

## **“GOING DEEPER” SESSION SEVEN: *Why Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem?***

### **I. GOD’S MANDATE FOR THE CHURCH: “FOR ZION’S SAKE DO NOT REST”**

*‘I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isaiah 62:6-7)*

- A. Praying for Jerusalem is God’s mandate for the entire Church (“you who make mention of the Lord”)
- B. God commands his people to “give him no rest” until Jerusalem enters into the fullness of her inheritance, i.e., unceasing prayer focused on the salvation of Israel.
- C. In their primary application, these verses are intended for the literal city of Jerusalem in the nation of Israel.
- D. Much harm has been done to the Jewish people because of an understanding of Scripture that has spiritualized God’s promises concerning Israel and applied them exclusively to the Church. The apostle Paul is adamant that God has not replaced Israel.

*I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not!...God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. (Rom.11:1-2)*

- E. The ultimate goal of our prayer is seeking the transformation of a dusty, insignificant Middle Eastern town into a city that shows forth the very glory of God.

## II. GOD'S ZEAL FOR ZION

- A. God has great zeal for Jerusalem. He is absolutely committed to bright righteousness going forth from Jerusalem.

*I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor (burning desire) I am zealous for her (Zech. 8:2).*

- B. Everything that God says and everything He does is for the sake of fulfilling all His promises towards Jerusalem.

*For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness and her salvation as a lamp that burns. (Isaiah 62:1)*

- C. He is committed to fulfilling His promises concerning Jerusalem for the sake of His own glory in the earth.

*<sup>22</sup>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. . . . and the nations shall know that I am the LORD." says the Lord GOD. "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes." (Ezekiel 36:22-23)*

- D. When Israel is saved and Jesus rules from Jerusalem, the earth will be filled with God's glory.

*<sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9)*

### III. TWO MEN WHO ENTERED INTO GOD'S PASSION FOR JERUSALEM

#### A. King David

David was a man "after God's own heart" and he carried a passion for Zion/Jerusalem like none before him – making it his capital. His consuming life's passion was to give himself to establishing a dwelling place for God on the earth. He knew by revelation that the place was Jerusalem and he spent himself on the task of building a dwelling for God on the earth in the midst of His people.

*Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed. I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the Lord...for the Lord has chosen Zion: He has desired it for His dwelling place. (Psalm 132:3-5; 13)*

#### B. The Apostle Paul

Paul's intensity was such that he was filled with continual sorrow and grief and that he wished himself accursed for the salvation of natural Israel. Paul had entered into God's passion for His glory.

*<sup>1</sup> I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,<sup>2</sup>that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.<sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen-according to the flesh,<sup>4</sup>who are Israelites (Rom. 9:1-3)*

### IV. JERUSALEM – FOCUS OF GOD'S PLAN FOR WORLD REDEMPTION

It is difficult to understand the burning zeal of the Almighty for what seems to be a relatively insignificant city in the Middle East until we understand that it is going to be the capital city of the glorious "New World Order" in the Millennium under the leadership of Jesus.

- 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. God's ultimate intention is to dwell with His people on the New Earth. God created human beings for the earth. We will dwell in perfect communion with God on the earth as the spirit realm is brought together with the material realm for all eternity.

*<sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God." (Rev. 21:2-3)*

- C. God is committed to the redemption of the old earth even before the new earth and the age to come. He is committed to the restoration of all things (Acts 3:21).
  
- D. As the "last Adam" (fully man), Jesus took back the authority to exercise dominion over the whole Earth at the Cross.

As the "only begotten of the Father" (fully God), Jesus has been given all authority in Heaven (*Matt. 28:18*). He is, therefore, uniquely qualified to bring everything together in Heaven and on the Earth.

- E. God promised that it would be a biological descendant of Abraham, Jacob and David who would exercise authority over the whole earth.
  
- F. As a Jewish man and descendant of Abraham, Jesus qualified to be the fulfillment of God's promise that "in your seed, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen. 22:18).

As a biological descendant of David, He is qualified to be the Messianic Ruler of Israel. *"I will set up your seed after you, who will be one of your sons (biological descent); and I will establish his kingdom...and I will establish his throne forever."* (1 Chron.17:11-12).

- G. Jesus did not exercise His dominion over the earth in a manifest political way at His first coming.

He will do so when He returns. What the Jews expected Jesus to do at His first coming, He will do at His second coming.

- H. Scripture is very clear that Jesus will rule over an earthly Kingdom that will consume all other kingdoms.

When we pray "Your Kingdom come" we do not realize that there will be a dramatic and literal answer that will disrupt the entire social order of the planet. God's plan, through Jesus, is a hostile takeover of planet earth.

*...the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.* (Dan. 2:44)

- I. Before Jesus ascended to heaven after His death, burial, and resurrection, His disciples asked Him when the political Kingdom would be restored to Israel.

*'Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"'* (Acts 1:6)

- J. If Jesus is going to rule literally on the earth then He must rule from a geographic location. Scripture is clear that the Messiah will rule over David's Kingdom (kingdom of Israel) and that He will sit on David's throne (in Jerusalem).
- K. For Jesus to fulfill biblical prophecy, both the nation of Israel and the City of Jerusalem must exist forever. One of Jesus' names is "Son of David." The fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant requires that the Messiah be a human king of Israel.
- L. God has established Jerusalem as His choice for Jesus' global headquarters on the earth in the Millennium. Jesus called it the City of the Great King (Matt. 5:35) for it was the city from which God's appointed Messiah would rule over the earth.
- M. When Jesus is established as King in Jerusalem it will become the capital city of the whole earth. It will be the "City on a Hill" that cannot be hidden. It will be the place from which God's Kingdom grows to fill the whole earth.
- N. Jerusalem will be known as the throne of God (*Jeremiah 3:17*) and will be the connecting point between the New Jerusalem (heavenly reality) and the Millennial Earth (earthly reality).

The city itself will be known as the throne of God and will be filled with the manifest presence of God so that nothing unholy may be found within its gates.

*<sup>3</sup>And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem.* *<sup>4</sup>When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning,* *<sup>5</sup>then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by*

***night. For over all the glory there will be a covering.<sup>6</sup> And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain. (Isaiah 4:2-6)***

***<sup>20</sup>In that day “HOLINESS TO THE LORD” shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD’s house shall be like the bowls before the altar. <sup>21</sup>Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts (Zech. 14:20-21)***

- O. If we understand these foundational premises, then it becomes clear why God’s number one focus in human history is the city of Jerusalem.

Jesus is coming to rule the earth from Jerusalem. He will sit on David’s Throne (King of Israel in Jerusalem) and His kingdom will never end.

***<sup>7</sup>of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. (Isaiah 9:6-7)***

- P. God’s choice of Jerusalem is a huge stumbling block to many Gentile believers.
- Q. Ultimately the issue is about the sovereignty of God and the choices He has made to display His glory in the earth.
1. God has the right to decide who—He had to choose some people group through which He would establish His kingdom—and He chose the Jewish people.
  2. He has the right to choose where, and He chose the city of Jerusalem, and the land of Israel.

*<sup>13</sup>For the LORD has chosen Zion: He has desired it for His dwelling place: <sup>14</sup>“This is My resting place forever: Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.” (Psalm 132:13-14)*

- R. In His plan of world redemption and in His perfect leadership, God alone knew the best way to bring the maximum number of people into His family at the deepest level of love for all eternity without violating their free will.
- S. Though it may not make sense to us on this side, God wants to stun us for billions of years as He unfolds the “why” of His plan to our hearts.

#### V. JERUSALEM, FOCUS OF SATAN’S RAGE

*Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. 2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. (Zech. 14:1-2)*

- A. Scripture speaks clearly in numerous places about a coming day when the nations of the earth will gather together to fight against Jerusalem.
- B. Every nation in the world is going to oppose Jerusalem and seek to destroy her before the return of Jesus.

Much of Jerusalem will be destroyed and many of her inhabitants will be killed in this battle but the nations will not be successful in their aim of destruction.



- C. Once we have a small amount of understanding about the purpose and destiny of Jerusalem, we can begin to understand why it has been and will continue to be the focus of hostility and spiritual attack until the return of Jesus.
- D. 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 a liar and ensure his own survival.

***<sup>3</sup>...And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. <sup>5</sup>She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.....***  
***<sup>13</sup>Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.***  
***<sup>14</sup>But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. <sup>15</sup>So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. <sup>16</sup>But the earth helped the woman...<sup>17</sup>And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev. 12:3-17)***

- E. 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.  
 (Psalm 2:1; Psalm 83:5; Joel 3:11; Zech. 12:2; 14:2; Zeph. 3:8)

***<sup>21</sup>For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.<sup>22</sup>And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (Matthew 24:21)***

*Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it. And it is the time of Jacob's trouble but he shall be saved out of it (Jeremiah 30:7)*

## VI. PRAYER – GOD'S END-TIME STRATEGY FOR ISRAEL'S SALVATION

- A. Israel's acceptance of Jesus as their Messiah depends on them being provoked to jealousy by a predominantly Gentile Church (*Rom. 11:11*). The Church becoming a prophetic witness is directly related to her stand for Jerusalem in the place of prayer.
- B. The Lord has promised to release a prayer movement at the end of the age to partner with Him by praying for the salvation of Israel (peace of Jerusalem) and to stand as one with her in the midst of tribulation.
- C. God promises He will do two things related to the salvation of Israel in response to the prayers of the saints:
  - 1. He will release His voice in the earth (Spirit of prophecy); and
  - 2. He will release supernatural activity in the earth (signs and wonders).

*<sup>1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns. <sup>2</sup>The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory.* (Isaiah 62:1-2)

- a. Spirit of Prophecy – prophetic messengers (Voice of God)

*I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and daughters will prophesy (Joel 2:28)*

God will raise up messengers who will proclaim with boldness, authority, and clarity the “Gospel of the Kingdom” (Matt. 24:14) – especially to unsaved Jews in the midst of tribulation.

b. Signs and Wonders (Supernatural Activity)

***I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood, fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord. (Joel 2:30-31)***

There will be supernatural demonstrations of God’s power in an unprecedented way. It will be the Book of Acts combined with the Book of Exodus multiplied on a global scale.

c. Salvation and Deliverance in Jerusalem

***And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the remnant whom the Lord calls (Joel 2:32)***

The end result of God’s activity is the deliverance of Jerusalem from her enemies, the salvation of “all Israel” and the establishing of God’s Kingdom on the earth.

***And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins.” (Rom. 11:26 – 27)***

- D. God’s end-time activity is released out of His zeal for Jerusalem and because of the prayer movement lining up with His heart and praying for the salvation of Israel with fasting and solemn assemblies across the earth.

***<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly: <sup>16</sup>Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room. <sup>17</sup>Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar; let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" (Joel 2:15-17)***

- E. The ultimate task of the Gentile Church is to pray for the salvation of Israel and to provoke the Jews to jealousy (by becoming a powerful prophetic witness), so that they receive the mercy of God.
  
- F. God is today calling forth the "set watchmen" from among the Gentiles who will contend in prayer for the salvation of Israel and "give Him no rest" for Zion's sake. This prayer movement will culminate in the return of Jesus, the salvation of all Israel and the establishing of God's Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven.

## Going Deeper Session 7 Study Guide Questions

- What is my role in praying for Israel? How will God use me to bless Israel?
- How can I personally provoke the Jews to jealousy? What kind of lifestyle does God desire me to lead in order to be a shining light to His people?