

Session 14

The Call to the Gentile Church to Stand with Israel

A. Introduction

1. God is not done with the nation of Israel. She still plays a major part in the whole salvation and redemptive plan of God and will play a major part in God's End-Time storyline.
2. In Romans 11, we see God's heart towards her, her current state, and what God has in store for her:
 1. God has not rejected Israel (Rom. 11:1–2);
 2. Israel's rejection of God in Christ is neither full nor final (Rom. 11:11);
 3. Israel has experienced a partial hardening (Rom. 11:25);
 4. God's calling is irrevocable (Rom. 11:28–29);
 5. ALL Israel will be saved (Rom. 11:26).
3. As God's people, we the Gentile Church are commanded to pray for her and to stand with her. Throughout Scripture, we can see God's command to keep her in prayer and also His promise to raise up watchmen for her.

B. Five Main Reasons Why Gentile Believers Should Stand with Israel

1. God has mandated the Church to stand with Israel and undergird her with focused and fervent prayer (Isa. 62:6–7).
 - a. God commands His people to “give Him no rest” until Jerusalem enters into the fullness of her inheritance — unceasing prayer for Israel's fullness is not optional.
 - b. The primary application of these verses is the literal City of Jerusalem. The two primary cities the Church has been instructed to focus our prayers on:
 - i. Our own city; i.e. Singapore if we are part of the Church in Singapore (Jer. 29:7);
 - ii. Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6–9).

2. God is NOT neutral about Israel. In fact, He has great zeal towards her (Zech. 8:2–3).
 - a. Everything God says and does centers around Him fulfilling the promises He has made to Israel (Isa. 62:1).
 - b. The earth will never be filled with God’s glory until Israel is saved (Rom. 11:26) and Jesus establishes His Kingdom’s headquarters in Jerusalem (Isa. 11:9).
 - c. The salvation of the Jewish people plays a central role in God’s overall plan of world redemption. This is why God is not casual about the Jewish people returning to their land and why He has mandated a praying Church to cover them in prayer.

3. Israel was the original recipient of God’s everlasting covenants (Gen. 17:7–8; Jer. 32:40; Ezek. 37:26–28).
 - a. When God makes a covenant with anyone, it is a serious undertaking.
 - b. It is serious because when God initiates a covenant, He binds Himself forever to that people. His future now becomes their future and vice versa.
 - c. Note that God is called the “God of Israel” 203 times in scripture. Not once is He identified in specific terms as the God of any other nation.
 - d. Four marvels about God and His covenants:
 - i. God would actually commit Himself to a group of people by covenant;
 - ii. God would make a covenant with just one single nation;
 - iii. If He were to pick a single nation, why would he pick the Jewish people? (1 Cor. 1:26–29)
 - We must understand this: Israel was not chosen because she is special. She is special BECAUSE she was chosen!
 - God’s choice (as with us) was never about what she possessed (Deut. 7:6–7).
 - iv. He not only made a covenant with a single nation (the Jewish people) but also made that covenant an everlasting one. He chose to bind Himself to the Jewish people forever.

4. Jerusalem is the focus of God's plan for world redemption.
 - a. The centerpiece of God's eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back to fully establish His Kingdom rule over all the earth as He joins the heavenly and earthly realms together (Eph. 1:9).
 - b. Scripture is clear that Jesus will rule over an earthly kingdom that will consume all other kingdoms (Dan. 2:44).
 - c. The burning question on the hearts of Jesus' disciples was, "Lord, when will You restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6)
 - d. God in His sovereignty has chosen Jerusalem to be the host city for Jesus' global headquarters on the earth — for the Millennium as well as for all eternity (Rev. 21 – 22).
 - e. When Jesus is established as King in Jerusalem, it will become the capital city of the whole earth. It will become the "city set on a hill" that cannot be hidden. It will be the key location from which God's Kingdom will grow to fill the whole earth.
 - f. Jerusalem will be known as the throne of God (Jer. 3:17) and will be the connecting point between the New Jerusalem (heavenly reality) and the Millennial Kingdom (earthly reality).
 - g. If we understand these foundational premises, then it begins to make sense why God has devoted so much time, energy and resources to uphold and maintain His covenants with the Jewish people. Jesus is coming to rule the earth from Jerusalem and His Kingdom will never end.
 - h. God's choice of Jerusalem is a huge stumbling block to many Gentile believers. Ultimately the issue is about the sovereignty of God and the choices He has made to display His glory on the earth (Ps. 132:13–14).
5. Jerusalem will be the focus of Satan's End-Time rage (Zech. 14:1–2)
 - a. There are many references in the Scriptures that identify Jerusalem as the place of the great End-Time drama. All nations will gather to fight against Jerusalem.
 - b. Because Jesus has committed Himself to returning as King of the Jews to rule the earth from Jerusalem (Matt. 23:39), Satan has committed himself to destroying the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem. If Satan can annihilate the Jews, he can prove God to be a liar and ensure his own survival (Rev. 12:1–17).

- c. Satan will rally the nations of the earth to his cause in the release of an unprecedented wave of global anti-Semitism. It will culminate in every nation of the earth actively seeking the destruction of Jerusalem under the leadership of the Antichrist (Ps. 2; 83:5; Joel 3:11; Zech. 12:2; 14:2; Zeph. 3:8; Matt. 24:21–22).
- d. The way Nazi Germany treated the Jewish people in World War II was a dress rehearsal for what is coming.
 - i. The Church in Germany, for the most part, failed to stand for the Jews against the Nazis. They preferred their comfort, status, and lives to standing with the Jewish people. A lack of proper understanding and passion for Israel led them to betray the Jewish people to death.
 - ii. We must cultivate a theological understanding and a passion in our hearts for the Jewish people, so that we will have an unyielding resolve to stand with them.

C. Other Reasons to Pray and Take a Stand for Israel Throughout Scripture

1. The Word of God commands us to pray for Israel (Ps. 122:6);
2. Israel is still the apple of God's eye and His inheritance (Deut. 32:9–11; Ps. 148:14; Zech. 2:8);
3. It is time to have compassion for Israel (Ps. 102:13–14);
4. God commands us to give Him and ourselves no rest (Isa. 62:6–7);
5. God desires to work through us for Israel's salvation (Rom. 9:1–2; 10:1);
6. We are debtors to Israel (Rom. 15:27);
7. We are part of Israel (Eph. 2:12–13; Rev. 5:5);
8. We shall prosper if we pray for Israel (Ps. 122:6);
9. Israel's acceptance of Jesus will bring "life" (Rom. 11:15; Isa. 27:6);
10. Jesus linked His 2nd Coming to Israel's turning to Him (Matt. 23:39; Rom. 11:25).

D. How Can the Gentile Church Stand with Israel?

1. Israel's acceptance of Jesus as her Messiah depends on her being provoked to jealousy by a predominantly Gentile Church (Rom. 11:11). The Church becoming a prophetic witness is directly correlated to her stand for Jerusalem in the place of prayer.

2. Here are four ways in which the Gentile church can stand with Israel:
 - a. Be a voice to speak forth God's heart regarding her
 - i. When we have understanding, we need to instruct and bring forth clarity and a living understanding towards the issue of Israel, that many others may also know and understand God's heart towards her.

 - ii. Isaiah 40 gives us clear instructions to make prophetic declarations to the Jewish people, and Jeremiah 31:7–10 tells us to be the voice to the nations and the rest of the Church who have yet to fully understand God's heart towards Israel.
 - It was Paul's fervent desire that the Gentile believers in the church in Rome not be ignorant of the mystery of Israel (Rom. 11:25).

 - iii. The fullness of Israel will only come to pass when the fullness of the Gentiles has been fulfilled — this is when the Gentile church is mature and rises up to the destiny that God has for her at the End of the Age.

 - b. Pray for her
 - i. We need to contend and pray for Jerusalem, for God is zealous for her. He has promised to raise up watchmen who will give Him no rest until she is established (Isa. 62:6-7).

 - ii. God has many promises for the nation of Israel, especially throughout the Old Testament, that have yet to come to pass. As the Gentile church, we need to pray for her according to these promises that are in alignment with God's heart.

 - iii. Gentile believers are exhorted to make strong prophetic decrees, speaking forth and praying into reality the future destiny of the Jewish people.
 - This is a picture of the End-Time Church walking in the Romans 4:17 reality — by faith, speaking about things that don't currently exist in the natural realm as though they did and

operating with bold confidence that what they are speaking forth will surely be brought to pass.

- God is yearning for a people to be raised up who would join Him in intimate partnership and pray in accordance to His heart's desire for Israel (Judg. 5:12).

c. Stand with her

- i. Matthew 25:31–46 gives us an exhortation and a clear picture as to how we can and should stand with Israel during the Great Tribulation.

d. Provoke her to jealousy (Rom. 11:11)

- i. The Church will provoke Israel to jealousy through signs, wonders, and the prophetic spirit, as well as through sacrificially standing with them.
 - When we carry His presence and perform miracles in the name of the Lord, this will cause them to think, "This is like Moses and Elijah! This is what Yahweh does!" This will cause them to be provoked to jealousy.
 - When we provide supernatural refuge for them and choose to stand with them in the midst of death and destruction, this would cause many to experience the love of their Messiah through the Gentile church and be provoked to turn back to Yeshua.

E. Conclusion

1. As God's Gentile church, it is not an option for us when it comes to standing with and praying for Israel.
2. God has called us to stand with her and pray for her, and we need to begin cultivating a heart for her today that is based on God's heart for her, in accordance to Scripture.
3. May we intentionally begin to grow in understanding, pray for her, and prepare ourselves to stand with her in the days ahead.