

---

# Aliyah

## A. INTRODUCTION

1. Aliyah, which in Hebrew means to “go up”, refers to the return of the diaspora of Jews back to the land of Israel. Aliyah had been mentioned in the scriptures since the nation’s beginning in Deuteronomy 30:1–6, where God promised that when Israel returned to the Lord in wholeheartedness and obedience, He would bring them back into their promised land (Gen. 15:18–19).
2. God reiterated this promise throughout the scriptures, with many of them being in a context of the End Times and pointing to the complete fulfilment of this promise after Jesus comes back (Jer. 16:14–16; Zech. 10:8–10). Until then, the promise of Aliyah is being progressively fulfilled, and we are to treat it as prayerfully as we do every other promise in the scriptures.
3. Aliyah is also correlated to the rest of God’s promises for Israel, where God desires to bless and prosper His people in His promised land for them — the land of Israel and Jerusalem (Eze. 39:25–29; Isa. 61:7; Zech. 12:10).
4. God’s desire is not just for His people, but He is also zealous for His promised land (Joel 2:18). The same piece of land promised through a covenant to Abraham is the same land Jesus will come back and reign from — Mount Zion (Zech. 8:3; Isa. 2:1–4)! If He has chosen the land of Israel and Jerusalem, we must see this land as precious and important.

## B. A HISTORY OF ALIYAH

1. In 1948, Jews who returned to the land established Israel as a state. This was clearly God’s miraculous doing, because no nation that has disappeared from the face of the earth has ever re-emerged, let alone after about 2000 years. Since then, 3.3 million people have immigrated to Israel since 1948 (a statistic from 2008). The Law of Return was established in 1950, giving all dispersed Jewish people immigrants the right to acquire Israeli citizenship if they have proof of being of Jewish descent.
2. Waves of Aliyah have been mainly caused by either **crises** — wars, economic instability, and increase of anti-semitism, or by **strong support** — encouragement from political leaders and rulers, and established laws that facilitate the moving of Jews back into their homeland.

---

These two factors are what God had said He would use in Jeremiah 16:16. The “fishermen” refer to strong support, and the “hunters” are the crises. Our prayers can be split into these two sub-categories:

- a. While the coming crises and rising antisemitism will definitely cause suffering to the Jewish people, we want to posture ourselves in agreement with God’s heart to bring the Jewish people back to their homeland. We do not focus on their suffering in our prayers, but that the Lord would facilitate the Aliyah amid the crises and be merciful to the Jewish people.
- b. In addition, we want to pray for the emergence of movements and channels aimed at facilitating a smooth transfer of people from countries all over the world back to Israel, especially as antisemitic sentiments grow. Like past waves of Aliyah, we can pray for God to raise up godly leaders who will stand boldly for the work of helping the Jewish people return to their homeland, and for laws to be put into place to strengthen the work of Aliyah.
- c. Appendix A lists more specific examples of how God used “fishers” and “hunters” in the last century. These give us insight on how to pray.

### **C. RECENT RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR**

1. While the Russian-Ukraine crisis is destructive from a human perspective, God’s hand can be seen through the increase of Jewish people returning to Israel. With this war, about 13,000 Ukrainian Jews have immigrated to Israel (“It’s driven by fear’: Ukrainians and Russians with Jewish roots flee to Israel” The Guardian, 2022), while double the number of Russian Jews have arrived from Russia, which adds up to about 1 out of 8 dispersed Russian Jews who have returned to Israel (recorded in October 2022). In response, Israel has set up 5 new private agencies to help the Aliyah from Russia.
2. Due to senior Israeli officials’ stance against Russia’s war on Ukraine, the Russian justice ministry has requested the closing of a private charity that funds the migration of Jewish people from Russia to Israel, which has hurt the process of Aliyah for Russian Jews. Russian leaders have threatened to close down the Jewish agency — Sochnut, and its work entirely. This is amid increasing political tensions between Russia and Israel. This may also cause fear and discourage Russian Jews from attempting Aliyah.

### **D. REASONS THE JEWISH PEOPLE MAY NOT WANT TO RETURN**

1. Lack of resources:  
This includes finances, resources, and educational qualifications to help them settle in Israel. This includes getting a new home and finding a new job.
2. Discrimination among Jews:

---

Some from tribes (e.g. poorer Russian Jewish people or those from Ethiopia) may be considered of lower class than others, and may be looked down upon or given differential treatment (e.g. they may be located at the forefront of potential war-prone areas of the land).

3. Comfort in their own country:

Aliyah may mean leaving a comfortable career, lifestyle, and friends to go to a land which is foreign to them. On the other hand, there may be fear of reject from their new community, adjusting to a new language, or fitting into a new system (education, social etc.).

## E. SCRIPTURES THAT MENTION ALIYAH

1. Isaiah 11:11–16

- a. The Lord will “set His hand”. He will be intentional in bringing His “remnant” back into the land.
- b. Nations mentioned are primarily in the Middle East: Assyria (most parts of Iraq, parts of Iran, Kuwait, Syria, Turkey), Egypt, Pathros (Upper Egypt), Cush (Southern-Egypt, Sudan), Elam (Southern Iran), Shinar (almost all of Iraq, a bit of Kuwait and Iran), Hamath (Western Syria). However, they will also come from the ends of the earth (Isa. 41:9; Zech. 10:10).
- c. During the Assyrian invasion, many Israelites from the ten tribes of the northern kingdom were scattered to the surrounding nations. Many intermarried with the people of the land, or took on the nationality of the land, letting go of Jewish heritage.
- d. Drying up of the “Sea of Egypt” — i.e. the Nile (Isa. 19:5; Zech. 10:11). This is a highway made for the people of Israel to cross over back into their land.

2. Isaiah 41:9–10

- a. The Lord will assure Israel that she is still the Lord’s through Aliyah, and that they are His sons and daughters (Isa. 43:6, 60:4). Aliyah is and will be a symbol of the Lord’s faithfulness to the Jewish people, removing their sense or spirit of rejection when they come to know this truth.
- b. The Lord also assures Israel of His presence and strength as they return, that they should not fear for He will uphold them by His righteous right hand. He will guard her with divine protection through floods and fire (Isa. 43:2; Zech. 10:6–12).
- c. We can pray for the Lord to establish them in their identity and confidence in the Lord in and through Aliyah, especially in the light of the persecutions to come (Zech. 12:7–8)

---

### 3. Jeremiah 16:13–16

- a. The exodus from Egypt into the Promised Land mentioned as a foreshadowing of Aliyah — this points to His mighty hand and faithfulness to bring them back to the land.
- b. The Lord will send “fishermen” and “hunters” to bring His people back into the land.
  - i. “Fishermen” speak of the alluring or calling of God and His beckoning of His people back to the land<sup>1</sup>. When many fail to listen and follow, out of zeal for them to return, He will release the hunters.
  - ii. “Hunters” refer to shakings, including antisemitism, persecution and even wars to cause them to return.
- c. The Lord will direct them to see Israel as the safest place to dwell.

### 4. Ezekiel 11:17–20, Ezekiel 36:24–28 and Ezekiel 37:21–23

- a. Aliyah is accompanied with action from the Jewish people — removal of all detestable things and abominations (Eze. 37:23).

The Lord will respond by cleansing His people, giving them one heart, a new spirit, and a heart of flesh in place of a heart of stone, so that Israel may walk in His statutes, keep His judgments, and that they will be His people and He will be their God.

- b. Oneness is mentioned — one nation, with one heart, under one king, and no longer divided into two kingdoms (Eze. 37:22, 11:19).

### 5. Zechariah 10:6–12

- a. The Lord will whistle for them and gather them. As a Shepherd, His Voice can be heard by His sheep, stirring a response to return.
- b. He will bring to remembrance the returning unto their promised land, and Israel will have a desire for the restoration of the land (Isa. 49:18–20).

### 6. Others

- a. Through Aliyah, the Lord is declaring who He is to all nations out of the jealousy of His holy name — His faithfulness to Israel by His covenant, and that He is the one and only God who is the Beginning (Isa. 43:1–13; Eze. 39:25–28).
- b. Israel’s possessions and fruitfulness will multiply **in the land**, where God promises the permanence of their habitation in the land and manifold blessings upon them.

---

<sup>1</sup> Some commentaries take both the words “fishermen” and “hunters” to refer to the shakings of God that will cause the Jewish people to return to the land.

---

The Lord is also mentioned to be zealous for His land (Isa. 61:7, 62:5; Joel 2:18–27; Amos 9:13–15; Joel 3:20).

- c. The Lord brings back His people out of His mercy. The outpouring of His Spirit is mentioned after He gathers them back into the land, showing the correlation between these two promises (Eze. 39:25–29).

(For all passages of scriptures, see Appendix B.)

## F. PRAYER THEMES

1. Pray for the Lord to tenderise, awaken and align the Jewish people to God's ways as they migrate back to their land. (1 Thess. 3:10, 13. Phil. 1:9–10)
  - a. Based on Jeremiah 16:14 and Hebrews 3:7–11, pray for the opening of eyes, inclining of ears and circumcision of the heart.
2. Pray for the Jewish people to know their God, and to be strong and fearless in returning to the land amid persecution and rising antisemitism. (Jude 3) We can pray that they will find strength from confidence in the Lord and a resolve to return.
3. Pray that the Jewish people will experience the Lord's mighty hand of supernatural provision, protection and power as they return to the Lord, just as Israel did as the Lord led them out of Egypt. (Heb. 13:20–21; Hab 3:2)
4. Pray that even in the midst of tensions and persecutions in the lands they are currently in, that the Lord will speed up the work of Aliyah (these are the "hunters" that Jeremiah 16 talks about). (Hab. 3:2)
  - a. For God to have mercy upon the Jewish people even as they face trials and persecutions;
  - b. For the work of Aliyah to be strengthened (Hab. 3:2).
5. Pray that as we approach the rise of Antichrist and global intense hatred towards the Jewish people, that the Lord will deliver her from her enemies unto Aliyah. (2 Thess. 3:2–3)
  - a. God to make a supernatural way for Aliyah (e.g. Haavara Agreement);
  - b. Supernatural favour with her enemies for Aliyah.
6. Pray for God to raise up people of authority and influence who will help facilitate the migration of the Jewish people back to the land. (2 Thess. 1:11–12)
  - a. For establishing of laws and advocates to be put in place for Aliyah;
  - b. For "fishermen" in Jeremiah 16.

- 
7. Pray for God to awaken His people to the building of the Isaiah 11:16 highways, especially over the Nile, that they may walk worthy of this call to facilitate the Aliyah at the end of the age. (Col. 1:9–11)
    - a. For the Lord to raise up leaders who will help to construct this highway;
    - b. For the establishing, strengthening, and completion of this work.
  8. Pray for the establishment and strengthening of Aliyah ministries in the Middle East. (2 Thess. 2:16–17)
  9. Pray for grace and provision upon Aliyah-related ministries for the completion of their good work before the Lord. (2 Thess. 2:16–17)
  10. As the Russia-Ukraine crisis continues, pray for the Aliyah-focused agencies that have been set up to be made complete in every good work to do the Lord's will. (Heb. 13:20–21)
  11. Amid tensions between Russia and Israel, pray for the Lord to preserve, protect and prosper Sochnut and its charity for the continuation of Aliyah. (2 Thess. 2:16–17)
  12. Pray that after they return to the land, the Jewish people will experience the Isaiah 61:7 promise of possessing double portions: supernatural blessings and fruitfulness of the Lord in the land. (Jude 3)
    - a. Ministries and agencies helping them to settle in;
    - b. Help in learning the language, getting homes, and providing aid;
    - c. Communities that they can belong to;
    - d. Experiencing the Gentiles aiding them without expectation of anything in return (Isa. 60:10, 14);
    - e. Experiencing the supernatural hand of God from barrenness to fruitfulness (Joel 3).
  13. Pray for global houses of prayer to have a greater depth of understanding on how to pray for Aliyah, and that their prayers would be effective and fruitful. (Col 1:9–10)

## Aliyah – Appendices

### APPENDIX A — HISTORICAL EXAMPLES OF ALIYAH

<u>Wave of Aliyah</u>	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>From Where?</u>	<u>Reason for Aliyah</u>
Third aliyah to Mandatory Palestine (under British Mandate)	Between 1919 to 1923 after WWI	Europe, mostly Eastern Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Balfour Declaration — British support for the migration of Jews to settle down in Palestine;</li> <li>b. Russian Revolution and Civil War which led to riots aimed at annihilating the Jewish people in Russia. The riots were called “pogroms”;</li> <li>c. Economic crisis in Europe.</li> </ul>
Fifth aliyah to Mandatory Palestine	Between 1929 and 1939, before WWII but after the economic crisis in Israel in 1928 and after the 1929 Palestinian Riots	Mainly from Europe and Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The increase of Nazi persecution in Germany with the rise of Hitler. There was an agreement between the Nazi authorities and the Jewish agency called the Haavara Agreement;</li> <li>b. British colonial administrator Arthur Wauchope granted many Jewish immigration permits and encouraged Jews to settle in Israel.</li> </ul>
Bricha or Bericha movement	Post WWII	Europe	A movement focused on protecting and facilitating the escape of Jews from post-WWII Europe to Palestine due to the continued antisemitic violence and harsh living conditions in Europe.
1990s post-Soviet Aliyah	Between 1989 and 2006	Former Soviet Union (FSU)	Mikhail Gorbachev opened up borders allowing Jews to leave the USSR.

			About 980,000 immigrants returned to Israel.
--	--	--	--

## APPENDIX B – SCRIPTURES CONCERNING THE ALIYAH

1. **Deuteronomy:** 30:1–6
2. **2 Chronicles:** 30:6–9
3. **Nehemiah:** 1:4–9
4. **Psalms:** 14:7; 53:6; 106:44–48; 107:1–3; 126:1–6; 147:1–2
5. **Isaiah:** 11:10–12; 14:1–2; 27:12–13; 35:10; 41:8–10; 43:5–6; 49:8–13, 18–23; 51:1; 52:7–12 (NKJV); 56:8; 60:4–5, 8–9; 66:18–22
6. **Jeremiah:** 3:14–18; 12:14–15; 16:14–16; 23:1–4, 5–8; 24:4–7; 29:10–14; 30:1–3, 4–11, 18; 31:8–9, 10–14, 16–21; 31:23–24; 32:37–41, 42–44; 33:4–9, 10–13, 23–26; 46:27–28; 50:4–5, 17–20.
7. **Ezekiel:** 11:14–20; 20:40–44; 28:25–26; 34:11–16; 36:7–12, 22–38; 37:1–14, 15–28; 38:7–9; 39:25–29.
8. **Hosea:** 11:10–11.
9. **Joel:** 2:28 – 3:2.
10. **Amos:** 9:13–15.
11. **Obadiah:** 17:21.
12. **Micah:** 2:12–13; 4:6–10.
13. **Zephaniah:** 3:17–20.
14. **Zechariah:** 8:7–8; 10:6–12.

## APPENDIX C – INCREASE OF ALIYAH-RELATED MINISTRIES

There are many ministries that have been set up to help Jewish people make Aliyah and even settle back in the land of Israel. These groups are formed from both Jewish and Gentile believers. Some examples of these ministries include:

- Aliyah Return Centre  
(<https://aliyahreturncenter.com>),
- International Fellowship of Christians and Jews  
(<https://www.ifcj.org/who-we-are/programs/on-wings-of-eagles>),
- The Chosen People  
(<https://www.chosenpeople.com/aliyah-assistance-program/>),
- International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem, ICEJ  
(<https://www.icej.org/defining-aliyah/>)