

Session 4

Why Must We Stand With Israel?

A. Introduction

1. As the Gentile Church, it's vital to develop a greater understanding and clarity of God's heart and plan towards the Jewish people because Israel's destiny and the Church's destiny are intrinsically linked together not only in this age but for all eternity.
2. It is no longer an option to be ignorant towards her, and it is absolutely essential that we have a foundational understanding of Israel's role in the redemptive purposes of God or we will never be motivated to stand with her.
3. The Bible gives us at least five reasons why we, as the Gentile Church, need to stand with Israel.

B. Reason 1: This is What God Commands and Demands of His Gentile Church

1. God has mandated the Church to stand with Israel and undergird her with focused and fervent prayer (Isa. 62:6–7).
2. In Isaiah 62:6–7, 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.
3. In all of Scripture, God's people are commanded to focus our prayers only on two primary cities:
 - a. The city in which we reside (Jer. 29:7), i.e. Singapore if we are part of the Body of Christ in Singapore;
 - b. Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6–9).
4. Thus, God is inviting us to partner with Him in full agreement and alignment with His plan for Jerusalem and Israel, and to pray for her until He returns for her.

C. Reason 2: Israel was the Original Recipient of God's Everlasting Covenants (Gen. 17:7–8; Jer. 32:40; Ezek. 37:26–28)

1. When God makes a covenant with anyone, it is a serious undertaking. Scripture clearly states that God's covenant with His people, Israel, is everlasting (Jer. 32:40).
2. When God initiates a covenant, He binds Himself forever to that people. The term “covenant” refers to a binding agreement between two parties. His future now becomes their future and vice versa.

- a. God is called the “God of Israel” 203 times in Scripture, and not once is He identified as the God of any other nation. Although Israel has rejected God multiple times in history, God still identifies Himself with them.
- b. This is a picture of how seriously God takes the covenants that He makes.
3. There are four things that we can marvel about regarding God and His covenants:
 - a. God actually committed Himself to a group of people by covenant;
 - b. God would make a covenant with just one single nation;
 - c. Of all the nations, God chose the Jewish nation that was called out through Abraham;
 - i. He did not choose them because of what they possessed or how great they were, but out of His sovereign will and plan (Deut. 7:6–7; 1 Cor. 1:26–29);
 - ii. Thus, we have to understand that the Jews were not chosen because they were special. Instead, they are special because they were (and still are) chosen!
 - d. 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. If God’s covenant with Israel still stands, we need to forsake every wrong notion that He has forsaken or forgotten her, and stand with her and God’s eternal purposes for her.

D. Reason 3: God is Not Neutral About Israel

1. God has great zeal and fervour for the nation of Israel (Zech. 1:14, 8:2). He is not indifferent towards her.
2. Everything God says and does centres around Him fulfilling the promises He has made to Israel (Isa. 62:1). She will be the centrepiece of the eschatological drama that will unfold just before Jesus returns.
3. 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.
4. 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).

E. Reason 4: Jerusalem is the Focus of God’s Plan for World Redemption

1. The centrepiece 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).
 - a. The early apostles knew that Jesus would restore the Kingdom of Israel, which was why they asked Him the question in Acts 1:6, *“Lord, when will You restore the kingdom to Israel?”*
 - b. The place where God has chosen for Jesus to establish His throne is Jerusalem.
 - c. Thus, Jerusalem is the focus of God’s plan for world redemption.
2. God in His sovereignty has chosen Jerusalem to be city of Jesus’ global headquarters on the earth — for the Millennium as well as for all eternity (Rev. 21 – 22).
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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).
3. Scripture is clear that Jesus will *“set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed”* and He will rule over an earthly kingdom that will consume all other kingdoms (Dan. 2:44).
4. 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.
5. God’s choice of Jerusalem is a potential stumbling block for 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).
6. Our [Introductory Series on the End Times](#) has more details on the Millennial Kingdom.

F. Reason 5: Jerusalem Will be the Focus of Satan’s End-Time Rage

1. 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 (Zech. 14:1–2).
2. As Jesus has committed Himself to returning as King of the Jews to rule the earth from Jerusalem (Matt. 23:39), thus Satan has committed himself to destroying the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem.

3. A covenant ceases when one party dies. Since God will never die, Satan constantly seeks to destroy Israel. If Satan can annihilate the Jews, he can prove God to be a liar and ensure his own survival (Rev. 12:1–17; the woman refers to the nation of Israel).
4. Satan will rally the nations of the earth to his cause in the release of an unprecedented wave of global antisemitism. 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).

G. Conclusion

1. In light of the time of great trouble that Israel will go through at the End of the Age, standing with her as the Gentile Body of Christ is key because when we love her, speak comfort to her, and pray for her in her time of greatest trouble, the Jewish people will experience the love of Christ through us. This is a key part of what will provoke her to jealousy.
2. Israel's acceptance of Yeshua as her Messiah depends on her being provoked to jealousy by a predominantly Gentile Church (Rom. 11:11).
3. With this in mind, may we as the Gentile Church increasingly stand with the Jewish people in the place of prayer and in agreement with God's heart.