

The Role of the Church to Stand with Israel

A. THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH

1. It is a necessity that as the people of God, we know God's heart for Israel and what He says concerning her. This includes His heart and plans for the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem.

“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved...” (Rom. 11:25-26)

“Now if their (Israel's) fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!” (Rom. 11:12)

2. God hides mysteries that are close to His heart through the ages, that we may search them out by drawing near to Him (Prov. 25:2). These mysteries of God are not new truths but hidden truths that the Holy Spirit will reveal to the people of God at the right time and season.
3. In Romans 9 to 11, Apostle Paul gives insights into the mystery of Israel¹, where in God's manifold wisdom, the destiny of Israel and His salvation plan for the world are intertwined.
 - a. It is no coincidence that Israel is the most mentioned nation in the Bible, and she plays a very significant role in God's redemptive plan concerning mankind and the earth.
 - b. We must understand Israel through the lens of God in order to cooperate with Him in wholehearted agreement, and not to go against Him and His plan.
4. We cannot be casual about searching out God's heart for Israel. History tells us that during the time of the Nazi regime, Germany had a population of 60 million where almost all citizens identified themselves as Christians. Despite this *“there was virtually no public*

¹ You may reference *Understanding Israel Study Guide - Session 3: The Mystery of Israel (Rom 9 – 11)* for more details.

opposition to antisemitism or any readiness by church leaders to publicly oppose the regime on the issues of antisemitism and state-sanctioned violence against the Jews.²

5. God is jealous and zealous for Israel to return to Him in wholehearted love and to walk in righteousness (Zech. 1:4; 8:2).
6. God is neither neutral nor indifferent over the issue of Israel. He is deeply involved with Israel, not because of Israel's own righteousness or merit, but because of who He is – He is the faithful, covenant-keeping God (Deut. 7:7-8).
7. We stand with Israel not because of who she is or what she has done. We stand with her because of our love for God and our allegiance to Him.
8. We must not be blind to the faults of Israel, or to the reality of where she is as a people and as a nation today. Neither are we to romanticise Israel.
9. God has a specific call and destiny for Israel. But this is dependent on her walking in alignment with His ways and commands.

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.” (Exo. 19:5-6)

10. God requires us to know His heart, His call and His plans for Israel so that we can agree with Him in His plans for her.
11. The international Ekklesia, the Gentile believers around the world, are called
 - a. to bring the gospel to all nations and finally back to Jerusalem (Acts 1:8),
 - b. to stand in the gap and pray for Israel (Ps. 122:6-8; Isa. 62:6-7),
 - c. to stand with Israel during persecutions and trials (Matt. 25:31-46), and
 - d. to provoke Israel to jealousy (Rom. 11:11-14).

B. ISRAEL AND THE INTERNATIONAL EKKLESIA

² United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC, *The German Churches And The Nazi State* <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-german-churches-and-the-nazi-state>

1. God's End-Time plan is to display the glory of His Son, Jesus, to the world, and to establish His Kingdom here on the earth. This includes Jesus coming back to rule and reign from Jerusalem.
2. Most Gentile believers are unaware of Israel's role in the End-Time plan of God. An example of this is that Jesus will not return until the Jewish people (primarily the leaders in Jerusalem) cry out to Jesus, "*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD*", "*Baruch Haba b'shem Adonai*"³ (2 Sam. 5:3; Matt. 23:39; Luke 13:35).
3. God's End-Time plan is seen in the preparation of His Bride, which is made up of both Jewish and Gentile believers. There is only one Bride of Christ, one new man in Christ, one Body of Christ reconciled to God through the cross (Eph. 2:14-16).⁴
4. We must reconnect with our Jewish roots because the international Ekklesia are partakers of the blessings of Abraham in Christ Jesus, for salvation is from the Jews (Gal. 3:6-9,14; Jn. 4:22). The root of our faith is Jewish and we Gentiles have been grafted into the natural olive tree through the mercy and goodness of God (Rom. 11:16-24).
5. At this time, the Holy Spirit is shifting the international Ekklesia to once again reconnect with our Jewish heritage and our Jewish family (the Messianic Jewish people) of whom are the fathers (the patriarchs, the prophets, the apostles, the early Church that began in Jerusalem), and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came (Rom. 9:5).

C. ROLE OF THE CHURCH TO INTERCEDE AND EVANGELISE TO ISRAEL

1. God is raising up a Global End-Time Prayer Movement for Israel⁵.
 - a. One of the End-Time plans of God is for His people to give Him no rest in prayer and intercession for Jerusalem and for His purposes for Israel (Isa 62:6-7).
 - b. We need to contend for the salvation of Israel through effective and fervent prayer and intercession (Jas. 5:16-18).
2. As we are now entering into the time of the fullness of the Gentiles, we can contend expectantly for a spiritual awakening for Israel.
 - a. As the Gentile Church, we need revelation and understanding to see that Israel's spiritual awakening will bring about the release of the fullness of God's redemptive plan upon the whole earth.

³ Paul Wilbur Ministries, (October 7, 2019) *Blessed is He who Comes! (Part 1)*
<https://www.wilburministries.com/blessed-is-he-who-comes-part-1/>

⁴ You may refer to the Prayer Theme on One New Man for details.

⁵ You may refer to the Prayer Theme on the End-Time Prayer Movement for Israel for details.

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- b. Romans 11:15 says that Israel's acceptance of their Messiah is "life from the dead". The salvation of the nation of Israel will usher in the Millennium Kingdom of God. The fullness of Israel will result in the earth being filled with God's glory (Rom. 11:12-15; Hab. 2:14).
 3. Gentile believers play an important role in God's plan for Israel's national salvation (Rom. 11:11,25,31).
 - a. Before Israel can be restored back to God, the Gentile Church must be awakened to step into her role, where God would reveal His mercies through the Gentile Church to Israel. One of the ways that Gentile believers will reveal God's mercies is through intercession and evangelism (Rom. 11:30-31)
 - b. The fullness of the Gentiles will provoke Israel to jealousy, and bring about the lifting of her spiritual blindness that will eventually lead to her national salvation (Rom. 11:25-26)!
 - c. The fullness of the Gentiles includes the full number of Gentiles saved, and Gentile believers walking in the fullness of godly character and power, and Gentile believers fully embracing God's narrative for Israel.

D. THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN THE END TIMES – STANDING WITH ISRAEL AND PROVOKING HER TO JEALOUSY

1. In the End Times, the Gentile Church must be prepared to stand with Israel even when it costs us.
 2. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus makes it clear that He wants His people to stand with Israel.
 - a. When Jesus spoke of the "*hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked and sick*", He was referring to His brethren, the Jewish people (Matt. 25:37-40; Rom. 9:3).
 - b. One more time, the Jewish people will face another greater Holocaust at the End of the Age. This time it will be far worse than in World War II (Zech. 13:8).
 - c. As Gentiles, we are called to feed the Jewish people, give them drink, shelter and comfort them in their most intense time of persecution and tribulation. In doing so, we are standing with Jesus with regards to His End-Time plan (Matt. 25:41-46).
 3. In the same passage, Jesus warns us that if we do not stand with the Jewish people, we will enter into everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46). We stand in danger of losing our salvation.
 - a. God is not neutral concerning Israel. Standing with Him requires us to stand with Israel.
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- b. We must arise as the Dietrich Bonhoeffer's of our time to be a voice and advocate for Israel. We must arise like Corrie Ten Boom and her family, opening our homes to house and shelter persecuted Jewish people, providing them with food, water and clothing. We must do this even when it costs us our lives.
4. Through Gentile believers expressing the greater love in John 15:13 of *“laying down their lives for their friends”*, the Jewish people will be provoked to jealousy (Rom. 11:11-13).
- a. The Jewish people will suddenly realise that these Gentile followers of Jesus truly know the God of Israel and that He is real in their lives. They will be provoked to want that relationship with the God of Israel that the Gentile believers have.
 - b. When believers who know the God of Israel sacrificially love the Jewish people at the cost of their lives, the eyes of the Jewish people will be opened to see that the God of Israel loves them deeply, and that Jesus is really the promised Messiah who has laid down His life and died for their sins (Jn. 13:34-35; 15:12-13; Rev. 12:11)!

E. PRAYER POINTERS

1. Pray for the Body of Christ to have understanding of the mystery of Israel and to align fully with God (Rom. 11:29; Col. 1:9-11).
 - a. Pray for the Body of Christ to understand God's End-Time narrative for Israel.
 2. Pray for the Body of Christ to be directed into God's heart and zeal for Israel, and His emotions and thoughts towards her (2 Thes. 3:5).
 - a. Pray for God to impart His apostolic zeal for Israel to us (Rom. 9:2-3).
 3. Pray for the Body of Christ to walk worthy of our calling to stand with Israel (Col. 1:9-10; 2 Thes. 1:11-12).
 4. Pray for the Body of Christ to take our stand as watchmen on the walls for Israel (Isa. 62:6-7; 2 Thes. 3:1,5).
 - a. Pray for the Church to be awakened and directed into God's zeal.
 - b. Pray for understanding in alignment with God's heart so that we will contend in agreement with God's plan at the place of prayer.
 5. Pray for the Body of Christ to arise as voices to Israel (Col. 4:12; 2 Thes. 1:11-12).
 - a. For the voices who have understanding of God's End-Time plan to speak “comfort to Israel”, even when she is in the midst of judgement and persecution (Isa. 40:1-2).
 6. Pray for voices to arise that will bring forth understanding of Israel in accordance to God's heart – to the Church, to the leaders of the land, and to society (Col 4:12; 2 Thes. 1:11-12).
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7. Pray that the Body of Christ will stand with Israel no matter what the cost may be (2 Thes 1:11-12).
 - a. Pray for the Gentile believers to walk worthy of our call to express the greater love to the Jewish people, in accordance with Jesus' commandment to love one another.
 - b. Pray for Gentile believers to have courage and strength to walk in love for Israel, even in the midst of escalating antisemitism in the End Times (Acts 4:29; Eph. 3:16-19; Col. 1:10-11).
8. Pray that the Gentile Church will walk in their fullness unto provoking Israel to jealousy (Eph. 1:17; 2 Thes. 1:11-12).
 - a. Pray for the Jewish people to see the testimony of Jesus and the evidence of God's leadership in the lives of Gentile believers, provoking them to remember their God who led them cloud by day and fire by night.
 - b. For the evidence of God's power to be demonstrated in and through the Gentile Church (Acts 4:30-31).
 - c. For the Gentile believers to live out the fullness of a real, deep and authentic relationship with God, provoking Israel to jealousy (2 Thes. 1:11-12).