALM 102, VERSES 13 AND 18.

This is a revelation that was given to the psalmist in a mood of deep despair. I mean, he had come to the end of everything. He felt God had lifted him up and then thrown him away. What can be worse than that? The opening verses of the psalm are all a dirge, a mournful dirge. But then, dear brothers and sisters, if you're struggling with depression look away from your problems and look to the Lord. Because as long as you focus on your problems you'll have to live with them. And so much counseling is just causing people to focus on their problems. And there is no solution. But the psalmist said in verse 12, ***"But You, O Lord, shall endure forever, and the remembrance of your name to all generations . . ."*** And there was a total change of mood at that point. He had a revelation of the end time visitation of God upon the Jewish people and he said, ***"You will arise and have mercy on Zion, for the time to favor her, yes, the set time has come. For your servants take pleasure in her stones and show favor to her dust."*** That's one of the marks of God's servants, they take pleasure in Jerusalem's stones and show favor to Jerusalem's dust. Do you have that mark?

Then it says, ***"So the nations shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth your glory."*** God's intervention on behalf of Israel is destined to demonstrate His glory to all nations. Verse 16, ***"For the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory."*** The old King James said it, ***"when the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory."*** One of the great indications that we're approaching the end of the age and the Lord is getting ready to appear in His glory is that he is rebuilding Zion. So, every one of us who love the Lord should be happy for that.

Now the psalmist said the time to favor her, the set time has come. The Hebrew word for set time is 'Moed', which is the word used of all the sacred festivals of Israel, Passover, Pentecost, Yom Kippur, the New Year, everything. So, God has a calendar and on His calendar there are certain 'Moedim' entered before Him. You see, that's your business as an intercessor, is to remind the Lord of what's on His calendar. One of the most effective forms of intercession is to say, ***"Lord, this is the set time to favor Zion. Please do what you've said!"***



STUDY No. 5 - HOW TO PRAY FOR ISRAEL (Part 2)

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper who love you.” Some people consider it part of the prayer, I think it’s part of God’s reward. When you pray for the peace of Jerusalem and love Jerusalem, *you will prosper*. You know how it goes in Hebrew, it’s kind of an ‘alliteration’!

All right, in Hebrew (my Hebrew is limited, but it’s so beautiful): Shaalú shalom Yerushalaím. Do you hear all the sh’s and the l’s? Shaalú shalom Yerushalaím. Do you want to try saying a little Hebrew? Say it with me? Shaalú shalom Yerushalaím. Yerushalaím is Jerusalem.

Now I want to say again when you pray for the peace of Jerusalem you have to pray with an intelligent understanding of God’s prophetic purposes. It doesn’t just mean that peace will come down upon Jerusalem and everybody will stop fighting everybody else. Not at all! But it means go on praying until God’s purposes for the way the peace is to come to Jerusalem shall be worked out. The truth of the matter is Jerusalem will never know peace until the ‘Prince of Peace’ comes. You say, “Well, why should I pray for Jerusalem. I live in Phoenix or I live in Dallas or I live in Miami or wherever it may be, even New York.” The answer, as I understand it, is God has so arranged things that no other city on earth will know permanent peace until Jerusalem knows peace. So when you pray for the peace of Jerusalem you are also praying toward peace for your particular city.

Now the next suggestion I have is:

BLESS AND BE BLESSED.

I want to turn to Numbers 24, verse 9. That reluctant prophet, Balaam, who was hired to curse Israel did his best to curse but under the overruling of God ended up by blessing more and more and more. And every time he tried to curse worse, he blessed more. His final words in Numbers 24, verse 9, speaking to Israel, he says, *“Blessed is he who blesses you and cursed is he who curses you.”* So you’ve got a choice. You can either get a blessing or a curse. If you bless Israel, God will bless you. If you curse Israel God will curse you.

I have a book called *‘Blessing or Curse, You Can Choose’* and the theme of this book is, first of all, are you under the blessing of God or the curse of God? Because, a lot of people are under the curse of God and don’t know it, that’s why their lives are going wrong.

And then the next theme is:

HOW TO GET OUT FROM UNDER THE CURSE AND GET INTO THE BLESSING.

I deal with most of the common causes for curses and one of the commonest and the most destructive is anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism automatically brings the curse of God upon an individual, a community, a church, a nation or a civilization. I have here in Chapter 8 of this book the testimony of a Palestinian Arab who is a personal friend of ours. His name (which is given in the book), is Nabil Hadad. He was born in Haifa, immigrated to the United States, went into business, became very successful (in fact, at one time he owned nine McDonald's!) and then went bankrupt. And in the course of all that met the Lord and was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Then God began to deal with him about his finances and he heard Derek Prince preaching on curse or blessing—or blessing or curse.

'I remembered how my whole family had always cursed the Jews. I was trained to hate them from my earliest years. Now in the presence of the Lord I said, "I renounce any resentment in my heart toward the Jewish people. I forgive them." Immediately something changed inside of me. Shortly after this I saw that God in His Word had told Abraham, the father of Jews, "I'll bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you." Then I realized that my finances had not been under a blessing but under a curse, a curse of insufficiency. I had never been able to make enough money to meet my needs. Even if I made \$250,000 I would need 300,000. Later when I made 500,000 I would need 700,000 to cover my expenses. Since 1982 when I was released from the curse of anti-Semitism and the curse of insufficiency that went with it, my income has always exceeded my expenses and my needs. And, I am able to give liberally to the work of the Kingdom of God. God has also healed my body and my emotions. I am totally free from depression. I can truly say I am walking in victory. My testimony has helped many others to be delivered from the curse and to live under God's blessing.'

And we know for a fact that to be true. He has a particular ministry to Jewish people. He relates to them in a special way. And also to Moslems! And quite a significant number both of Jews and Moslems have met the Lord through Nabil Hadad. But first of all the Lord had to do something in his heart.

So there's a pretty up to date testimony, *It doesn't pay to curse the Jews*. It doesn't pay to have resentment in your heart against them. If you want to be blessed then you have to bless Israel.

Point number nine about prayer:

DON'T TELL GOD WHAT TO DO!

Have any of you ever done that? All right, let's turn to Isaiah 40 for a moment, just a short passage from Isaiah 40—Isaiah 40, verse 13, ***"Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel and who instructed Him and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge and showed Him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the balance. Look, He lifts up the isles [or the coastlands] as a very little thing, and Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before Him are as nothing and they are counted by Him less than nothing, and worthless."*** Notice the declining order. First of all, all nations are as the small dust in the balance. Then they are as nothing and then they are less than nothing. So God says, "Do you think I need your advice? Do I need to be instructed by you?" Well, that's a very common failing of Christians. They think that God needs their advice and they're prepared to tell Him what to do and how to do it. And that's

often true in the political realm. When it comes to election time a lot of Christians tell God who should be elected. And they're sometimes wrong!

You see, as I understand it, the restoration of Israel is priority number one for God at this time. Before anti-abortion, before all the other issues, priority number one is the restoration of Israel. If the space given in the Bible to this theme is any indication, there is chapter after chapter after chapter dealing with the restoration of Israel. Nobody can line up against that and prosper. I don't believe God has given authority to any politicians to decide how much of Israel should belong to the Jews because God has already said, "I've given it all to them." I am not politically minded but I have a certain understanding of the Scriptures. So, come back to my little suggestion, DON'T TELL GOD WHAT TO DO.

Let me also say this and I think it's important to say it, 'nationalism' is a sin. Patriotism is a virtue. The difference is patriotism puts the interests of God's kingdom before the interest of my nation. Nationalism puts the interest of my nation before the interest of God's kingdom. The great recent warning is what happened in Germany at the time Hitler came to power because there were many fine born-again German Christians at that time, especially in the area of Prussia. But, their nationalism overcame their commitment to Jesus. And so many of them, most of them, identified with Hitler and supported him to their own unlimited loss.

So, I say to American Christians, don't make that mistake. America is not indestructible, Israel is. I don't know of any passage in the Scripture that guarantees the continuation of the United States, do you? But there's a lot in the Bible that guarantees the continuance of Israel. So, don't set yourself up against God. Humble yourself.

Number ten on how to pray for Israel says:

PRAY FOR THE HARVEST OF THE GENTILES.

Let me take you back to Romans 11:25 which says, ***"Blindness or hardness in part has happened to Israel until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and so all Israel will be saved."*** All Israel will not be saved until every Gentile appointed by God for salvation has come in. So, we as people concerned about Israel have a very important reason to be concerned about the salvation of the Gentiles.

This thought has occurred to me sometimes, Jesus said in one of His rather cryptical statements, *"The first shall be last and the last shall be first."* I think in a way that applies to Israel and the Gentiles. Israel were number one, Jesus went first to them and He didn't go to the Gentiles. Alas, Israel didn't meet God's conditions and so God went to the last, the Gentiles. Israel thus became in turn the last. But now I believe the last will be first, there's a changeover. The grace of God is moving like a cloud from the Gentile world to the Jews. It's only begun to move and yet there are masses and millions of Gentiles to come in. But that's the direction that God is moving.

Finally, and I sometimes tease myself because when I say 'finally', it very seldom is finally. However, in Philippians 3, Paul says, *"Finally my brethren,"* and goes on for two more chapters! I have at least a precedent. But this is the last thing that I want to say in my list of suggestions for how to pray.

TAKE THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT - PROCLAIM!

It's one of the most powerful things that you can do for Israel. You remember what Paul said in Ephesians 6. I think it's 17, ***"Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God . . . "*** Now, you are not born with the sword of the Spirit in your hand when you're born again. Paul says *take* the sword of the Spirit. If you take the sword, the Spirit will wield it but if you don't take it the Spirit has nothing to wield. So, one very effective way to take the sword is by proclamation of the Word of God. Every time you do that you're thrusting with the sword against the forces of darkness.