

~ Prayer for Israel ~
Shabbat, Saturday, November 7, 2009
Nebraska House of Prayer
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**8 REASONS WHY
EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD STAND WITH ISRAEL**

(As articulated by Paul & Nuala O'Higgins a couple from Florida that we met in Jerusalem at the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles in 2000)

1. BECAUSE GOD SAYS HE WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS THEM: Genesis 12:3: "I will bless them that bless thee and curse them that curse thee, and in thee shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Isaiah 60:12: "For the nation that will not serve you will perish; it will be utterly ruined." But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Ruth 1:16 *The Genealogy of David* ...So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. Ruth 4:13

2. BECAUSE WE OWE THEM A DEBT FOR WHAT WE HAVE RECEIVED THROUGH THEM: Through Israel the promises and covenants were given. Through them came the law, the prophets and the Messiah Jesus, who has opened up access to God for all. Through the Jewish apostles the gospel first went to the nations. To the Israelites 'pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God and the promises, of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all.' (Romans 9:4-5). "For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material to them in their material blessings" (Rom. 15:27)

3. BECAUSE GOD'S GIFTS & CALL ON THEM HAVE NOT BEEN REVOKED: Romans 11:28: 'As regards the gospel they are enemies of God for our sake; but as regards the election they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and call of God are irrevocable.'

Though most Jews have not yet responded to the gospel, this has not invalidated God's plan for them, which He will ultimately fulfill. "A hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the gentiles has come in, and so all Israel will be saved." (Rom 11:26)

4. BECAUSE GOD HAS PROMISED TO BRING THEM BACK TO THEIR LAND: God has promised to turn, again to the Jewish people, to bring them back to their land and to cleanse them from unrighteousness.

"I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; I will plant them upon their land and they shall never again be plucked up out of the land which I have given them ' says the Lord your God.'" (Amos 9:14-15)" "I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all sides and bring them to their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all." (Ezekiel 37:21-22)

The regathering of Israel is prophesied in Ezekiel, Isaiah, Deuteronomy, Amos, Hosea, Jeremiah, by Jesus in Luke 21:24, and by Paul in Romans 11. It is a key condition to the full flowering of the Messianic age. God promised Abraham and his descendants the land of Israel as an everlasting possession. He confirmed that promise with Isaac as recorded in Genesis 26:3-4 and again with Jacob in Genesis 35:12.

5. BECAUSE THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES ARE BEING FULFILLED: 'Jerusalem will be trodden down underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.' (Lk 21:24)

Jesus foresaw that the Roman Gentile armies would overthrow every vestige of Jewish rule in Jerusalem; but He also saw that that Gentile domination of Jerusalem would come to an end. In 70 AD Jerusalem fell to the Roman army.

In 1967 in the course of defending themselves against an attack from their Arab neighbors' the Israelis regained control of the entire City of Jerusalem for the first time since 70 A D. thus fulfilling this prophecy of Jesus. All believers in the words of Jesus should know that the ending of Gentile control of the city is God's plan. "When you see these things happen look up your redemption draws nigh." (Lk 21:28)

6. BECAUSE WE ARE TO "COMFORT GOD'S PEOPLE": In Isaiah, God speaks 'Comfort, comfort my people says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins'. (Isaiah 40:1-2)

This is a call to Christians to comfort the Jewish people. Isaiah also envisions that the leaders of the nations would help the Jewish people and nurture them in their regathering. "Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples; and they shall bring your sons in their bosom, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders. Kings shall be your foster fathers and their queens your nursing mothers. With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you and lick the dust off your feet. Then you will know that I am the Lord; those who wait for me shall not be put to shame." (Isa 49:22-23)

This is what the LORD Almighty says: "In those days ten men from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, 'Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.' Zech 8:23

7. BECAUSE WE NEED TO MAKE REPARATION FOR ANTI-SEMITIC TEACHINGS AND ACTIONS: Throughout the history of the Church, since the second century, Christian leaders have been guilty of the most vicious anti-Semitic remarks. These remarks have provided the basis for despots throughout the centuries to this day to ridicule, discriminate, and even kill the Jewish people. Often those who claimed to be followers of the Messiah (Rescuer of Israel, and the One who has taught us how to love and forgive) have perpetrated these actions. Can we blame the Jews for so often resisting a Messiah whose followers were anti-Semitic? In justice as well as in charity we need to make reparation for the tragic record of Christianity (both in its Catholic & in its Protestant forms) in its dealings with the Jewish people. We who should have been their nurturers; have so often been their enemies and tormentors. The spirit of anti-Semitism did not begin or end with Adolf Hitler but can find a landing ground on Christians who have not been awakened to their responsibility towards Israel.

The heretical teaching that the Church has replaced Israel has been taught since the second century. This teaching is faithful neither to the Old Testament nor New Testament Scriptures. Though most nations and churches denounce anti-Semitism today, anti-Zionism is still widely acceptable. It is the new anti-Semitism. Opposition to Israel's right to fulfill their God given destiny in the land of promise is the most dangerous form of anti-Semitism today.

8. BECAUSE GOD IS WORKING OUT HIS PLAN FOR EVERLASTING PEACE:

Romans 11:15: 'For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?' The Messiah is coming back to Israel to be reconciled with His own people. He will reign from there with His overcoming saints 'from every tribe and tongue and people and nation' over all the nations. (Rev. 7:9; 11:15) Isaiah 2:3 'For out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.' The fullness of the Messianic age is coming. But first there will be the destruction of all systems and kingdoms that ignore God's Messianic plan.

7 PRACTICAL THINGS BELIEVERS CAN DO TO HELP ISRAEL:

1. Study and understand what the Bible has to say about God's plan for Israel & the Jewish people. "Study earnestly to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." 2 Timothy 2:15 "I will take you as my own **people**, and I will be your **God**. Then you will know that I am the LORD your **God**, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians." Exodus 6:7

2. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for God's purposes for the Jewish people. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper that love you" (Psalm 122.6).

3. Pray for and teach your church how to stand with Israel. Organize an event or seminar in your church or city each year to encourage biblical solidarity with God's plan for the Jewish people and Israel. This will bring a blessing on your church and city. **Unity Coalition for Israel** <http://www.israelunitycoalition.org>; Read or subscribe to **Israel Today** written by Israeli believers <http://www.israeltoday.co.il/>

4. Support Christian agencies in Israel that help and pray for the Jewish people: “**The International Christian Embassy**, Jerusalem <http://www.icej.org/>; **The Bible Society in Jerusalem**, <http://www.biblesocietyinisrael.com/>; **Church’s Ministry Among Jewish People**, <http://www.cmj-israel.org>; **Caspari Center**, <http://www.caspari.com> ; **King of Kings Congregation Jerusalem**, <http://www.kkcj.org> ;

5. Discuss the Messiah with the Jewish people in the context of their own faith, destiny, and scriptures. Scriptures read in the Synagogues for November 7, 2009: Genesis 18:1-22,24; 2 Kings 4:1-37 (Messianic Congregations add 2 Peter 2:4-11)

6. Refuse to support anti-Semitic sentiments in public and social life. Where appropriate speak out as the Spirit leads in wise and loving ways e.g. notify politicians and/or media of your views.

7. Visit Israel as often as possible. This is a practical way to learn about the people and support them and their economy. "Walk about Zion and go all around her. Count her towers mark well her bulwarks. Consider her palaces that you may tell it to the generations following." (Psalm 48:13) "Come let us go up to the mountain of the LORD" (Isa. 2:3) Download the **Israel Tour and Prayer Journey** <http://www.nebraskafamilycouncil.org/>

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Pray for the Salvation of Israel: "‘And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn' " (Zechariah 12:10). "Restore us, O God; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!...Restore us, O God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!...Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!" (Psalm 80:3,7,19). "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' " (Romans 11:26-27).

2. Cry out for Israel to cry out: " ‘Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me' " (Psalm 50:15). " ‘If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land' " (2 Chronicles 7:14).

3. Pray for the leadership in Israel and America to have God’s wisdom: " ‘ "The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me' " (Leviticus 25:23). " ‘Then you shall know that I am the LORD. I have heard all your blasphemies which you have spoken against the mountains of Israel, saying, "They are desolate; they are given to us to consume." Thus with your mouth you have boasted against Me and multiplied your words against Me; I have heard them' " (Ezekiel 35:12-13). " ‘For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land' " (Joel 3:1-2).

4. Intercede for the salvation of Muslims: "Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek Your name, O LORD. Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; yes, let them be put to shame and perish, that they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth" (Psalm 83:16-18).

5. Protection against the enemy: “He thwarts the plans of the crafty, so that their hands achieve no success”. Job 5:12; “The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples”. Psalm 33:10

6. For the autumn rains: “then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil. Deuteronomy 11:14 Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. Deuteronomy 32:2

7. Provision for the poor and those in need: “However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you” Deuteronomy 15:4

“A Time of Thanksgiving”

1 Chronicles 16:4 He appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to make petition, to **give thanks**, and to praise the LORD, the God of Israel; **1 Chronicles 16:8** **Give thanks** to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done; **1 Chronicles 16:34** **Give thanks** to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.; **1 Chronicles 16:35** Cry out, "Save us, O God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations, that we may **give thanks** to your holy name, that we may glory in your praise."

1 Chronicles 16:41 With them were Heman and Jeduthun and the rest of those chosen and designated by name to **give thanks** to the LORD, "for his love endures forever." **1 Chronicles 29:13** Now, our God, we **give you thanks**, and praise your glorious name.

2 Chronicles 5:13 The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to **give praise and thanks** to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud. **2 Chronicles 20:21** After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "**Give thanks** to the LORD, for his love endures forever." **2 Chronicles 31:2** Hezekiah assigned the priests and Levites to divisions—each of them according to their duties as priests or Levites—to offer burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, to minister, to **give thanks** and to sing praises at the gates of the LORD's dwelling.

Nehemiah 12:24 And the leaders of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, Jeshua son of Kadmiel, and their associates, who stood opposite them to **give praise and thanksgiving**, one section responding to the other, as prescribed by David the man of God. **Nehemiah 12:31** I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to **give thanks**. One was to proceed on top of the wall to the right, toward the Dung Gate. **Psalms 7:17** I will **give thanks** to the LORD because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High. **Psalms 28:7** The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will **give thanks** to him in song. **Psalms 30:12** that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will **give you thanks** forever. **Psalms 35:18** I will **give you thanks** in the great assembly; among throngs of people I will praise you. **Psalms 75:1** We **give thanks** to you, O God, we **give thanks**, for your Name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds. **Psalms 100:4** Enter his gates with **thanksgiving** and his courts with praise; **give thanks** to him and praise his name. **Psalms 105:1** **Give thanks** to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. **Psalms 106:1** Praise the LORD. **Give thanks** to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. **Psalms 106:47** Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from the nations, that we may **give thanks** to your holy name and glory in your praise. **Psalms 107:1** **Give thanks** to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. **Psalms 107:8, 15, 21, 31** Let them **give thanks** to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men.

Psalms 118:1 **Give thanks** to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. **Psalms 118:19** Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and **give thanks** to the LORD. **Psalms 118:21** I will **give you thanks**, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. **Psalms 118:28** You are my God, and I will **give you thanks**; you are my God, and I will exalt you. **Psalms 118:29** **Give thanks** to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. **Psalms 119:62** At midnight I rise to **give you thanks** for your righteous laws. **Psalms 136:1** **Give thanks** to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. **Psalms 136:2** **Give thanks** to the God of gods. His love endures forever. **Psalms 136:3** **Give thanks** to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever. **Psalms 136:26** **Give thanks** to the God of heaven. His love endures forever. **Isaiah 12:4** In that day you will say: "**Give thanks** to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. **Jeremiah 33:11** the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the LORD, saying, "**Give thanks** to the LORD Almighty, for the LORD is good; his love endures forever." For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were before," says the LORD.

Matthew 15:36 Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had **given thanks**, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people. **Mark 8:6** He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and **given thanks**, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and they did so. **Luke 22:19** And he took bread, gave **thanks** and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body **given** for you; do this in remembrance of me." **Luke 24:30** When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave **thanks**, broke it and began to **give** it to them. **John 6:23** Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had **given thanks**. **Romans 14:6** He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he **gives thanks** to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and **gives thanks** to God. **1 Corinthians 1:4** I always thank God for you because of his grace **given** you in Christ Jesus. **1 Corinthians 10:16** Is not the cup of **thanksgiving** for which we **give thanks** a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? **1 Corinthians 11:24** and when he had **given thanks**, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." **1 Corinthians 15:57** But **thanks** be to God! He **gives** us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2 Corinthians 1:11** as you help us by your prayers. Then many will **give thanks** on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many. **1 Thess 5:18** **give thanks** in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **Rev 4:9** Whenever the living creatures **give** glory, honor and **thanks** to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, **Rev 11:17** saying: "We **give thanks** to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.