



LIFE SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL

LEARNING TO PRAY FOR ISRAEL

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Session 1

Fulfill Your Role in Israel's Destiny

This session covers:

- The purpose and structure of this class
- How we can partner with God to fulfill end-time prophecy
- Three reasons why we need to pray for Israel

This session corresponds to:

- The Introduction and Chapter 1 of *The Zion Mandate* book
- Session 1 of *Learning to Pray for Israel* CDs

The Purpose of This Class

1. This class takes an in-depth look at our mandate to pray for Israel.

- The Church is called to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6).
- The Church is called to pray all day and all night until Jerusalem becomes a praise in the earth (Isa. 62:6-7).
- These verses are much more than a good suggestion; these Scriptures are a God-given mandate to pray for Israel's modern-day restoration *until the Lord's work is completed*.
- Since many of Israel's prophetic promises have yet to be fulfilled, the Church must stand in the gap and pray for their fulfillment.
- This class was created to give the Church a foundational understanding about Israel and to motivate the Church to pray for Israel.

2. This class is based upon the principle that understanding Israel's prophetic destiny is what will motivate us to pray on a regular basis for Israel's restoration.

- Praying for Israel on a regular basis is impossible unless we have a heart for Israel. The only way to cultivate a heart for Israel is to understand what the Scriptures teach about Israel's destiny and how God feels about the Jewish people.
- That is why this class will take an in-depth look at what the Bible teaches about Israel's prophetic future, the work of restoration that is taking place right now, and how God feels about the Jews.
- The main goal of this class is to help you *understand* Israel's destiny so that you will have a *heart* to pray for Israel.
- We can only pray "all day" and "all night" for the Jewish nation—as the Scriptures command us—when Israel is in our hearts. Each session, therefore, has been designed to help you gain greater understanding about Israel's destiny so that your heart for Israel deepens.

The Structure of this Class

1. The first part of this class has been designed to help you develop a heart for Israel. Specifically, we will look at:

- Why we need to pray for Israel
- The error of Replacement Theology
- How God uses Israel to bless and to curse the world
- Why Israel is important to the Church
- Israel's role in the Millennial Kingdom
- What the Scriptures teach about the process of Israel's restoration
- The Judgment of the Nations

2. The second part of this class has been designed to help you learn how to pray for Israel's prophetic destiny. Specifically, we will look at:

- The fulfillment of the modern-day Jewish exodus
- The peace of Jerusalem
- Worldwide revival, including the greatest revival in Israel's history
- The salvation of Israel
- Reconciliation between Israel and the Church

The Lord's return is not an event to wait for passively, but an event that we can accelerate through fervent prayer. We have a mandate to prepare the way for the Lord's return by standing in the gap and asking God to fulfill Israel's glorious promises.

God Is Looking for Strategic Partners

1. God wants every believer to partner with Him in advancing His kingdom throughout the earth.

- Our heavenly Father yearns for much more than a master-slave relationship based upon rules and regulations; He wants us to be His intimate friend.
- Jesus stated this truth when He told His disciples, “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you” (John 15:15, NKJV).
- God yearns for intimacy with you—an intimacy so rich that it results in a strategic partnership that advances His kingdom.
- As the Bride of Christ, you have been invited to be one of the Lord’s strategic partners (Song. 1:4). You have a vital role to play in advancing the cause of Christ in the end-times.
- Your prayers really can shape history, mold destinies, and activate ancient prophecy. God is calling you to be a history-maker and a nation-shaker—one of His intimate partners that prepares the way for the return of the Lord.

God wants us to work *with Him—not for Him*. The greatest way that we can work with God is by praying for His kingdom purposes to be advanced in the earth.

2. Daniel is an example of how we can partner with God in the restoration of Israel.

- As a captive in the land of Babylon, God had exalted Daniel and made him one of the most powerful men in the world (Dan. 2:48).
- Everyday—three times a day—Daniel would enter his house and open his windows toward Jerusalem. Then he would kneel down and pour out his heart before God (Dan. 6:10).
- One day, while reading the prophecies of Jeremiah, Daniel reflected upon God’s promise to release the Jews from Babylonian captivity after seventy years and bring them back to Israel (Jer. 29:10-11).
- Daniel realized that the time of prophetic fulfillment was at hand. God was poised to fulfill His promise *if He could find someone on earth to stand in the gap and agree with Him in prayer* (Dan. 9:2-3).
- Sensing that a time of prophetic transition was just over the horizon, Daniel gave himself to fervent prayer. He repented, pleaded, petitioned, and prayed for the restoration of Israel (Dan. 9:19).
- The Bible says that Daniel prayed with such a fervency and intensity that he became extremely weary (Dan. 9:21).

- Daniel's devotion to pray the prophetic Scriptures paid off. Ezra 1:1-4 records the answer to Daniel's prayer.
- As one of God's strategic partners, Daniel activated prophecy through earnest prayer. Though many factors contributed to the Jews' exodus from Babylon, Daniel's intercession, based upon the prophetic Scriptures, was an essential component in this powerful move of God.
- God is still looking for men and women to activate ancient prophecy through prevailing prayer. Like Daniel, we can set prophetic Scriptures in motion through intercessory prayer.

3. We are invited to partner with God to fulfill end-time prophecy.

- Many scholars do a good job describing what God is going to do; few, however, describe how God is going to do it.
- Few prophecy scholars emphasize our role in activating prophecy through fervent prayer. As a result of this critical omission, most Christians *assume* that God will just fulfill His Word one day *without our involvement or participation*.
- This negligence, though not intentional, has created a spectator-mentality in the Body of Christ toward the end-times.
- Due to this omission, most of the Church is waiting *passively* on the Lord to return instead of *preparing the way for His return through fervent prayer*.
- The Bible tells us that God will not do His work alone. The Lord always looks for intercessors to stand in the gap, for prayer warriors to win the battle through prevailing prayer, and for the Church to partner with Him in fulfilling ancient prophecy.
- The Holy Spirit is calling the Church into a strategic partnership with Him that will prepare the way for the return of the Lord.

4. We must understand our mission-critical role to activate many of the end-time events described in the Scriptures.

- Revelation 5:8 shows us that the events described in the book of Revelation will not be activated until heaven's incense bowls are filled with our prayers.
- Revelation 8:1-6 illustrates that our prayers will release most of the events described in Revelation 8-11—including the kingdoms of the world becoming the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (Rev. 11:15).
- Revelation 18:20 teaches us that God will destroy Babylon—the religious, commercial, and political kingdom of Satan—in response to our judgment of this one-world empire.
- Joel 2:17-32 is an Old Testament example of how our prayers will activate many of the prophetic promises contained in the book of Joel, including a massive breakthrough in Israel and an unprecedented worldwide revival.
- These few passages stand in stark contrast to many end-time teachings that imply we have no role to play in the last days.
- Much of the book of Revelation, along with many other ancient

prophecies, will not just take place in God's sovereignty. We have a critical function, an indispensable role to fulfill before Jesus returns.

- God wants us to be participators in end-time events, not spectators.

5. We are called to hasten the Lord's return.

- Peter wrote about our participation in end-time events when he exhorted us to be "looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God" (2 Peter 3:12).
- The Greek word for hastening in this passage is *speudo*. It means to speed, urge on diligently, or urge on earnestly.
- Hastening an event causes it to come faster than normal.
- The NIV translates this passage as "look forward to the day of God and speed its coming."
- The Living Bible says it this way: "You should look forward to that day and hurry it along."
- Though it is hard to imagine, we can accelerate the Lord's second coming. Our actions can put end-time events in motion and hasten the day when Jesus returns.
- This implies that the Church must do certain things before Jesus returns.

Praying for Israel is one of the most powerful ways that we can partner with God to:

- **Advance His Kingdom in the earth**
- **Activate end-time prophecy**
- **Hasten the Lord's return**

Three Reasons Why We Need to Pray for Israel

1. We have a mandate to pray for Israel's destiny.

- Isaiah 62:6-7 states, "On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. *You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*"
- There are two important truths from this Scripture. First, God is calling us to "remind the Lord." Reminding the Lord simply means to pray. Notice that we are to pray "all day and all night."
- Second, notice that we are to continue praying "until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth." In other words, we are to pray until Israel's destiny is fulfilled.
- Think about it this way. When a house is being constructed, builders follow a predetermined plan. They lay the foundation and assemble

the framework according to a blueprint that has been drafted by seasoned architects. For a house to be constructed properly, the builders have to know the blueprint inside and out.

- In the same way, for us to function as watchmen that intercede until Jerusalem becomes a praise in the earth, we need to understand God's blueprint. We need to know what the Bible states about Israel's glorious future.
- When Isaiah said that Jerusalem would become a praise in the earth, he was alluding to the time when God fulfills every prophetic promise spoken over Israel.
- This time of prophetic fulfillment is known as the Messianic Age, the Kingdom Age, or the Millennial Kingdom. It is the time when Jesus will reign as King from Jerusalem for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4).
- It will be a time of unprecedented peace, prosperity, righteousness, and glory (Isa. 60).
- It will be a period when heaven invades earth, all of God's enemies are defeated, Satan and his demons are bound for a thousand years, and Jesus rules the nations with a rod of iron (Ps. 2; Rev. 20).
- In the Millennial Kingdom, the world will be transformed into a lush paradise, harmony will be restored between humanity and creation, and worship will fill the planet as the glory of God covers the earth like the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:6-10).
- In the Millennial Kingdom, Jerusalem will be the capital city of the kingdom of God. Israel will be the worship center of the world and the place where God's glory shines into the nations. Jerusalem will be the place where divine blessings, favor, prosperity, and peace will be released into the nations. And Israel will be a place of unspeakable joy and gladness (Jer. 3:17; Isa. 4:2, 2:2-4, 24:23, 60:3-5, 10-11, 15; Zech. 14:9, 16; Hab. 2:14).

We will look at the Millennial Kingdom in detail in Session 5.

2. We have a mandate to take no rest until Israel's destiny is fulfilled.

- Referring again to Isaiah 62:6-7, we see that God not only calls us to pray for Israel; He commands us to "take no rest" and "give Him no rest" by praying for Israel "all day and all night."
- These are very serious verses. Take a moment and let the truth in these verses sink in.
- Praying for Israel is not an option or a divine suggestion. It is a heavenly mandate for everyone in the Body of Christ.
- These verses reveal how serious God is about us praying for Israel.
- These verses also show how praying for Israel needs to become a significant priority in our churches and ministries.
- For many believers, praying for Israel has never crossed their minds.

- For those churches and ministries who do pray for Israel, most just append a quick, short prayer for the peace of Jerusalem at the end of their service.
- These verses, however, clearly show us how important praying for Israel is to God. Therefore, we need to take this call seriously and commit to pray for Israel on a regular basis.

3. We have a mandate to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

- Psalms 122:6 states, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you."
- Once again, this verse is not an option or a divine suggestion. It is a heavenly mandate.
- Why are we called to pray for the peace of Jerusalem? Because the devil wants to destroy Israel in order to abort God's prophetic agenda.
- Jesus told the Jews living in Jerusalem, "You will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'" (Matt. 23:39, NIV).
- Jesus' return depends upon a unified, sincere, and contrite invitation from the Jewish people living in Jerusalem. No other nation has ever been given such an awesome privilege and responsibility.
- This is why the devil has repeatedly tried to annihilate the Jewish race. Why? Because if he succeeds, there will be no return of Jesus. If he succeeds, the devil will not be cast into prison for a thousand years and ultimately sentenced to the lake of fire for all eternity (Rev. 20:2-3, 10).
- Jesus has bound Himself by His sacred word; and if it were possible to exterminate the Jewish people, Jesus would remain in self-induced exile.
- We know that will not happen, but this is why we need to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. God wants to use our prayers to restrain the devil's plans to annihilate Israel and abort God's prophetic agenda.
- Talking about this very issue, Jim Maher states in his book, *As Storm Clouds Gather*:

If the devil and his demonic hosts succeed in removing the Jewish people from the planet, then it's checkmate. Game over. Why? Because God cannot lie and He cannot return if the Jewish people don't exist to invite Him back. Are you beginning to feel the weightiness of this matter? Do you understand why the church's principal, yet very neglected last-day mandate is to pray for and reach the heart of the Jews? Not only are they a precious people but they play a pivotal role in the return of the Messiah. Beloved, this is huge in God's last day economy.¹

Praying for Israel is not an option or a heavenly suggestion—it is a biblical mandate. A mandate is an authoritative order or command. God’s authoritative command to us, as given in Isaiah 62:6-7, is to pray all day and all night until Jerusalem becomes a praise in the earth.

Notes

1. Jim Maher, *As Storm Clouds Gather* (New Song International Ministries, 2005), pp. 76.

Review Questions

True or False

- _____ 1. In His sovereignty, God has determined when Jesus will return. Therefore, there is nothing that we can do to affect this.
- _____ 2. The best way to cultivate a heart for Israel is to understand what the Scriptures teach about Israel's destiny and how God feels about the Jewish people.
- _____ 3. God wants us to work for Him not with Him.
- _____ 4. Praying for Israel is one of the most powerful ways that we can partner with God to hasten the Lord's return.
- _____ 5. Jerusalem will become the praise of the earth before Jesus returns.
- _____ 6. God suggests that we consider praying for Israel on a regular basis.

Fill in the Blank

7. Psalm 122:6 states that we are to _____ for the _____ of Jerusalem.
8. Isaiah 62:6-7 exhorts us to _____ all _____ and all _____ until Jerusalem becomes _____.
9. Daniel is a great example of how we can _____ God in the _____ of Israel.
10. We have a _____ to pray for Israel's _____.
11. Jesus will not return until the Jews in Jerusalem say _____ is He who comes _____.
12. Praying for Israel is not an option or a heavenly suggestion—it is a biblical _____. A mandate is an _____ or _____.

14 Learning to Pray for Israel

Matching (Place the letter of the correct answer in the blank space.)

- _____ 13. Scripture verse(s) that most clearly speak(s) of how we can speed up the Day of the Lord.
- _____ 14. Scripture verse(s) that illustrate(s) how our prayers will release most of the events described in Revelation 8-11.
- _____ 15. Scripture verse(s) that describe(s) a condition that must be met before the Lord returns.
- _____ 16. Scripture verse(s) that command(s) us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- _____ 17. Scripture verse(s) that command(s) to pray all day and all night for Jerusalem to become a praise in the earth.

Possible Matches for 13-17

- a. 2 Peter 3:12
- b. Isaiah 4:2
- c. Isaiah 62:6-7
- d. Matthew 23:39
- e. Isaiah 11:6-10
- f. Isaiah 62:1-2
- g. Jeremiah 3:17
- h. Psalm 122:6
- i. Revelation 8:1-6
- j. Revelation 20:2-3

From the list to your right, choose the corresponding letter for three of the reasons why we need to pray for Israel that were listed in Session 1.

- _____ 18.
- _____ 19.
- _____ 20.

Possible Matches for 18-20

- a. We have a mandate to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- b. God blesses those who bless Israel.
- c. Jesus is returning to Jerusalem.
- d. We have a mandate to pray for Israel's destiny.
- e. The Arabs want to destroy Israel and recapture Jerusalem for Allah.
- f. We have a mandate to take no rest until Israel's destiny is fulfilled.
- g. God has promised to gather the Jews from all nations back to Israel.

Session 2

Understanding—The Key to Praying for Israel

This session covers:

- Three reasons why the Church doesn't pray for Israel
- How understanding is the key to praying for Israel
- The great roadblock to understanding Israel's destiny
- Setting our heart to understand Israel's destiny

This session corresponds to:

- Chapters 4 and 11 of *The Zion Mandate* book
- Session 2 of the *Learning to Pray for Israel* CDs

We Have a Mandate to Pray for Israel

1. In Session 1, we looked at our mandate to pray for Israel.

- Isaiah 62:6-7 states, "On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."
- Psalms 122:6 states, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you."
- These verses reveal that we have a mandate to pray for Israel's destiny, to take no rest until Israel's destiny is fulfilled, and to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- The dictionary defines a mandate as "an authoritative order or command, especially a written one."
- God has given us an authoritative command in His Word to pray fervently for Israel on a regular basis.

Three Reasons Why the Church Doesn't Pray for Israel

1. We don't know why Israel is important.

- The main reason the Church doesn't pray for Israel is because we don't know why Israel is so important.
- We see Israel on the nightly news and think, "I know Israel is important, but I don't know why."
- We might even see a preacher on T.V. talking about Israel, but we don't really get it.
- Or perhaps we have heard about Israel in Bible prophecy, but the whole subject of the end-times does not really make sense to us.

2. We don't know how to pray for Israel.

- Some believers see the need to pray for Israel, but all they know is to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6).
- They might pray something like, "God, bring peace to Jerusalem." After about thirty seconds, they are finished praying for Israel.
- Yet the Bible commands us to pray for Israel "all day" and "all night."
- Can you imagine how boring the prayer meeting would be if we just prayed for two hours "bring peace to Jerusalem"?

3. We don't think praying for Israel is practical.

- Some believers are so focused on their own ministry that they view praying for Israel as impractical. They might think, "How does praying for Israel help expand the kingdom of God?" Or, "How does praying for Israel grow the church or bring the lost into the kingdom?"
- Some believers view the entire Israel topic as too complicated for them to understand.
- Many people are so consumed with just trying to get the bills paid and survive the grind of everyday life that praying for Israel does not seem relevant to them.
- Others don't know how their prayers could really make a difference in a country that is thousands of miles away and often entangled in international controversy.

Since each of these reasons for not praying for Israel are rooted in a lack of understanding, the key to praying for Israel on a regular basis is gaining understanding.

Understanding is the Key to Praying for Israel

1. Daniel was motivated to pray for Israel's prophetic destiny because he had understanding.

- Because Daniel understood Israel's prophetic destiny, he was motivated to pray for Israel until he experienced "extreme weariness" (Dan. 9:21).
- Understanding is what inspired Daniel to pray with such focus, passion, and determination. Because Daniel studied and understood Jeremiah's prophecy (Dan. 9:2-3), he was inspired to pray for Israel's restoration with every ounce of strength that he could muster.
- One day, while Daniel was praying for Israel's restoration, the angel Gabriel visited him and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding" (Dan. 9:22). Though Daniel already possessed a measure of understanding, God wanted to give him more. Daniel needed this extra measure of understanding to pray effectively for Israel's restoration.

2. For us to fulfill our role in Israel's prophetic destiny, we need insight with understanding.

- Proverbs 4:7 says, "In all your getting, get understanding" (Prov. 4:7, NKJV).
- In our quest to become watchmen who pray for Israel's prophetic destiny, nothing is more important than getting understanding.
- The more we understand about Israel and her role in the end-times, the more our hearts will burn with God's passion for Israel, and subsequently, the more we will be inspired to pray.
- Understanding Israel's prophetic destiny and the process of how Israel will be restored in the end-times produces effective intercessors who will take action, stand in the gap, and intercede until God's will comes from heaven to earth.

Replacement Theology—The Great Roadblock to Understanding Israel's Destiny

1. We need to understand how Replacement Theology has hindered many believers from understanding Israel's destiny.

- For centuries, Christian leaders have promoted the idea that the Church has replaced Israel in God's prophetic agenda.
- Preachers have taught their congregations that God has rejected the Jews in favor of the Christians, that believers in Jesus are the new Israel, and that Israel's prophetic promises now belong exclusively to the Church.
- In the fourth-century, for example, John Chrysostom taught his flock, "It is into their [the Jews] place that ye have been set."¹

- Ignatius of Antioch, a Christian who was martyred in the first-century, said that the Church was “the new Israel” and that Israel’s prophets were “Christians before their time.”²
- Justin Martyr, a second-century Christian apologist, told a Jew that “the Scriptures are not yours, but ours.”³
- Tertullian (A.D. 160-230), one of the great writers of the early Church, declared in his treatise *Against the Jews* that God has rejected the Jews in favor of the Christians.⁴
- These erroneous teachings, along with many others through the centuries, has created a common doctrinal belief known as Replacement Theology.
- The thinking behind Replacement Theology goes something like this:

Since Israel has rejected her promised Messiah, the Jews no longer have a special calling and Israel no longer has a special place in God’s eternal plans. As a result, the Church has replaced Israel in God’s prophetic purposes and Israel’s glorious promises have been given exclusively to the Church. Thus, the Church has replaced Israel.

2. To partner with God in Israel’s restoration, Replacement Theology must be completely rooted out of our hearts and minds.

- Replacement Theology is a doctrine inspired by demons (1 Tim. 4:1).
- It is a belief system born of man’s ignorance and Satan’s extreme hatred for the Jews.
- In short, Replacement Theology is an instrument of the enemy to abort God’s prophetic agenda.
- Replacement Theology weakens what the prophetic Scriptures teach, creating a roadblock to understanding Israel’s destiny.
- To fulfill our biblical mandate of praying for Israel on a regular basis, the stronghold of Replacement Theology must be shattered in our hearts and minds.

Three Reasons For Replacement Theology

1. Christian anti-Semitism is one of the main reasons why Replacement Theology has gained significant ground in the Church today.

- For centuries, the Church has persecuted, harassed, tortured, and even murdered Jews.
- Through slander, false accusations, forced conversions to Christianity, mandated deportations, banishment into ghettos, and systematic murder, the Church has oppressed the Jewish people for centuries.
- Throughout history, the Church has persecuted the Jews through anti-Jewish policies, the Crusades, the Inquisitions, and even the writings of Martin Luther—who indirectly influenced the Holocaust.
- Recently, when Mel Gibson released *The Passion of the Christ*, the Jewish community feared that Christian anti-Semitism would be revived. Why?

- For centuries, church leaders had ranted and raved that Jews were Christ-killers and slayers of the Lord.
- With vehemence, Christian preachers have labeled the Jewish people as assassins of Christ and haters of God; the sole culprits in Jesus' bloody murder. Popes, bishops, and reformers have charged the Jews with the ultimate crime of deicide.
- Because many in the Church viewed the Jews as Christ-killers, a belief emerged that God had rejected the Jews and that the Church had replaced Israel in God's prophetic agenda.

2. Because the nation of Israel did not exist for almost two-thousand years, people did not know how to interpret the Old Testament prophets.

- In 70 A.D., General Titus Flavius led a Roman army into Jerusalem, where they leveled the temple and murdered countless Jews.
- Sixty-five years later (135 A.D.), the Roman Emperor Hadrian banned the Jews from Jerusalem under penalty of death and turned Jerusalem into a pagan shrine, building a temple to Jupiter on God's holy mountain.
- For almost two-thousand years after this, the nation of Israel did not exist. During this period, most people who read the prophetic Scriptures, such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, probably could not have imagined Israel being reborn. In an effort to make the Scriptures more applicable, people began interpreting Old Testament prophecies by replacing Israel with the Church.
- This led to the allegorical method of interpreting the prophetic Scriptures.

3. Perhaps the greatest reason for Replacement Theology in the Church today is interpreting the prophetic Scriptures allegorically or spiritually.

- When reading the Old Testament prophets, people who interpret the prophetic Scriptures allegorically or spiritually will substitute Jerusalem, Israel, or Zion with the Church.
- For example, when they read Isaiah 2:2, which states, "Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it," they will say something like this: "In these last days, God is raising up His Church above every other institution and all the nations will stream to it."
- In making this statement, people neglect the verse that immediately precedes this verse. Isaiah 2:1 states, "The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem." In other words, this prophecy is not about the Church; it is clearly about Judah and Jerusalem.
- Applying this principle of interpreting the Scriptures makes the Old Testament prophetic books incredibly confusing to read. How do you know when to spiritualize something? How do you know what different cities or people groups stand for?

- This allegorical method of interpreting the Scriptures has basically eliminated a large portion of the Bible—minimizing the impact of many Old Testament prophecies and making them virtually irrelevant to the twenty-first century Church.

Spiritualizing Old Testament prophecies is probably the number one reason why the Church does not pray for Israel today.

Examples of Replacement Theology

1. Below is an example of how Israel could be replaced with the Church in interpreting Old Testament prophecy.

- Isaiah 4:1-4 reads:

For seven women will take hold of one man in that day, saying, "We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name; take away our reproach!" In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel. It will come about that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded for life in Jerusalem. When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning.

- Someone influenced by Replacement Theology might interpret the "seven women" as the Church. Revelation 2-3 seems to confirm this interpretation since Jesus addressed seven churches and the Church is often pictured as a woman (Eph. 5:22-33).
- The "one man" might represent Jesus Christ. This verse could very well describe the Church's independent desire to be blessed by Jesus without fully surrendering to Him. The Church wants to "eat our own bread" and "wear our own clothes" yet still "be called by [His] name."
- From a Replacement Theology perspective, this passage seems to describe an independent Church who really does not love Jesus for who He is; she is just using Him to inherit the blessings of salvation.
- Perhaps verse two reveals God's remedy to break the Church of her selfish ways. God will allow the Church to see Jesus Christ, who is "the Branch of the Lord," in His beauty and glory.
- This revelation would then wean the Church from her independent lifestyle and cause her to fall passionately in love with Jesus.
- Once the Church was captivated by the Lord's beauty, He would then

release “the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning” to purify our hearts.

- The Christians who survived this intense dealing of God would be “holy” because their “filth” and “bloodshed” were washed away. As a result, they would fill the earth with fruit.
- Sounds plausible, doesn’t it? Then try applying this method of interpretation to the whole book of Isaiah.
- You will be totally confused and perplexed. Why? The book of Isaiah was not written to the Church. It was “the vision of Isaiah...concerning Judah and Jerusalem” (Isa. 1:1).
- That is the key to decoding the whole book of Isaiah. It was a prophecy about Jerusalem’s current condition and future glory.
- After seeing this incorrect interpretation, perhaps you wonder what the previous passage of Scripture means.
- To be brief, this passage describes Israel at the end of the age. During the greatest period of testing in the nation’s history, God will preserve a remnant that will be purified by fire. This remnant will then fill the earth with fruit when the Lord Jesus reigns from Jerusalem.

2. Ezekiel 37:1-14 is another passage of Scripture that is frequently used to replace Israel with the Church.

- In this famous vision, Ezekiel is shown a valley of dry bones. With the bones scattered across the ravine, God asked Ezekiel if the bones could live.
- Ezekiel responded by saying that only You know. God then commanded him to prophesy life to the bones until the dismantled graveyard became an exceedingly great army.
- Over the years, as this passage has been used in many sermons and worship songs, Israel has been replaced by the Church.
- Pastors and worship leaders have used this passage to show the Church’s need for revival.
- Yet notice what God explicitly told Ezekiel: “These bones are the whole house of Israel” (Ezek. 37:11). The Lord did not say, “These bones are the Church.”

3. We need to handle the Word of God accurately.

- To handle God’s Word accurately, we need to remember three things: 1) Revelation; 2) Interpretation; and 3) Application.
- *Revelation*: Whenever we read promises from the Old Testament, we need to make sure we know who the prophecy was for.
- *Interpretation*: Based upon whom the revelation was for, we need to interpret the Scripture in its original context.
- *Application*: Applying Old Testament passages to the Church is an effective way of making the Word of God relevant to our generation.
- In stressing the need for a literal approach of interpretation, we should never minimize the impact of applying Old Testament Scriptures to the Church. We just need to make sure we know what the correct interpretation is. The main point is that we need to stop interpreting Old Testament Scriptures by replacing Israel with the Church.

To destroy the stronghold of Replacement Theology, we must answer two important questions:

- 1. Has God rejected the Jews?**
- 2. Has the Church replaced Israel in God's prophetic agenda?**

Has God Rejected the Jews?

1. Throughout history, revered church fathers believed that God had rejected the Jews.

- They proclaimed that God hates the Jews and has rejected them forever.
- They declared that the chosen people have become the accursed race—sentenced to the eternal flames of hell.
- They preached that God has abandoned the Jewish people.
- They said that the Jews will live under the yoke of slavery without end.
- Are these statements true? Has God rejected the Jews?

2. The Bible clearly teaches that God has not rejected the Jews.

- Paul says emphatically, "God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be!...God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew" (Rom. 11:1-2).
- Jeremiah said,

Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; the LORD of hosts is His name: "If this fixed order departs from before Me," declares the LORD, "Then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever." Thus says the LORD, "If the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth searched out below, then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done," declares the LORD (Jer. 31:35-37).

- Israel will cease to be a nation *only* if the sun, the moon, and the stars no longer shine. That sounds like forever!
- The Lord said that He would reject the Jews *only* if the infinitely vast universe could be measured. Do you understand how expansive our universe is? Even the most brilliant scientist knows that our universe is beyond measure.
- Since this is true, God's promise has not changed—He will not reject Israel for what they have done!

Has the Church Replaced Israel in God’s Prophetic Agenda?

1. The Bible says that the covenants and the promises belong to Israel.

- In Romans 9:3-5, Paul said that God gave Israel “the covenants and...the promises.”
- When Paul said that the covenants belong to Israel, he was referring to the covenants that God made with Israel through Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus.
- In fact, Hebrews 8:8 states that all of the promises of the New Covenant in Christ were given to “the House of Israel and the House of Judah.”
- When Paul said that the promises belong to Israel, he was referring to the promises made to Israel through God’s covenants. But he was also referring to the Old Testament prophets, which contain hundreds of unfilled promises to Israel. In fact, these prophetic promises were given to Israel because of God’s covenants with them.
- If the covenants and the promises belong to Israel, that means the Church has not replaced Israel in God’s prophetic agenda.

2. The Church has not replaced Israel—we have been grafted into Israel.

- In Romans 11:17-18, Paul said, “But if some of the branches [unbelieving Jews] were broken off, and you, being a wild olive [a believing Gentile], were grafted in among them [believing Jews] and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree [Israel’s covenants fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah], do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.”
- Summarizing these verses, Paul is saying that Jews who do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah are cut off from partaking of the fullest measure of blessings contained in Israel’s covenants. He is also revealing that Gentiles who believe that Jesus is the Christ are “grafted in among” the believing Jews. Thus, the Church has not replaced Israel—we have been grafted into Israel.
- Think about some of the wonderful promises that we have in Christ. All of these promises were given solely to the Jewish people—not to the Gentile Church. However, Gentiles can partake of these precious promises through Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah.
- Therefore, the Church shares in the commonwealth of Israel and has not replaced Israel.

Replacement Theology has heavily influenced the twenty-first century Church. Now is the time for the Church to wake up to the deceptive nature of Replacement Theology, repent for our involvement in it, and destroy this demonic stronghold.

Set Your Heart On Understanding Israel's Destiny

1. Daniel received revelation about Israel's destiny because he set his heart on getting understanding.

- Daniel 10 shows us how we can grow in revelation and insight about Israel's end-time destiny.
- In this passage of Scripture, we see Daniel praying and fasting for three weeks (Dan. 10:3). In the unseen spirit realm, we see war breaking out between the angels of God and the demonic Prince of Persia (Dan. 10:13).
- After breaking through this demonic resistance, an angel visits Daniel and gives him some of the most detailed revelation about the end-times in the entire Bible (Dan. 11-12).
- What motivated Daniel to pray and fast for three weeks? Verse 12 reveals that Daniel was seeking understanding.
- What was Daniel seeking to understand? The angel answers this question for us in his own words: "Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people [Israel] in the latter days [the end-times], for the vision pertains to the days yet future."
- In other words, Daniel was praying and fasting for greater understanding about Israel and the end-times.
- Notice what the angel tells Daniel: "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words" (Dan. 10:12).
- Notice that Daniel did three things: 1) He set his heart on understanding Israel and the end-times; 2) He humbled himself before God; and 3) He prayed for insight and understanding.

To grow in our understanding of Israel and the end-times, we need to: 1) Set our heart on understanding Israel and the end-times (Dan. 10:12); 2) Pray and fast for insight and revelation about Israel and the end-times (Dan. 10:3); and 3) Read the prophetic Scriptures, such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, without replacing Israel, Jerusalem, or Zion with the Church (Dan. 9:2).

Notes

1. John Chrysostom, *Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistle to the Romans*, from *A Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church*, vol. 11, ed. Philip Schaff (New York: The Christian Literature Company, 1889), p. 491, quoted in Finto, *Your People Shall Be My People*, p. 89.
2. John Hagee, *Final Dawn over Jerusalem* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1998), p. 97.
3. <http://www.bridgesforpeace.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=2175>, referenced on December, 12, 2005.

Review Questions

True or False

- _____ 1. Daniel's discipline motivated him to pray for Israel's restoration.
- _____ 2. Since the Old Testament prophets were written so long ago, we should make these writings more relevant by replacing Israel with the Church.
- _____ 3. The Church has not replaced Israel—we have been grafted into Israel.
- _____ 4. Daniel received revelation about Israel's destiny because he set his heart on getting understanding.
- _____ 5. Because the nation of Israel did not exist for almost two-thousand years, people did not know how to interpret the Old Testament prophets.
- _____ 6. Because Israel rejected Jesus, God has given the kingdom of God to the Church and Christians have replaced the Jews as God's chosen people.
- _____ 7. Discipline is the key to praying for Israel on a regular basis.
- _____ 8. Ezekiel 37:1-14 teaches that God wants to bring revival to the Church.

Fill in the Blank

9. Proverbs 4:7 says in all your getting, get _____.
10. _____ is the key to praying for Israel.
11. The more we _____ about Israel and her role in the end-times, the more our hearts will burn with God's _____ for Israel, and subsequently, the more we will be inspired to _____.
12. To partner with God in Israel's _____, _____ must be completely rooted out of our hearts and minds.
13. Replacement Theology is a doctrine inspired by _____.
14. _____ is one of the main reasons why Replacement Theology has gained significant ground in the Church today.

15. The greatest reason for Replacement Theology in the Church today is _____
the prophetic Scriptures _____ or _____.

Matching (Place the letter of the correct answer in the blank space.)

16. The Bible clearly teaches that God has
not _____ the Jews.
17. The _____ belong to Israel.
18. The _____ belong to Israel.
19. _____ Old Testament
prophecies is probably the number one
reason why the Church does not pray for
Israel today.
20. The main reason the Church doesn't pray
for Israel is because we don't know why
Israel is so _____.

Possible Matches for 16-20

- a. Favored
- b. Neglecting
- c. Covenants
- d. Rejected
- e. Necessary
- f. Promises
- g. Important
- h. Spiritualizing
- i. Understanding

Session 3

Why Israel Is Important to the World

This session covers:

- How God uses Israel to bless the world
- How God blesses those who bless Israel
- How God curses those who curse Israel

This session corresponds to:

- Chapter 3 of *The Zion Mandate* book
- Session 3 of *Learning to Pray for Israel* CDs

Israel Is God's Servant

1. God uses Israel to bless and to curse the world.

- Whoever blesses the Jews will be blessed and whoever curses the Jews will be cursed (Gen. 12:3).
- This promise has proven true throughout history.
- Nations, cities, churches, and individuals have been greatly blessed by treating the Jews with honor, esteem, and favor.
- On the other hand, God has dismantled seemingly indestructible world empires in a moment because they mistreated the Jews.
- Understanding this dynamic is important if we want to continue in God's blessings and pray effectively for Israel's restoration.

2. God uses Israel to shape world history.

- Isaiah said that Israel is God's servant (Isa. 41:8-9).
- Because of this, the nations of the earth need to understand that Israel is essential to their survival.

- God is using Israel to bring in the fullness of the Gentiles, to shake the nations of the earth, and to topple powerful empires.
- God is using Israel to sift the souls of presidents and prime ministers, kings and queens, believers and unbelievers.
- Whether we realize it or not, Israel and the Jewish people have shaped much of world history. For instance, Assyria and Babylon sank into obscurity because they touched the apple of God's eye.
- The Spanish Empire and the British Empire—both superpowers of their day—lost preeminence because they mistreated God's chosen people.
- From Haman to Hitler, Nebuchadnezzar to Hussein, and Pharaoh to Stalin, God has cursed every ruler that has harmed the Jewish people.
- Israel really does set the destiny of nations—both for good and for bad.

God Uses Israel to Bless the World

1. Israel has blessed the world throughout history.

- God told Abraham, "In you all the families of the earth will be blessed" (Gen. 12:3).
- Paul used this verse to show how it was fulfilled through the gospel of Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:8).
- Israel has given us the Bible, the Messiah, and the Church.

2. Israel has blessed the world in modern history.

- Moses said, "When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel" (Deut. 32:8).
- In other words, God gave different nationalities and people groups their own land in proportion to the Jewish nation.
- In 1946, two years before Israel became a nation, there were seventy-four independent countries.
- Two years after Israel declared her independence there were eighty-nine. By 1995 there were 192. That means 103 nations declared their independence in a mere forty-five year period.
- Because Israel was put into her rightful place in 1948, God granted over one-hundred nations their independence.

3. The Jewish people have blessed the world in modern history.

- Albert Einstein, one of the greatest physicists of all times, was a Jew. He blessed the world with $E=mc^2$ and he gave the world the Theory of Relativity.
- Casimir Funk introduced vitamins to the world. Abraham Jacobi, the founder of American pediatrics, created the laryngoscope. Jonas Salk invented the polio vaccine. Isaac Hayes founded the American Medical Association. Simon Baruch was the first doctor to discover and successfully complete an appendectomy.
- Other Jews invented the microphone, gramophone, calculator, syn-

- thetic rubber, and petroleum.
- The list of successful Jewish actors, directors, musicians, scientists, doctors, and politicians goes on.
- God has truly used Israel to bless the world.

God Blesses Those Who Bless Israel

1. Those who actively bless, honor, and help Israel will be blessed.

- God told Abraham, “I will bless those who bless you” (Gen. 12:3).
- This means that individuals, families, churches, businesses, cities, states, and nations that bless Israel will be blessed.
- As we sow blessings into Israel—whether money, resources, or prayer—we will reap blessings.

2. As an example, the United States has been significantly blessed for blessing Israel.

- Although U.S. policy toward Israel is far from perfect, the U.S. has blessed Israel in many ways.
- In 1948, the U.S. was the first country to recognize Israel as a sovereign nation.
- During the Cold War, America tried to persuade the Soviets to let the Jewish people immigrate to Israel.
- Over the last fifty years, the U.S. government has also given Israel billions of dollars in foreign aid.
- As a result of this benevolence, the United States is one of the most blessed nations in the world.
- The U.S. economy has skyrocketed, homeownership is at the highest level in history, and America is on the cutting-edge of technology, medicine, communications, transportation, warfare, and business.
- Blessing Israel is not the only reason why America is blessed, but it is a significant reason.

God Curses Those Who Curse Israel

1. Throughout history, God has cursed those who have cursed Israel.

- As a part of the Abrahamic Covenant, God said, “The one who curses you I will curse” (Gen. 12:3).
- In making this statement, God used two Hebrew words for curse. The first Hebrew word used for “curses” is *qalal*. One of its definitions is to make small. Other meanings are to be trifling, to be of little account, or to be insignificant.
- The second Hebrew word used for “curse” is *’arar*, which simply means to curse.

- Substituting these definitions into this verse, here is how it reads: *The one who makes you small, treats you in a trivial way, or views you as insignificant, I will curse.*
- In a covenant vow, God promised to curse whoever tries to make Israel smaller, whoever mistreats the Jews, or whoever simply views Israel as insignificant or irrelevant. How true this promise has been throughout history!
- When the ancient Egyptians mistreated Israel, God devastated Pharaohs' mighty empire with plagues, destruction, and death.
- When Amalek went to war against Israel, God promised to "war against Amalek from generation to generation" (Ex. 17:16).
- Both Assyria and Babylon, great empires who ruled the world in their day, were severely judged because they harmed the Jewish people.
- When Haman sought to eradicate the Persian Jews of his day, he was hung on his own gallows (Est. 7:10).
- The list does not stop there. A quick glance through world history validates that God watches over His word to perform it.
- We would do well to learn from the past because as the old saying goes, "Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it."

2. The Spanish Empire was cursed for cursing Israel.

- In the fifteenth century, Spain was a world power and home to hundreds of thousands of Jews.
- Queen Isabella, wanting to cleanse the nation of Jewish influence, enacted a law to evict all Jews who did not convert to Christianity.
- The Jews were given four months to leave Spain or convert to the Christian faith.
- More than one-hundred thousand Jews packed their bags and abandoned the homeland their ancestors had lived in for fifteen-hundred years. Without a home, these wandering Jews took refuge in countries such as Turkey, North Africa, Egypt, France, Holland, and Italy.
- For an estimated fifty-thousand Jews, however, leaving their homeland was too difficult. These Jews forsook everything Jewish and converted to Christianity.
- Unfortunately, the tens of thousands of Jews who did not leave Spain or convert to Christianity were burned at the stake. As a result of this persecution, Spain's worldwide influence began to dwindle.
- Author John Philips summarizes this decline of the Spanish Empire when he writes, "Not until the coming of Hitler did the Jews suffer such widespread persecution as they did in Spain. The decline and fall of the Spanish Empire can be dated from the time that Spain expelled all its Jews."¹

3. The British Empire was cursed for cursing Israel.

- The most extensive kingdom ever built, they say that the sun never set on the British Empire. But a turning point came after World War I when Britain was given responsibility for establishing a Jewish homeland in the Middle East.
- Pressured by Arab oil, the British gave the Arabs almost eighty per-

cent of the land held in trust for the Jews. Then the British reduced Jewish immigration into Palestine to a trickle.

- With no place to escape, multitudes of Nazi-hunted Jews perished in Hitler's extermination ovens.
- After the war, the British even blocked boatloads of Holocaust survivors from entering Palestine.
- Wanting to wash their hands clean of the mandate, the British eventually handed Palestine over to the U.N.
- In the end, the British even armed the Arabs in their attempt to abort the Jewish nation.
- As a result of this high-level betrayal, the British Empire—which had taken approximately three centuries to build, had included a quarter of the world's land surface, and governed more than 400 million people—was dismantled in only three decades into a few scattered islands.
- When Britain touched the apple of God's eye, the sun set on her empire forever.

4. The United States was cursed for cursing Israel.

- On August 29, 2005, the most destructive and costliest hurricane in U.S. history hit Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.
- The sixth strongest tropical storm ever recorded in the Atlantic Ocean, Hurricane Katrina had sustained winds of 175 mph, caused more than thirteen-hundred deaths, and cost the U.S. government in excess of eighty-billion dollars. Over one-million people were displaced and an estimated five-million people were without electrical power.
- Just one day before Hurricane Katrina began to form in the Bahamas, the last Jewish evacuees were forcibly removed from their homes in Gaza.
- Under international pressure—especially from the United States—thousands of Jews living in Gaza were uprooted from their homes, farms, and synagogues.
- Over eight-thousand Jews were forced to find refuge in hotels, shelters, and tents. Israeli bulldozers razed Jewish settlements to the ground. Brokenhearted Jews watched as their dreams, their memories, and their future were demolished.
- Why did the Gaza pullout take place? Because the nations of the world, particularly the United States, had been advocating a political process that would divide up the biblical land of Israel.
- Known as the Quartet, the United States, the European Union, the United Nations, and Russia had been pushing for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- This Roadmap to Peace calls on Israel to relinquish her land in exchange for peace from the Palestinians. Gaza was only the beginning of this proposal. Ultimately, the Quartet plans to give the Palestinians the West Bank and East Jerusalem.
- Recall from earlier that, in God's eyes, cursing Israel involves making her smaller than she already is. In fact, when Jesus judges the nations at His second coming, one of His indictments will be that the nations "have divided up My land" (Joel 3:2).

- Ultimately, Israel belongs to God and whoever attempts to shrink the borders of His covenant land will have a direct confrontation with Him. Every president, politician, and king should heed this warning: Whoever makes Israel smaller will come under the curse of God.
- Notice the parallel between what happened to the United States through Hurricane Katrina and what happened to Israel at the Gaza pullout²:
 - Within a few days after some eight-thousand Jewish evacuees were forced to find refuge in hotels, shelters, and tents in Israel, over half-a-million U.S. evacuees were forced to find refuge in hotels, shelters, and tents in America.
 - Within a few days after Israeli homes and communities along the Gaza coast were utterly destroyed, many American homes along the Gulf Coast were utterly destroyed.
 - Business lost to Gaza coast evacuees will cost Israel millions of dollars; business lost to Gulf Coast evacuees will cost the U.S. billions of dollars.
 - One of the motivations behind the Roadmap to Peace is securing Middle Eastern oil. After Hurricane Katrina hit U.S. oil refineries and the port of New Orleans, oil production, importation, refining, and fuel prices were significantly impacted.
 - Deceased Israelis were exhumed from their graves in Gaza in order to be reburied in another place. Coffins in the Gulf Coast were seen disinterred from their resting place and lying in water.
- Obadiah said, "The Lord's vengeance will soon fall upon all Gentile nations. As you have done to Israel, so will it be done to you. Your acts will boomerang upon your heads" (Obad. 15-16, TLB).
- This verse accurately describes what happened to the U.S. immediately after the Gaza pullout. The parallel is strikingly clear. What America did to Israel came back upon her head like a boomerang.

As we think about the benefits of blessing Israel and the consequences of cursing Israel, let's begin today blessing Israel through prayer, giving, and standing wholeheartedly with the Jewish nation.

Notes

1. John Philips, *Exploring the World of the Jew* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1988), p. 111, quoted in John Hagee, *Final Dawn over Jerusalem* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1998), pp. 36-37.
2. <http://www.maozisrael.org/db/detail.asp?ID=193>, referenced on December 9, 2005.

Review Questions

True or False

- _____ 1. Israel is still God's chosen servant.
- _____ 2. One way that a nation can curse Israel is by trying to shrink her borders.
- _____ 3. When God made a covenant with David, He promised to bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel.
- _____ 4. The British Empire was cursed for cursing Israel when Queen Isabella enacted a law to evict all Jews who did not convert to Christianity.
- _____ 5. As we sow blessings into Israel—whether money, resources, or prayer—we will reap blessings.
- _____ 6. Because Israel was put into her rightful place in 1948, God granted ten nations their independence.
- _____ 7. Israel has blessed the world by giving us the Bible, the Messiah, and the Church.

Fill in the Blank

8. Whoever _____ the Jews will be _____ and whoever _____ the Jews will be _____.
9. In 1946, two years before Israel became a nation, there were _____ independent countries.
10. Two years after Israel declared her independence there were _____ independent countries. By 1995 there were _____. That means _____ nations declared their independence in a mere _____ year period.
11. In Genesis 12:3, the first Hebrew word used for "curses" is qalal. One of its definitions is to _____. Other meanings are to be _____, to be of _____, or to be _____.
12. The _____ was cursed for cursing Israel because they forced the Jews to leave their homeland and burned them at the stake.

13. The _____ was cursed for cursing Israel because they gave almost eighty percent of the land held in trust for the Jews to the Arabs and armed the Arabs in their war against Israel.

14. The _____ was cursed for cursing Israel because they forced the Jews to pullout of Gaza.

Matching (Place the letter of the correct answer in the blank space.)

_____ 15. Scripture verse(s) that state(s) that Israel is God's servant.

_____ 16. Scripture verse(s) that reveal(s) how all the families of the earth will be blessed through Abraham.

_____ 17. Scripture verse(s) that describe(s) how the Lord will set the boundaries of the nations based upon the land of Israel.

_____ 18. Scripture verse(s) that reveal(s) how Jesus will judge the nations for dividing up Israel.

_____ 19. Scripture verse(s) that describe(s) how God will judge Gentile nations for how they treated Israel.

_____ 20. Scripture verse(s) that state(s) how God will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel.

Possible Matches for 15-20

- a. Genesis 12:4-6
- b. Genesis 12:3
- c. Isaiah 62:6-7
- d. Matthew 23:39
- e. Esther 7:10
- f. Deuteronomy 32:8
- g. Isaiah 41:8-9
- h. Obadiah 15-16
- i. Exodus 17:16
- j. Joel 3:2

Session 4

Why Israel Is Important to the Church

This session covers:

- Why Israel and the Jewish people are essential to the Church's end-time destiny
- Four reasons why Israel is important to the Church

This session corresponds to:

- Chapters 4-5 of *The Zion Mandate* book
- Session 4 of *Learning to Pray for Israel* CDs

Israel and the Church

1. There are four reasons why Israel is important to the Church. These are:

1. Israel is the apple of God's eye.
2. Christianity is Jewish.
3. Israel is God's land and His servant.
4. Israel's end-time revival will usher in the return of the Lord.

1. Israel Is the Apple of God's Eye.

1. We must understand God's heart for Israel.

- Reading through the Psalms and the Prophets, you quickly realize God's deep affections and passionate emotions for Israel.
- The Bible paints a vivid picture of God's exuberant zeal and fervent love for His covenant land and chosen people.
- In describing God's heart for the Jews, the Scriptures

use words such as precious, exceedingly jealous, delight, desire, chosen, and sought out.

- God is called Israel's Father, Keeper, and Shepherd.
- The Bible reveals that God's eye is on the city of Jerusalem; He is watching over His land with dedicated focus.
- Prophesying over Israel, Zechariah declared, "After glory He has sent me against the nations which plunder you, for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye" (Zech. 2:8).
- The apple of the eye is the pupil—one of the most sensitive parts of the body. It symbolizes something or someone that is deeply cherished and highly valued.
- This verse shows us that the land of Israel and the Jewish people are sensitive subjects to the Lord; He treasures them both deeply.
- Harming the Jews is like poking a finger in the eye of God; it is a direct infringement against the Almighty.
- The smallest act of injustice towards the Jewish people pains the heart of God. He feels the heartache and suffering of His chosen people.

2. The Scriptures describe in vivid detail the way God feels about Israel.

- The Lord burns with desire for Israel. The Psalmist stated, "For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. 'This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it'" (Ps. 132:13-14). God told Israel, "You are precious in My sight...you are honored" (Isa. 43:4). Even though many Jewish people still reject Jesus as their Messiah, God's love for the Jews has never wavered.
- God is also exceedingly jealous for Israel. Zechariah prophesied, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and Zion'" (Zech. 1:14).
- Every nation that mistreats the apple of God's eye stirs up His jealousy and anger. Any king, president, or dictator who pushes an ungodly agenda upon the Holy City will have a direct confrontation with the God of Israel, who burns with jealous fire.
- God's jealousy excites His wrath, and His wrath brings about the utter destruction of Israel's enemies. Jealousy inspires God to defend His beloved people, defeat their enemies, and fulfill every covenant promise.
- Jeremiah revealed God's overflowing love and tender compassion for the Jewish people when he prophesied, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness. Again I will build you and you will be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel!" (Jer. 31:3-4).
- God's love for the Jewish people has no bounds or limits. It is an unchanging, unconditional, overflowing, and steadfast love.
- God loves Israel like a husband loves his wife (Isa. 54:5-10). As a lovesick Husband, God says to His wife Israel, "With everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you" and "My lovingkindness will not be removed from you" (Isa. 54:8,10).
- The Lord is the keeper and the guardian of Israel (Ps. 121:4; Isa. 27:2-3). Though terrorists plot against Israel and nations seek to di-

vide her, God is watching over Israel as the Chief Watchman.

- Zechariah described God's heart toward Israel when he prophesied, "I have again purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not fear!" (Zech. 8:13-15).
- Hosea stated, "Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days" (Hos. 3:5).
- Undoubtedly, the Lord will exert His infinite power to bless Israel in the days to come. Nothing will be able to thwart this purpose. Not the media. Not charismatic leaders. Not the hordes of Islamic armies. Nothing will hinder God from blessing Israel. It is guaranteed and secured by the blood of Jesus—God will do good to Israel in the days ahead!
- In summary, the Lord's heart for Israel burns with desire, is exceedingly jealous, overflows with love and compassion, and is filled with mercy.

The most important reason why Israel is important to the Church is because Israel is important to God.

2. Christianity Is Jewish.

1. Jesus Christ—our Lord and Savior—is Jewish.

- Several movies feature a blue-eyed Jesus that looks more like an American right out of Hollywood than a Jew from the Middle East.
- Jesus Christ, known as Yeshua to the Hebrews of His day, was born a Jew, died a Jew, and will return as a Jew.
- He observed all the customs of the Law, studied the Torah, went to the temple, and celebrated the Jewish feasts.
- When Jesus died on the cross in Jerusalem, He was fulfilling the Jewish festival of Passover. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God that was slain for the sins of the world!
- Three days later, when Jesus rose from the dead, He fulfilled the Feast of First-Fruits by becoming the "first fruits of those who are asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20).
- When Jesus came the first time to tabernacle among men (John 1:14), it was a partial fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles. When Jesus returns the second time as the reigning King, He will completely fulfill this festival as "all the nations...go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths [the Feast of Tabernacles]" (Zech. 14:16, emphasis mine).
- Jesus Christ is still the King of the Jews (John 18:33-37). In fact, Jesus has even maintained His Jewish identity in heaven. When John was taken into the heavenly throne room, he described Jesus as "the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David" (Rev. 5:5).

- When Isaiah spoke of the Messiah, he called Him Israel. Notice what he said:

Listen to Me, O islands, and pay attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called Me from the womb; from the body of My mother He named Me. He has made My mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me; and He has also made Me a select arrow, He has hidden Me in His quiver. He said to Me, "*You are My Servant, Israel, in Whom I will show My glory.*"...And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (Isa. 49:1-3,5).

- As the Messiah, Jesus prevailed in the same areas where ancient Israel failed. Like Israel, Jesus was called out of Egypt and tested in the wilderness for forty days (Matt. 2:13-15; Matt. 4:1-11). Yet instead of failing God's tests, Jesus prevailed—qualifying Him to possess the Promised Land in the Millennial Kingdom and to rule the earth as God.
- Jesus is the prototype of what the Jewish nation is to become. He is the One to whom all the promises were made and fulfilled.

2. The Scriptures are Jewish.

- All thirty-nine books of the Old Testament were written by Jewish authors.
- With the exception of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, Jews also wrote the New Testament.

3. At its inception, the Church was almost entirely Jewish.

- The Church began in Jerusalem under the leadership of twelve Jewish apostles and remained entirely Jewish until the Gospel spread into Antioch (Acts 11:19-30).
- The early Church practiced Jewish customs, went to the synagogue, observed the Sabbath, and celebrated the festivals of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.
- The Word of God declares that "salvation is from the Jews" and that the gospel is for "the Jew first" (John 4:22; Rom. 1:16).
- Christianity is not a new religion created by Gentiles; it is the fulfillment of the Jewish Law and prophets. As author Edith Schaeffer put it, *Christianity is Jewish*.

4. The Bible teaches that Christianity will be Jewish in the Millennial Kingdom and in heaven.

- The prophets tell us that Christianity will be Jewish when Jesus reigns in Israel for a thousand years.
- The temple will be reestablished (Ezek. 40-48).
- The priestly system will be restored (Isa. 66:21).
- The feasts will be celebrated (Zech. 14:16).

- The Sabbath will be observed (Isa. 66:23).
- The Law will go forth from Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-4).
- Even in heaven, we see Israel's significance. We are told of the new city Jerusalem, Mount Zion, the twelve tribes of Israel, and the twelve apostles (Rev. 21:2; 14:1; 21:12; 21:14).
- As Derek Prince said about heaven, "No one with anti-Semitic prejudice could ever feel comfortable there."²

3. Israel's Is God's Land and His Servant.

1. The Bible clearly reveals that the land of Israel belongs to God.

- Many times in the Bible, God calls Israel "My land" (2 Chron. 7:20; Isa. 14:25; Jer. 2:7; Jer. 16:18; Ezek. 36:5; Ezek. 38:16; Joel 3:2).
- When Jesus returns and judges the nations, He will punish them because, in God's own words, they have "divided up My land" (Joel 3:2).
- In the last days, God said that He would bring an alliance of nations "against My land" in order to display His glory and might (Ezek. 38:16).
- When the nations gather to devise a peace plan which involves dividing Israel, it appears logical, reasonable, and benevolent in the eyes of the world. However, God's perspective is that the nations are appropriating "My land for themselves as a possession with wholehearted joy and with scorn of soul" (Ezek. 36:5).
- Though God has given His land to the Jewish people, Israel ultimately belongs to God. That is why Israel is so important to the Church.

2. Israel is still God's chosen servant.

- Isaiah prophesied, "But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, descendant of Abraham My friend... 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you'" (Isa. 41:8-9).
- Almost every generation since the early church believed they were living in the last days. This was impossible, however, since many end-time prophecies depend upon Israel being a nation. Of course, that all changed in 1948 when Israel became a sovereign state after centuries of desolation. Now, God is using His servant Israel in powerful ways to set the stage for the end-time drama in Jerusalem.
- How is God using Israel as His servant? For starters, Paul said that Israel's transgression has led to the salvation of the Gentiles (Rom. 11:11). In light of this, consider what Don Finto wrote in his book, *Your People Shall Be My People*: "Seventy percent of all those who have ever come to faith in Jesus have come since the first Zionist conference in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897."³
- Not only has Israel's transgression led to the salvation of the Gentiles, but Israel's national salvation will result in "life from the dead" as a new age of glory is ushered in (Rom. 11:15).
- Consider also the parallels between the emergence of Zionism and the beginnings of the Pentecostal Movement and the Welsh Revival. In the

early 1900s a Jewish movement called Zionism, which sought a national homeland in Palestine for all Jews, grew significantly in the early 1900s. Around the same time, the Pentecostal Movement began in both Topeka, Kansas (1901) and in Los Angeles, California (The Azusa Street Revival of 1906). These two revivals initiated massive church growth and a restoration of the Holy Spirit's power, presence, and gifts.

- In addition to the Pentecostal Movement, God also poured out His Spirit in Wales, England in 1904, initiating the Welsh Revival. This revival, which spread to the four corners of the world, added some one-hundred thousand new converts to the Church.
- Also consider the parallels between Israel's rebirth as a nation, the Latter Rain Revival of the 50s and 60s, and the Faith Movement. When Israel became a nation in 1948, the Latter Rain Revival of the 1950s and 60s began. This revival was characterized by powerful healings, the laying on of hands, spiritual gifts, fasting, prayer, prophecy, and the reemergence of the five-fold ministry. The Faith Movement can also be traced to this period of church history.
- Consider the parallels between Jerusalem being recaptured in 1967, the Charismatic Movement, the Jesus Movement, and the modern-day Worship Movement.
- In 1967, Israel defeated the Jordanians in the Six-Day War and captured Jerusalem, their prized possession. During this same period, the Charismatic Movement grew rapidly, attracting broad attention in the 60s. This movement, also characterized by the Holy Spirit's power, crossed denominational lines; it touched the Episcopal, Lutheran, and Presbyterian churches first, followed by the Roman Catholic Church in 1967 and the Greek Orthodox Church in 1971. Today, the Charismatic Movement has influenced millions of believers around the world.
- The Jesus Movement, which brought thousands of people to Christ, also began around this time. One of the most significant contributions of the Jesus Movement was the anointed worship music that brought many new believers into the presence of God. This music helped initiate the Worship Movement that is still growing in our day.

4. Israel's End-Time Revival Will Usher in the Return of the Lord.

1. Jesus' Triumphal Entry is a prophetic picture of Jerusalem just prior to the return of the Lord.

- Days before He went to the cross, as throngs of people gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, Jesus was virtually crowned the King of Israel.
- Mounted on a donkey, Jesus split through the masses of people as He rode toward the city gate. The crowds ahead of Him and behind were shouting out, "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" (Matt. 21:9).
- Known as the Triumphal Entry, the Jewish people collectively acknowledged that Jesus was their promised King and Messiah.

- The Triumphal Entry is a prophetic picture of Jerusalem just prior to the return of the Lord.
- Jesus used this event to foreshadow the Holy City at the end of the age. He told the Jews, "For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'" (Matt. 23:39, NIV).
- Using the very words the Jews shouted a day before, Jesus revealed to the end-time generation what must take place before He returns.
- Paraphrasing this verse, Jesus told the Jews gathered in Jerusalem, "Just as you acknowledged Me as your King and Messiah a day before, I will not return until you do the same thing."
- Thus, Israel's end-time revival will usher in the return of the Lord.

2. We are fast approaching the day when the Jewish people living in Jerusalem will welcome Jesus back.

- As more Jewish people return to Israel, we know that their salvation is near. This is one of the main reasons the devil is fighting so hard against Jewish immigration.
- The enemy has used wars, suicide bombers, poverty, prosperity, evil governments—anything to keep the Jewish people from immigrating back to Israel.
- The devil knows his time is finished when the Jews living in Jerusalem cry out in one accord, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."
- This prophecy was impossible until 1967—the landmark year when Israel recaptured Jerusalem in the Six Day War.
- Up until that time, Gentile powers had trampled upon Jerusalem. From the Romans to the Crusaders to the Ottoman Empire to the United Nations, Jerusalem was occupied by Gentile nations for centuries.
- But when God gave Israel a supernatural victory in the Six-Day War and the Jews recaptured their eternal capital city, it set the stage for the Jewish people in Jerusalem to cry out, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

As we understand Israel's significance, we will no longer view Israel as irrelevant to the Church and the expansion of the kingdom of God. Instead, we will stand with Israel and partner with God in her restoration.

Notes

1. Martin Luther, *On the Jews and Their Lies*, quoted on <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/luther-jews.html>, referenced on December, 8, 2005.
2. Derek Prince, *Promised Land* (Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen Books, 2005), p. 19.
3. Don Finto, *Your People Shall Be My People* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2001), p. 43.

Review Questions

True or False

- _____ 1. The most important reason why Israel is important to the Church is because Jesus was born in Israel.
- _____ 2. Israel is important to the Church because the Jews wrote most of the Bible.
- _____ 3. Israel is important to the Church because Jesus is Jewish.
- _____ 4. Israel is important to the Church because Israel is God's servant.
- _____ 5. Jesus fulfilled the Feast of Tabernacles at His first coming.
- _____ 6. Reading through the Old Testament, it is difficult to tell how God feels about Israel.
- _____ 7. Israel is the orange of God's eye.
- _____ 8. 1967 is an important year in God's prophetic calendar.

Fill in the Blank

9. In the last days, God said that He would bring an alliance of nations against _____ in order to display His glory and might.
10. All _____ books of the Old Testament were written by Jewish authors. With the exception of the _____ and the book of _____, Jews also wrote the New Testament.
11. _____ is not a new religion created by _____; it is the fulfillment of the Jewish _____ and _____.
12. When Jesus died on the cross in Jerusalem, He was fulfilling the Jewish festival of _____. Three days later, when Jesus rose from the dead, He fulfilled the _____ of _____.
13. God's _____ excites His wrath, and His wrath brings about the utter destruction of Israel's enemies. _____ inspires God to defend His beloved people, defeat their enemies, and fulfill every _____ promise.

14. God is called Israel's _____, _____, and _____.

15. When God gave Israel a supernatural victory in the _____ War and the Jews recaptured their eternal capital city, it set the stage for the Jewish people in _____ to cry out, "_____ is He who comes in the _____ of the _____."

Identify five reasons why Israel is important to the Church from the list on the right and place the correct letters in the spaces next to questions 16 through 20.

- _____ 16.
- _____ 17.
- _____ 18.
- _____ 19.
- _____ 20.

Possible Matches for 16-20

- a. Understanding Israel's geography and history helps us understand the Bible much better.
- b. Israel's modern-day restoration is the greatest miracle in two-thousand years.
- c. Israel is the apple of God's eye.
- d. Visiting biblical sites such as Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Galilee helps us draw closer to God.
- e. Israel has given us the Bible, the Messiah, and the Church.
- f. Israel is God's servant.
- g. Israel is God's land.
- h. Israel's end-revival will lead to the second coming of Christ.

Session 5

Israel in the Millennial Kingdom

This session covers:

- Our mandate to pray for Israel's destiny
- An overview of the Millennial Kingdom
- Israel's role in the Millennial Kingdom

This session corresponds to:

- Chapter 1 of *The Zion Mandate* book
- Session 5 of *Learning to Pray for Israel* CDs

Until Jerusalem Is a Praise in the Earth

1. We have a mandate to pray for Israel's destiny.

- Isaiah 62:6-7 states, "On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."
- From this Scripture, notice that we are to continue praying "until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."
- In other words, we are to pray until Israel's destiny is fulfilled.
- For us to function as watchmen that intercede until Jerusalem becomes a praise in the earth, we need to understand God's blueprint. We need to know what the Bible states about Israel's glorious future.

2. When Isaiah said that Jerusalem would become a praise in the earth, he was alluding to the time when

God fulfills every prophetic promise spoken over Israel.

- This time of prophetic fulfillment is known as the Messianic Age, the Kingdom Age, or the Millennial Kingdom. It is the time when Jesus will reign as King from Jerusalem for a thousand years (Rev. 20:4).
- It will be a time of unprecedented peace, prosperity, righteousness, and glory (Isa. 60).
- It will be a period when heaven invades earth, all of God's enemies are defeated, Satan and his demons are bound for a thousand years, and Jesus rules the nations with a rod of iron (Ps. 2; Rev. 20).
- In the Millennial Kingdom, the world will be transformed into a lush paradise, harmony will be restored between humanity and creation, and worship will fill the planet as the glory of God covers the earth like the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:6-10).

Understanding the Millennial Kingdom is a vital part of praying for Israel's destiny.

An Overview of the Millennial Kingdom

1. The Millennium is a literal one-thousand year period in which Jesus will rule the whole world from Jerusalem.

- Millennium is from the Latin "mille," which means a thousand.
- John described Jesus' thousand-year reign when he wrote, "I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them....They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years....They will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4-6).
- During the thousand-year reign of Christ, the kingdom of God will come in fullness to the earth. This will affect every sphere of life, including politics, agriculture, economics, education, law enforcement, family dynamics, media, the arts, technology, athletics, and every social institution.
- The result will be a one-thousand year period of unprecedented blessing for the whole earth as Jesus establishes righteousness and prosperity, and restores the agriculture, atmosphere, and animal life to some of the conditions that were seen in the Garden of Eden (Rev. 20:1-6; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2:6-12; 110:1-7; Mt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21).
- The Millennial Kingdom is one of the major revelations of Scripture. Jesus' core message was that God's kingdom was being released in a new measure on earth. The New Testament makes clear that the kingdom is already here in a limited expression but is not yet fully here until Jesus returns.

- Recall that Jesus taught us to pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10).

2. Jesus will rule over two types of kings in the Millennial Kingdom.

- Daniel saw the heavenly coronation of Jesus as the eternal King over all the dominions of the earth. He wrote, "One like the Son of Man [Jesus]...came to the Ancient of Days [the Father]...To Him [Jesus] was given...a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him...His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve Him" (Dan. 7:13-14, 27, NKJV).
- John described Jesus as the "*KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS*" (Rev. 19:16).
- Jesus, as King of kings, will govern a worldwide kingdom in partnership with two types of kings:
 1. The kings of the earth with non-resurrected bodies who survived the end-time shakings (Isa. 4:3; 10:20; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Joel 2:32; Zech. 14:16).
 2. The saints with resurrected bodies who will rule with Christ as kings (Rev. 20:6).
- John described these two types of kings when he wrote, "Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth [non-resurrected bodies]. To Him who loved us...and has made us [resurrected saints] kings and priests to His God and Father" (Rev. 1:5-6, NKJV).
- In the Millennial Kingdom, the kings of the earth will be saved, will worship Jesus, and will base their national governments on God's Word (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; Isa. 62:2).
- Psalm 72:11 states, "All kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him" (NKJV).
- Saints with resurrected bodies will be made kings and/or rulers over different spheres of life (Matt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Luke 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom 8:17).
- John wrote, "He who overcomes...TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON" (Rev. 2:26-27). The overcoming saints, in partnership with Jesus, will rule the nations with a rod of iron.
- These two types of kings, together with Christ, will establish a godly social order that will transform every sphere of life.

3. In the Millennial Kingdom, the natural processes of life will continue on the earth.

- Ephesians 1:10 says that heaven and earth will be brought together as one in Christ. This will progress to a whole new level in the Millennial Kingdom.
- Heaven speaks of the glory of God and the unlimited, supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. The earth speaks of the natural processes of life, as we know it today. In the Millennial Kingdom, the natural proc-

esses of life will not be discarded—they will be brought to an entirely new level by the glory of God and the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.

- Speaking of the Millennial Kingdom, Isaiah prophesied that the offspring of Christ will “possess nations and will resettle the desolate cities” (Isa. 54:3).
- This will probably involve replacing the governmental leaders from the antichrist’s worldwide government with new people at every level of public life.
- Resettling the desolate cities will also involve rebuilding the infrastructures that were destroyed during the Tribulation. Perhaps this will involve rebuilding highways, bridges, economic systems, educational systems, and law enforcement.
- The resurrected saints in partnership with the kings of the earth will work together to fully restore the cities of the earth that were destroyed during the Tribulation.
- Concerning the Millennial Kingdom, Isaiah wrote:

No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed. They will build houses and inhabit them; they will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build and another inhabit, they will not plant and another eat; for as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, and My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD, and their descendants with them....The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain (Isa. 65:20-25).

- It is important to realize that Jesus will not instantaneously rule over every sphere of life the moment He returns. Isaiah wrote, “There will be *no end to the increase of His government or of peace*, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore” (Isa. 9:7).
- Notice that there will be “no end to the increase of His government.” That means Jesus’ government will be increasing during the Millennial Kingdom. There will be a progressive increase of Jesus’ influence throughout the nations until it penetrates every facet of every institution.

4. It is important to understand the purpose of the Millennial Kingdom.

- The purpose of the millennial reign of Christ is to prepare the nations for the Father coming in the fullness of His glory to the earth (Rev. 21:1-4, 22:3-5).
- Writing about the Millennial Kingdom, Paul stated, “Then comes the

end [of the Millennial Kingdom], when He [Jesus] hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power [it will take time to do this]. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet" (1 Cor. 15:24-25).

- The purpose of Christ's one-thousand year reign is to abolish "all rule and all authority and power" and to "put all His enemies under His feet."
- Think about this for a minute. If Christ rules for one-thousand years and He also rules until all authority and power and every enemy has been put under His feet, then maybe it takes a thousand years for all of this to happen. Perhaps it takes a thousand years to spread, mature, and test the righteousness in every nation.
- Maybe it takes a thousand years for Jesus' government to increase into every sphere of life and to prepare the nations for the Father's glory and His eternal reign.

Understanding Israel's role in the Millennial Kingdom is another vital part of praying for Israel's destiny.

Six Traits about Israel in the Millennial Kingdom

1. Jerusalem will be the capital city of the kingdom of God.

- Since God's covenant oath is with Jerusalem, it is the only city in the world whose destiny is secure. When Jesus returns, He will make Jerusalem—not Washington, D.C., London, or Rome—the capital city of the world.
- Every major city, no matter how prominent and self-sufficient today, will depend upon Jerusalem for everything—including finances, governmental decisions, justice, and peace.
- From Jerusalem, God's kingdom will go forth in fullness into every Gentile nation in the earth.
- Jesus called Jerusalem "the city of the Great King" (Matt. 5:35).
- Jeremiah declared, "At that time they will call Jerusalem 'The Throne of the Lord,' and all the nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem, for the name of the Lord" (Jer. 3:17).
- Zechariah prophesied, "I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain" (Zech. 8:3).
- Isaiah described Jerusalem as the place where justice, peace, divine decrees, instruction, and the Word of God will go forth into the nations (Isa. 2:2-4).
- From Jerusalem, Jesus will reign as King over the earth, serve as judge of the nations, and administer the Law of God (Isa. 33:20-22; Zech. 14:9).

- As the capital city of God's kingdom, kings, queens, presidents, and statesmen will come to Jerusalem for wisdom, guidance, blessing, and favor.
- Any nation or kingdom that will not serve Israel will perish under the judicial hand of God (Isa. 60:12).

2. Israel will be the worship center of the world.

- From the beginning, God has called Israel to be a kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6).
- When Jesus returns, He will come suddenly to His temple and transform Israel into a nation of worshiping priests (Mal. 3:1-4).
- When God restores temple worship in the Millennial Kingdom, all the earth will come to Jerusalem "year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths" (Zech. 14:16).
- When God makes Jerusalem the worship center of the world, the nations will flock to Israel to worship Jesus, the King of the earth (Zech. 8:20-23).
- In the Millennial Kingdom, many people and mighty nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord and entreat His favor.
- Even Israel's staunchest enemies will worship the Lord in Jerusalem or face terrible consequences (Isa. 60:12-14).
- God will withhold rain from any nation that does not come to Israel to worship the King (Zech. 14:17-19).

3. Israel will be the place from which God's glory shines into the nations.

- Jesus is returning as a glorious King. He is not coming again as a sacrificial Lamb; He is returning to destroy the enemies of God and to rule over the nations of the earth.
- The King of the Jews—the Lion from the tribe of Judah—will return in all of His Father's glory.
- Jesus will descend "from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire," engulfing the sky with blazing holiness (2 Thess. 1:7). The kings of the earth will tremble at His glorious appearing.
- Jesus' glory will be so intense that "the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and His glory will be before His elders" (Isa. 24:23).
- God's glory in Jerusalem will be so intense that it will eclipse the sun and the moon. In fact, God's glory in Jerusalem will be seven times brighter than the sun (Isa. 30:26).
- From Israel, God will showcase His glory to the nations. Isaiah prophesied, "For the LORD has redeemed Jacob and in Israel He shows forth His glory" (Isa. 44:23).
- Isaiah said further, "You are My Servant, Israel, in whom I will show My glory" (Isa. 49:3).
- Both of these promises will be completely fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom when God makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.
- From Jerusalem, the Lord's beauty and glory will shine into the nations, covering the earth as the waters cover the sea (Hab. 2:14; Isa. 4:2).

4. Israel will be the place from which divine blessings, favor, prosperity, and peace are released into the nations.

- In the Millennial Kingdom, God's favor will be so abundant upon the Jewish state that "ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you'" (Zech. 8:23).
- Isaiah showed us how kings and queens, statesmen and presidents will minister to Israel and bring in the wealth of the nations (Isa. 60:3-5, 10-11).
- In the future, when God glorifies Israel, the Jewish nation will become the center from which unprecedented prosperity and divine blessings are released into the nations.
- Financial abundance will flow like a river from Jerusalem into the earth.
- Nations and kings will come to Israel's light. Fear, oppression, and war will cease. In its place, peace, righteousness, and holiness will abound.
- Isaiah even told Israel that "the sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, and all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet; and they will call you the city of the Lord, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel" (Isa. 60:14-15).
- When God makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth, the Jewish people will "take root...blossom and sprout, and they will fill the whole world with fruit" (Isa. 27:6).
- Israel will become "a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God" (Isa. 62:3).

5. Israel will be a place of unspeakable joy and gladness.

- For centuries, many nations have despised Israel. When God exalts the Jewish state in the Millennial Kingdom, however, He will transform the war-torn nation into a country that brings unspeakable joy and gladness.
- Isaiah told Israel, "Whereas you have been forsaken and hated with no one passing through, I will make you an everlasting pride, a joy from generation to generation" (Isa. 60:15).
- In the future, God will make Israel the joy of the entire world. No longer will governmental leaders attempt to divide Israel; instead, all nations will look upon Israel as the source of blessings and gladness (Isa. 65:18-19).
- In the Millennial Kingdom, the Jewish people will no longer be scorned and despised; instead, the nations of the earth will shout joyfully over Jerusalem and bow down to the Jewish people with deep respect and gratitude.
- God's blueprint for the age to come has Jerusalem at center stage—the joy of the whole earth.

6. Israel's borders will extend from Egypt to Iraq.

- When God made a covenant with Abraham, He told him, "I will give to

you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an *everlasting possession*" (Gen. 17:8).

- Make no mistake about it—the land of Israel is the everlasting possession of the Jewish people. However, the borders of the land are supposed to extend from the "the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates" (Gen. 15:18).
- The only time when Israel came close to possessing all of this territory was in the days of King David and King Solomon (1 Chron. 18:3).
- Today, the land defined by these covenant borders cuts right through Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. There is not anyone alive who believes that Israel can possess this land apart from the Messiah's coming. If Israel tried to expand her borders into Iraq today, World War III would break out in an instant!
- When Jesus returns and sets up His Millennial Kingdom in Jerusalem, Israel's borders will extend from Egypt into Iraq.
- Isaiah prophesied, "You have increased the nation, O LORD, You have increased the nation, You are glorified; You have extended all the borders of the land" (Isa. 26:15).
- When Jesus establishes His government in Jerusalem, the Jewish people will branch outward and possess the covenant territory promised to Abraham.
- They will "swoop down on the slopes of the Philistines on the west [the Palestinian territory]; together they will plunder the sons of the east [Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq]; they will possess Edom and Moab [southern and central Jordan], and the sons of Ammon [the Jordanians] will be subject to them" (Isa. 11:14, emphasis mine).
- Following this conquest, God will build a highway that will stretch from Egypt—through the heart of the Middle East—into Syria and Iraq (Isa. 19:23). On this highway, the redeemed sons of Abraham—in unity, peace, and love—will travel together to worship the King of the earth.
- In the days to come, God will transform the Middle East into a highway of holiness that will unite the most hated enemies, even healing the millenniums-old rift between Isaac and Ishmael.
- God specifically stated that Egypt would become "My people"; that Assyria (modern-day Syria and Iraq) will be "the work of My hands"; and that Israel is "My inheritance" (Isa. 19:25).
- Though it seems impossible when we watch the nightly news, God will transform the entire Middle East into "a blessing in the midst of the earth" during the Millennial Kingdom (Isa. 19:24).

When we pray for Jerusalem to become a praise in the earth, we are literally asking the Father to send Jesus back to Jerusalem as King of kings and Lord of lords. This type of prayer will ultimately result in the Millennial Kingdom being established in Jerusalem—the capital city of God's kingdom.

Review Questions

True or False

- _____ 1. Jerusalem will become a praise in the earth because God is sovereign and He has said that it will happen.
- _____ 2. Jerusalem will become a praise in the earth when intercessors stand in the gap and ask God to fulfill every promise that He has made with Israel.
- _____ 3. Jerusalem will become a praise in the earth in the Millennial Kingdom.
- _____ 4. No one knows how long the Millennial Kingdom will last since the prophetic Scriptures are to be interpreted allegorically and not literally.
- _____ 5. The kingdom of God is in the earth now.
- _____ 6. The kingdom of God is not in the earth fully.
- _____ 7. In the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus' government will be fully established in all nations the moment He returns.
- _____ 8. During the Millennial Kingdom, God's glory will be so intense that it will eliminate the natural processes of life.

Fill in the Blank

9. The purpose of the millennial reign of Christ is to _____ the nations for the _____ coming in the fullness of His _____ to the earth.
10. There will be a _____ of Jesus' influence throughout the nations until it penetrates every facet of every institution.
11. Millennium is from the Latin "mille," which means a _____.
12. The Millennial Kingdom will be a time of unprecedented _____, _____, _____, and _____.
13. In the Millennial Kingdom, the kings of the earth will be _____, will worship _____, and will base their _____ on God's Word.
14. Understanding Israel's role in the _____ is another vital part of praying for Israel's destiny.

15. From _____, God's kingdom will go forth in _____ into every _____ nation in the earth.

Match the Scripture reference that best corresponds to the trait about Israel in the Millennial Kingdom (Place the letter of the correct answer in the blank space).

_____ 16. Jerusalem will be the capital city of God's kingdom.

_____ 17. Israel will be the worship center of the world.

_____ 18. Israel will be the place from which God's glory shines into the nations.

_____ 19. Israel's borders will extend from Egypt to Iraq.

_____ 20. Israel will be the place from which divine blessings, favor, prosperity, and peace are released into the nations.

Possible Matches for 16-20

- a. Isaiah 60:3-5
- b. Jeremiah 3:17
- c. Isaiah 4:2
- d. Genesis 15:18
- e. Zechariah 14:16

Session 6

The Restoration of Israel

This session covers:

- The process of Israel's restoration
- The seven main phases of Israel's restoration

This session corresponds to:

- Chapter 2 of *The Zion Mandate* book
- Session 6 of *Learning to Pray for Israel* CDs

Israel — God's Prophetic Clock

1. Although we cannot know the exact day or hour when the Lord returns, we can know the season.

- The Bible says that only the Father knows the day or the hour when Jesus will return (Matt. 24:36).
- However, we can and should know the season when Jesus will return.
- Jesus rebuked the Pharisees because they could not "discern the signs of the times" (Matt. 16:3).
- Jesus also said that Israel would be destroyed by a foreign army because they "did not recognize the time of [their] visitation" (Luke 19:44).
- Understanding the times and seasons in which we live is critical to fulfilling the Lord's purposes for our generation.
- We need to be like the sons of Issachar who "understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do" (1 Chron. 12:32).
- If we are going to understand the times that we live in, especially as we get closer to the Lord's return, then we must understand Israel's restoration.

2. Israel serves as a prophetic clock that helps us perceive when this age will come to a close.

- By looking at your watch, you can know many

things. If you are currently attending a Lifeschool class, your watch tells you how much longer until the next break. Your watch might also tell you when your next meal is. If your watch displays the date, you can also know how much longer until your anniversary or your birthday or a special event.

- In a similar way, Israel is like a prophetic clock that helps us discern the times and seasons. Israel helps us know how much longer until the Lord returns.
- In the parable of the fig tree, Jesus taught us to know the signs that pointed to His return (Matt. 24:32-33). Israel is a major sign that Jesus "is near, right at the door" (Matt. 24:33).

Israel's Restoration Is a Process

1. Israel will be restored progressively into her ultimate prophetic destiny.

- In Session 5, we saw that Israel will be the praise of the earth.
- Israel will be the place from which God's glory radiates; the place where the nations stream to worship the King of the earth; the place of unprecedented prosperity and abundance; and the place of justice, peace, favor, and righteousness.
- In this session, we will look at how this will take place. You will see that Israel will be restored progressively into her ultimate prophetic destiny.

2. The restoration of Israel is all about the kingdom of God being restored to Israel.

- Jesus told the Jews that "the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it" (Matt. 21:43).
- From Session 2, we know that God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the Lord has temporarily blinded part of the Jewish nation from seeing that Jesus is the Messiah. As a result, the kingdom of God has been given to the Church for a season.
- However, as more Jewish people believe in Jesus as their Messiah, the kingdom of God is being progressively restored to Israel.
- In the Millennial Kingdom, the kingdom of God will be fully restored to Israel.
- The disciples recognized this truth when they asked Jesus, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6).

3. Israel's restoration is a process involving several steps.

- Ezekiel 36:24-28 is one example that details the process of Israel's restoration.
- God began this prophecy by promising the Jewish people two things (Ezek. 36:24). First, the Lord vowed to give them their own land. Second, He promised to gather them from the surrounding nations back to Israel.

- Observe closely what God promised next. He stated, “*Then* I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean” (Ezek. 36:25).
- The word “then” in this prophecy is a crucial word to understand. It illustrates the process that God is following to restore Israel.
- God has a prescribed order of events that must take place for His will to be accomplished in this nation.
- Before He saves the Jewish nation and cleanses them from their sins, He first promised to bring them back to the land of Israel.
- There is a roadmap that God is following to make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

4. God’s roadmap to peace is much different than man’s.

- If you were going on a trip, your ultimate destination might be the beach or the mountains. To get there, you would follow a roadmap that spelled out the directions.
- In the same way, God has a roadmap to peace that will lead to the fulfillment of Israel’s prophetic destiny.
- God’s roadmap to peace is drastically different than man’s. Man’s *Roadmap to Peace* involves dividing Israel up and giving it to a terrorist nation. For some reason, wise politicians think that this will somehow solve the Mideast crisis.
- God’s roadmap to peace is altogether different. Though there will be temporary peace in the near future, ultimate peace will not come until the Prince of Peace returns.
- Understanding how God’s roadmap to peace will unfold and how Israel will be restored is essential if we want to pray effectively for Israel’s destiny.
- The seven main phases of Israel’s restoration, which we will look at next, detail God’s roadmap to peace.

The Seven Main Phases of Israel’s Restoration

1. Statehood

- When the Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah, God removed His hand of protection and blessing from Israel.
- Subsequently, a Roman army invaded Jerusalem, destroyed the city, killed or exiled the Jews, and burned the temple to the ground.
- In 135 A.D., some sixty-five years later, the Roman Emperor Hadrian banned the Jews from Jerusalem and turned the Holy Land into a pagan shrine.
- For over fifteen-hundred years after this, Israel was occupied and controlled by Gentile powers, just as Jesus predicted when He said, “Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (Luke 21:24).
- The land of Israel was desolate for centuries as foreign nations trampled God’s covenant land. The Jewish people were also scattered across Europe and the Middle East where they were persecuted, tortured, and killed.

- Beginning in the early 1900s, however, things began to change. Zionism—a movement which sought a national homeland for the Jewish people in Israel—began to gain momentum.
- Eventually, this led the British government to create the Balfour Declaration in 1917. This document promised the Jewish people a national homeland in Palestine.
- One month later, in a watershed event, the British army liberated Palestine from Turkish control, putting an end to over seven-hundred years of Muslim rule.
- The great hope of Israel’s prophets grew bleak, however, when Hitler stepped onto the world scene. Through the Holocaust, this demonic despot systemically murdered some six million of Europe’s 9.5 million Jews. Israel’s statehood seemed impossible.
- Though the Jewish people were devastated, God was watching over His word to perform it. The Lord remembered Isaiah’s prophesy from thousands of years before when he had prophesied, “Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons” (Isa. 66:8).
- Miraculously, God used the United Nations—perhaps the most anti-Israel organization in the world today—to fulfill the prophetic Scriptures.
- On November 29, 1947, the U.N. voted thirty-three to thirteen to make Israel a sovereign nation.
- On May 14, 1948, Israel’s statehood became official as God caused a nation to be “born in one day.”

2. A massive Jewish exodus to Israel

- Numerous Scriptures describe the end-time exodus of Jews back to Israel.
- Moses said that God would send the Jews back to Israel if they were ever dispersed (Deut. 30:3-5).
- Jeremiah prophesied that God would send fishers to allure the Jews to Israel and hunters to drive them back home (Jer. 16:14-16).
- Ezekiel listed this end-time exodus as a vital step in Israel’s restoration (Ezek. 36:24-28).
- Isaiah prophesied that God would bring the Jews home from the north, south, east, and west (Isa. 43:5-6).
- This end-time Jewish exodus permeates the writings of the prophets and is a vital step in the overall restoration of Israel.
- Known also as *aliyah*, which in Hebrew means “going up,” Jews have been returning in mass back to the land of their forefathers.
- Since 1948, millions of Jewish people have returned to Israel from the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, and South America.
- This end-time exodus has already eclipsed the exodus from Egypt, just as Jeremiah prophesied (Jer. 16:14-15).
- With Jews residing in over 120 different countries, they are literally coming home “from the ends of the earth.” From the south, they are coming from countries such as Ethiopia and South Africa. From the east, they are coming from countries such as Iran, Pakistan, and In-

dia. From the west, they are coming from countries such as the U.S.A and France. And from the north, they are coming from countries such as Russia and Romania.

- In 1948, approximately six percent of the world's Jewish population lived in Israel; in 2004, some thirty-five percent of the world's Jews have chosen to make Israel their home.
- This exodus is important because it precedes the greatest revival in Israel's history.
- In Ezekiel 39:27-29, God promised to reveal Himself to Israel and pour out His Spirit upon the Jews *after* He brings them back from the nations.

3. Temporary peace between the Jews and the Arabs

- Immediately after the birth of Israel in 1948, the Arabs declared a jihad ("holy war") against the Jewish nation. This decades-long war is a classic match between David and Goliath.
- The Arab League is composed of twenty-two independent Arab states, has a population that exceeds forty-million, and has a combined land-mass that spans more than five-million square miles.
- This is in stark contrast to Israel, which has a population of six-million and covers less than thirteen-thousand square miles.
- For over sixty years, one constant cry has resonated from mosques throughout the Middle East—"Drive the Jews into the sea."
- During Israel's brief modern-day history, she has already been involved in several wars with the Arabs, including the 1948 War of Independence, the Six-Day War of 1967, the Yom Kippur War of 1973, and most recently, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.
- Make no mistake about—the Arabs do not want peace with Israel; they want to wipe out the Jewish nation and recapture Jerusalem for Allah.
- Since Muslims controlled Jerusalem for hundreds of years and built their third holiest site on the Temple Mount, Arabs believe that Allah has been dishonored because of the Jewish occupation of their holy city.
- According to Islamic law, an infidel now occupies a city that was once under Muslim authority. This is why the Arab world has declared a permanent state of war against Israel.
- However, God has promised to bring temporary peace between the Jews and the Arabs that will set the stage for the greatest revival in Israel's history (Ezek. 38:8).
- Ezekiel 38:8 is an unfulfilled prophecy that will take place "in the latter years" after the Jewish people "have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel." This clearly describes the modern-day restoration of Israel.
- However, notice something interesting. Ezekiel declared that Israel will be "living securely, all of them" (Ezek. 38:8).
- Describing the same event, Ezekiel said, "And you will say [the Islamic coalition], 'I will go up against *the land of unwalled villages*. I will go against those *who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates*'" (Ezek. 38:11, emphasis added).

- Ezekiel was declaring that Israel will have peace prior to this end-time jihad.
- One glance at the daily news shows that Israel is anything but a land of peace. From suicide bombers attacking buses to terrorists bombing public buildings, Israel is a perpetual war zone.
- Nevertheless, temporary peace will come between the Jews and the Arabs sometime in the near future.

4. Supernatural victory in the greatest jihad ever

- Somehow, someday—whether in five years, ten years, or five-hundred years—the Arab-Israeli conflict will culminate on the mountains of Israel.
- The god of Islam will meet the God of Israel in a violent confrontation. It will be unlike anything in history as divine retribution rains down upon an Islamic coalition of nations.
- As in the days of Elijah when Baal could not muster any firepower, Allah will sit silently in the dust as Yahweh displays His might to the world. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will thunder from heaven; His voice will shake the earth; and the whole world will know that He alone is the supreme God of heaven and earth.
- The Prophet Ezekiel described this war in great detail in Ezekiel 38-39.
- Ezekiel 38:1-6 lists the nations that will attack Israel in this war. Most likely, these ancient nations relate to the following modern-day nations:¹
 - Magog = The former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan
 - Rosh = Russia
 - Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, and Beth-togarmah = Turkey
 - Persia = Iran
 - Ethiopia (Cush) = Sudan
 - Put = Libya
 - Gog = The ruler of this coalition
- With the exception of Russia, all of these are Islamic nations with a common hatred of Israel.
- When Allah's warriors attempt to annihilate Israel once and for all, God will fight on Israel's behalf. The Lord will give Israel a supernatural victory over this Islamic federation (Ezek. 38:18-22).
- When this Islamic federation comes against Israel, God's anger will burn and His wrath will be kindled. His terrifying presence will fall upon the mountains of Israel and "all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake."
- This Islamic coalition will be supernaturally destroyed. Instead of fighting the Jews, this army will fight one another. This Islamic alliance will be buried under a heap of heavenly hailstones, fire, and brimstone.
- This event will trigger the greatest revival in Israel's history, which is the next phase of Israel's restoration.

5. An unprecedented national revival

- In Paul's famous passage about the restoration of Israel, he identifies two groups of Jews.
- He refers to the first group as the "remnant according to God's gracious choice" (Rom. 11:5). This remnant, known today as Messianic Jews, believes that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel.
- Though an exact number of Messianic Jews is difficult to determine, published estimates range from five-hundred thousand to one-and-half million.
- Paul said that the second group of Jews have been hardened and blinded to the gospel (Rom. 11:7-8, 25). He wrote that "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes to see not and ears to hear not, down to this very day" (Rom. 11:8). However, God also promised that "all Israel will be saved" (Rom. 11:26).
- In the days ahead, the Holy Spirit will tenderize the hardened part of Israel and heal her blindness. As a result, multitudes of Israelis will accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This revival will ultimately lead to Israel's national salvation.
- There is coming an unprecedented revival that will touch every corner of the earth. During this unparalleled outpouring of the Holy Spirit, God will give multitudes of Israelis an eye-opening revelation that Jesus Christ is the Son of God—the One pierced for their iniquities (Zech. 12:10).
- In that day, the Jewish people will see that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Israel will know that Jesus completely fulfilled the feast of Passover; that He "bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors" on the cross (Isa. 53:12).
- When will this happen? After God has gathered the Jewish people back to Israel, after a peace plan has quelled the violence between the Jews and the Arabs, and after an Islamic federation has been destroyed on the mountains of Israel (Ezek. 39:11-22).
- After the Islamic army is defeated, God promised that "the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God from that day onward" (Ezek. 39:22). This will be the beginning of all Israel being saved.
- God stated further, "I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel" (Ezek. 39:29).
- Israel's supernatural victory in this end-time jihad will result in an unparalleled outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- Ultimately, this revival will lead to the second coming of Christ. Why? Because Jesus told the Jewish people that "*you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'*" (Matt. 23:39, NIV).
- When the Jewish nation welcomes back her Messiah, we know that Jesus' return is imminent.

6. Reconciliation between Israel and the Church

- History contains numerous accounts of the Church persecuting Jews. From forced conversions to shameful acts of penance, from torture to murder, the Church has treated the Jews with disgrace for centuries.

- God, however, is in the process of restoring the breach between Jews and Gentiles. He is working to heal and restore Jewish and Christian relations.
- As the Jewish people enter the New Covenant through faith in Jesus Christ, God has vowed to “make the two [Jew and Gentile] into one new man, thus establishing peace” (Eph. 2:15, emphasis mine).
- With the great end-time harvest increasing and multitudes of Jews and Gentiles coming to Christ, God is joining them together as one new man.
- This work of unity is taking place through repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration as God heals the centuries-old breach between the Jews and the Church.
- God’s goal is to have one distinct covenant people comprised of Jew and Gentile.
- For this to be fully realized, the Church must know that Christians have not replaced Jews in God’s prophetic agenda. We need to know that Israel’s finest hour is just ahead!
- For Jew and Gentile to become one in Jesus Christ, Gentiles must feel the pulse of God’s heart for Israel. We need to know God’s eternal love, compassion, mercy, faithfulness, and burning desire for His chosen people.
- Knowing God’s heart for the Jews and His desire for one new man is vital for everyone that wants to participate in God’s end-time agenda for Israel.
- This phase of Israel’s restoration will become increasingly important as the prophesied revival sweeps through the Holy Land.

7. A baptism by fire

- As we approach the end of the age, God will prepare Israel for her finest hour by baptizing her into fire.
- In the words of Daniel, this period will be “a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation” (Dan. 12:1).
- Jeremiah said, “Alas! For that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s distress” (Jer. 30:7-9).
- This baptism by fire will purify Israel of every impurity and defilement. As a result, Jerusalem will become “the holy city”—a place where the “uncircumcised and the unclean will no longer come” (Isa. 52:1).
- This period of unprecedented distress will prepare Israel for unprecedented greatness.
- Isaiah 1:24-26 and Isaiah 4:3-4 describe this intense period in Israel’s future. These verses show that God will purify Israel much like a jeweler refines gold.
- When gold is put through a refining process, every impurity rises to the surface, allowing a jeweler to scrape away the dross and the alloy. For a while, this process is ugly as the dull film which has formed on the gold rises to the top. As this process is repeated, however, every impurity is removed and the gold is transformed into a jewel of pure beauty.
- In a similar way, God will send the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning into Israel to remove all of her dross and alloy. The Lord will

wash “away the filth of the daughters of Zion” and purge away “the bloodshed of Jerusalem” as He prepares the Jewish nation for the thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ.

- As the Lord refines Jerusalem, evil will reach heights never before seen. A diabolical world-ruler known as the antichrist will unite the nations of the earth through a false hope of peace. He will gather the leading nations of the earth together and enact a peace treaty with Israel for seven years (Dan. 9:27).
- Quite possibly, this peace treaty will enable the Jews to rebuild their temple on Mount Moriah, just as the Bible predicts (Rev. 11:2).
- After three-and-a-half years, however, this demonic despot will break his treaty and put an end to temple worship (Dan. 9:27).
- Following this, the antichrist will enthrone himself as God in the Jewish temple and force the whole world to worship him (Matt. 24:15-22; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13).
- This man of lawlessness, possessed by Satan, will be given extraordinary powers (Rev. 13:2-4). Because no nation will be able to wage war against him, he will subdue the whole earth under his dominion (Rev. 13:4-8).
- During this time, the antichrist will conquer Jerusalem, seize the Jewish people, and plunder their treasures. Subsequently, though God will supernaturally preserve a Jewish remnant, the antichrist will be given authority to kill millions of Jews and exile many others to the nations (Matt. 24:15-22; Luke 21:20-24; Rev. 12; Zech. 13:8-9; Zech. 14:2).
- The Bible says that the antichrist will “tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months” (Rev. 11:2).
- At the peak of Israel’s darkest hour—when all hope seems lost—the King of the Jews will return to the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:3-4).
- The whole world will tremble as they watch Heaven’s Champion descend with His valiant warriors to vanquish Israel’s foes (Isa. 13:7-8; Joel 2:6; Rev. 17:14, 19:11-19). With the breath of His mouth, Jesus will instantly destroy the antichrist and his army (2 Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19:20-21). Then He will rule as King from Jerusalem for one-thousand years, fulfilling every one of Israel’s prophetic promises (Zech. 14:9).

As God’s prophetic clock, Israel helps us perceive when this age will come to a close. Over the last sixty years, Israel has become a nation, millions of Jews have returned to the land, and hundreds of thousands of Jewish people have accepted Jesus as Savior. Knowing the process of Israel’s restoration, we can discern the times of history and see that Jesus is poised to return soon.

Notes

1. Mark Hitchcock, *The Coming Islamic Invasion of Israel* (Multnomah Publishers, 2002), pp. 30-31, 39, 45-46, 53, 56-57.

Review Questions

True or False

- _____ 1. Before God saves the Jewish nation and cleanses them from their sins, He first promised to bring them back to the land of Israel.
- _____ 2. The kingdom of God will be fully restored to Israel before the Lord returns.
- _____ 3. In 70 A.D., God allowed Babylon to invade and occupy Israel because the Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah.
- _____ 4. The U.N. voted thirty-three to thirteen to make Israel a sovereign nation a few days after Thanksgiving in 1947.
- _____ 5. God promised to pour out His Spirit upon Israel after He supernaturally destroys an invading Islamic army.
- _____ 6. The most trying time in Israel's history or future was during the Holocaust carried out by the Nazi regime.
- _____ 7. On November 29, 1947, Israel's statehood became official as God caused a nation to be "born in one day."
- _____ 8. The Churchill Declaration of 1917 was an instrumental document in the creation of Israel.

Fill in the Blanks

9. As we approach the end of the age, God will _____ Israel for her finest hour by _____ her into _____.
10. As God's _____, Israel helps us _____ when this age will come to a close.
11. The _____ is composed of _____ independent Arab states, has a population that exceeds _____, and has a combined landmass that spans more than _____ square miles.
12. Since _____ controlled _____ for hundreds of years and built their third holiest site on the Temple Mount, Arabs believe that _____ has been _____ because of the Jewish _____ of their holy city.

13. In 1948, approximately ____ percent of the world's Jewish population lived in Israel; in 2004, some _____ percent of the world's Jews have chosen to make Israel their home.

14. Magog = The former Soviet republics of _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____; Rosh = _____; Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, and Beth-togarmah = _____; Persia = _____; Ethiopia (Cush) = _____; Put = _____; Gog = The _____ of this _____.

15. Israel officially became a nation on _____, _____.

From the choices on the right, put the phases of Israel's restoration in the correct order

- _____ 16.
- _____ 17.
- _____ 18.
- _____ 19.
- _____ 20.
- _____ 21.

Possible Matches for 16-20

- a. Jerusalem as a praise in the earth
- b. A baptism by fire
- c. Temporary peace between the Jews and the Arabs
- d. Statehood
- e. An unprecedented national revival
- f. Supernatural victory in the greatest jihad ever
- g. The Jews in Jerusalem welcoming Jesus back as Messiah
- h. The nations blessing Israel in the Millennial Kingdom
- i. A massive Jewish exodus to Israel
- j. Jesus establishing Jerusalem as the capital city of God's kingdom.

Session 7

The Judgment of the Nations

This session covers:

- An in-depth look at the judgment of the nations
- Why standing with Israel is so important in the end-times
- How one's attitude toward Israel will determine their eternal destiny

This session corresponds to:

- Chapter 3 of *The Zion Mandate* book
- Session 7 of *Learning to Pray for Israel* CDs

Understanding the Judgment of the Nations

1. Understanding the judgment of the nations will empower the end-time Church to stand with Israel.

- God wants His Church to stand with Israel during the pressures preceding the Lord's return.
- Because all the nations of the earth will turn against Israel, standing with the Jewish nation will be a significant challenge to many believers (Zech. 12:2-3).
- One of the keys to standing with Israel during the great end-time pressures is understanding the judgment of the nations.
- Understanding how Jesus will judge the nations based upon their treatment of Israel in the end-times empowers us to stand with Israel now—despite the opposition that we face.

2. To understand the judgment of the nations, we need to know the big picture of how the end-times will unfold.

- The Bible reveals several things that will take place in the end-times. These are:
 - Israel will be a source of controversy among the nations.
 - The antichrist will establish a seven-year peace treaty between Israel and the Arab world.
 - After three-and-a-half years, the antichrist will break this peace treaty, attack Israel, and demand that the whole world worship him.
 - The antichrist will gather the armies of the earth to Armageddon in order to completely destroy Israel.
 - Jesus will return to Israel and win the Battle of Armageddon.
 - Jesus will gather the survivors from the nations to Jerusalem in order to evaluate their role in His kingdom.

Understanding the Big Pieces of the End-time Puzzle

1. Israel will be a source of controversy among the nations.

- The Bible is crystal clear—Israel will be a major source of controversy in the end-times.
- Zechariah prophesied, “It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it” (Zech. 12:3).
- Before the Lord returns, most nations will turn against Israel.
- Anti-Semitism will reach heights never before seen.
- The Arab-Israeli conflict has already split the earth between two opinions.
- Many nations honestly believe that Israel is the source of the world’s problems.

2. The antichrist will establish a seven-year peace treaty between Israel and the Arab world.

- Eventually, the Arab-Israeli conflict will lead to a peace treaty that appears to solve the “Israel problem.”
- A diabolical world-ruler known as the antichrist will unite the nations of the earth through a false hope of peace. He will gather the leading nations of the earth together and enact a peace treaty with Israel for seven years (Dan. 9:27).
- Quite possibly, this peace treaty will enable the Jews to rebuild their temple on Mount Moriah, just as the Bible predicts (Rev. 11:2).
- Because of this unprecedented accomplishment, the world will proclaim “peace and safety” (1 Thess. 5:3) and will acknowledge the antichrist as the leader of the free world.

3. After three-and-a-half years, the antichrist will break this peace treaty, attack Israel, and demand that the whole world worship him.

- The Bible says that three-and-a-half years into this peace treaty, the antichrist “will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering” (Dan. 9:27).
- This means that he will put an end to the temple worship in the restored Jerusalem temple.
- Following this, the antichrist will enthrone himself as God in the Jewish temple and force the whole world to worship him (Matt. 24:15-22; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13).
- This man of lawlessness, possessed by Satan, will be given extraordinary powers (Rev. 13:2-4). Because no nation will be able to wage war against him, he will subdue the whole earth under his dominion (Rev. 13:4-8).
- During this time, the antichrist will conquer Jerusalem, seize the Jewish people, and plunder their treasures. Subsequently, though God will supernaturally preserve a Jewish remnant, the antichrist will be given authority to kill millions of Jews and exile many others to the nations (Matt. 24:15-22; Luke 21:20-24; Rev. 12; Zech. 13:8-9; Zech. 14:2).
- The Bible says that the antichrist will “tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months” (Rev. 11:2).

4. The antichrist will gather the armies of the earth to Armageddon in order to completely destroy Israel.

- To annihilate Israel once and for all, the antichrist, under the direct power of Satan, will gather the nations to Megiddo, which is a valley between Mount Carmel and the city of Jezreel in the land of Israel (Rev. 16:16).
- Millions of soldiers, commanders, military personal, and leaders will gather at the valley of Megiddo in order to completely shatter Israel.
- This battle, known as the Battle of Armageddon, will be the final battle in the war for Jerusalem.

5. Jesus will return to Israel and win the Battle of Armageddon.

- At the peak of Israel’s darkest hour—when all hope seems lost—the King of the Jews will return to the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:3-4).
- The Bible says that “the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle” (Zech. 14:3).
- The whole world will tremble as they watch Heaven’s Champion descend with His valiant warriors to vanquish Israel’s foes (Isa. 13:7-8; Joel 2:6; Rev. 17:14, 19:11-19).
- With the breath of His mouth, Jesus will instantly destroy the antichrist and his army (2 Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19:20-21).
- Millions will die at the Battle of Armageddon. The Bible says that there will be so much blood that it will reach up to the “horses’ bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles” (Rev. 14:20).

6. Jesus will gather the survivors from the nations to Jerusalem in order to evaluate their role in His kingdom.

- After the Battle of Armageddon, there will be three types of people on the earth. These are:
 - The redeemed
 - The reprobate
 - The resisters

Familiarizing yourself with these three groups of people is important if you want to understand the judgment of the nations and our need to stand with Israel.

- The *redeemed* are the born-again believers with glorified bodies who will reign with Christ for a thousand years.
 - Before the Lord returns, many believers will be martyred for their faith in Christ (Rev. 13:6, 10).
 - However, there will be many believers who survive the end-time shakings. When Jesus returns, these will be caught up (raptured) to Him in the sky (Matt. 24:29-31).
 - Thus, born-again believers—including those who survive the end-time shakings—will receive glorified bodies and will return with Jesus to reign with Him for one-thousand years (Rev. 20:4, 6).
- The *reprobate* are those who took the mark of the beast but are still alive after the Battle of Armageddon.
 - The antichrist will force everyone to take the mark of the beast and to worship him (Rev. 13:16-17).
 - Those who refuse this mark will not be able to buy or sell (Rev. 13:16-17).
 - God says that whoever takes this mark will be sentenced to hell for eternity (Rev. 14:9-11).
 - Not every person who received the mark of the beast will die in the Battle of Armageddon or during the Tribulation period.
 - Thus, there will be reprobates alive after the Battle of Armageddon.
- The *resisters* are unbelievers who refused the mark of the beast and are still alive after the Battle of Armageddon.
 - The Bible says, "Then it will come about that *any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem* will go up from

- year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths” (Zech. 14:16).
 - When Zechariah says “any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem,” he is referring to when the coalition of nations attacks Jerusalem in the end-times, which was described earlier in Zechariah 14.
 - This, along with other Scriptures, shows us that there will be unbelievers who make it into the Millennial Kingdom.
 - These people are the resisters. They will be like the resisters during WWII. These resisters did not resist the Nazi regime because they were born-again believers, but because they hated what the Third Reich stood for.
- After Jesus wins the Battle of Armageddon, He will gather those who survived the end-time shakings to Jerusalem in order to evaluate their role in His kingdom.
- From our previous discussion, we know that these survivors will be both the reprobate and the resisters. As a side note, the redeemed will have already been evaluated at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10) and will not be evaluated at the judgment of the nations.
- Jesus described this scenario for us in the parable of the sheep and the goats when He said, “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory [the second coming], and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne [in Jerusalem after the Battle of Armageddon]. All the nations [the reprobate and the resisters] will be gathered before Him” (Matt. 25:31-32).
- This lays the foundation for understanding the judgment of the nations as it is revealed in the parable of the sheep and the goats.

The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

1. To stand with Israel in the end-times, we need to understand the parable of the sheep and the goats (Matt. 25:31-46).

- Today, this parable has become a famous reference for mercy ministries that give to the poor, visit prisoners, and clothe the homeless.
- Though using this passage as a motivation to serve others is valid, Jesus was not referring to just anyone who had some type of physical need. His prophetic message was related primarily to a particular group of people at a specific period in time.
- Jesus referred to the people who were hungry, thirsty, lonely, naked, sick, and imprisoned as “brothers of Mine” (Matt. 25:40).
- In one sense, every born-again believer is the Lord’s brother (Mark 3:35). However, in this passage Jesus was not only talking about Gentile Christians; He was also referring to His Jewish brethren.
- How do we know this? By examining Joel 3:1-3—an Old Testament prophecy that describes the exact scenario pictured by Jesus in Matthew 25.
- Notice the following parallels between Joel 3:1-3 and Matt. 25:31-46:

- Both accounts show that this event will take place in Jerusalem (Joel 3:2; Matt. 25:31).¹
 - Both accounts show that the Lord will gather all the nations together (Joel 3:2; Matt. 25:32).
 - Both accounts show that the Lord will enter into judgment with the nations (Joel 3:2; Matt. 25:32-46).
- There is only one judgment of the nations at the end of the age—not two.
 - Now, looking at Joel 3:2, notice why the Lord enters into judgment with the nations. He says that it is based upon “My people and My inheritance, Israel.”
 - Putting Joel 3:1-3 together with Matthew 25, we see that the Lord’s brothers definitely includes the Jewish people—Jesus’ inheritance.
 - Clearly, this parable teaches us that Israel will be a major standard for judging the nations when Jesus returns.²
 - At the judgment of the nations, Jesus will send every reprobate who took the mark of the beast immediately into the lake of fire (Rev. 14:9-11).
 - His standard of judgment for the resisters, however, will be based upon their treatment of Israel. Recall that Jesus described His Jewish brethren as hungry, thirsty, lonely, naked, sick, and imprisoned. This describes how Israel will be treated by the antichrist and his regime at the end of the age. The judgment of the nations will be based upon how the resisters treated Israel during the Tribulation.
 - Also, keep in mind that the parable of the sheep and the goats is based upon the Abrahamic principle of blessing and cursing Israel.

3. At the judgment of the nations, people will be allowed to live in the Millennial Kingdom because they blessed Israel in the end-times.

- Jesus said, “To the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me” (Matt. 25:40).
- By this statement, Jesus revealed that blessing the Jews through basic charitable deeds such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, ministering to the sick, and visiting the prisoners blesses His heart.
- The way we respond to Israel ultimately makes its way back to God. Whether we bless Him or offend Him is up to us.
- In Zechariah 2:8, the Lord referred to the Jewish people as the apple of His eye. The apple of the eye is the pupil—one of the most sensitive parts of the body. It symbolizes something or someone that is deeply cherished and highly valued.
- Israel and the Jews are sensitive subjects to the Lord; He treasures them both deeply. That is why blessing the Jewish nation blesses His heart and secures blessings for us.
- Notice what Jesus says to those who bless Israel at the end of the age: “Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matt 25:34).
- By caring for the Jews in their hour of need during the Tribulation, people will secure a place in the Millennial Kingdom.

4. At the judgment of the nations, people will be sentenced to hell for all eternity because they cursed Israel in the end-times.

- Jesus will tell those who did nothing for Israel in her distress, "Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41).
- Jesus said that the goats or the "accursed ones" are those who showed no compassion, care, or love for Israel in her time of tribulation.
- These accursed people did not necessarily persecute the Jewish people; they simply remained indifferent.
- Perhaps the devil knows this verse better than most. That is why, in an effort to populate hell, he works hard to foster anti-Semitism.

Standing with Israel in the End-Times

1. In the end-times, indifference towards Israel makes us an enemy of God and of the Jewish people.

- In the parable of the sheep and the goats, those who failed to take action when the Jewish people were hungry, thirsty, naked, homeless, or in prison during the Tribulation were cursed.
- Recall that one meaning of the Hebrew word for curse is to be of little account or to be insignificant.
- In God's eyes, if we are indifferent, uninterested, or unmoved by Israel's pain, it is the same as cursing the Jewish nation.
- Obadiah showed us that doing nothing for Israel is the same as persecuting her: "For you deserted Israel in his time of need. You stood aloof, refusing to lift a finger to help him when invaders carried off his wealth and divided Jerusalem among them by lot; you were as one of his enemies" (Obad. 11, TLB).
- According to Obadiah 11 and Matthew 25:31-46, remaining silent and doing nothing for Israel in her hour of need makes us an enemy of the Jews.
- If we distance ourselves from the Jewish nation because the Mideast crisis is "too hard to understand" or "too messy," are we subtly aligning ourselves with Israel's enemies?
- When we make statements like, "I just don't have a heart for Israel," or "Understanding Israel's restoration is too complicated," or "That Israel thing is not relevant to me," and then move onto other more exciting topics, are we indirectly turning against Israel?
- At the beginning of the Six-Day War, former Israeli foreign minister Abba Eban said, "As we looked around us we saw the world divided between those who were seeking our destruction and those who would do nothing to prevent it."³
- As we progress toward the last hours of this age, Abba Eban's words will become strikingly prophetic. The world will be divided between those who seek Israel's destruction and those who do nothing to prevent it.

2. In the end-times, the nations of the earth will be severely injured for not standing with Israel.

- Jerusalem has become a “heavy stone” that will severely injure all who lift it (Zech. 12:3).
- That is why, at this very moment, the nations of the earth are “in the valley of decision” (Joel 3:14). Each nation must decide whether they will stand with Israel or stand against her. We are coming to an hour when there will be no middle ground.
- Israel will be the plumb line of separation—the standard of judgment that will separate the righteous from the unrighteous, the sheep from the goats, and the blessed from the cursed.
- In these last days, whoever does not stand with Israel will be against her—and her God. God will use Israel to bring out the best and the worst of humanity as she sifts our souls and exposes our hearts.
- Obadiah said, “The Lord's vengeance will soon fall upon all Gentile nations. As you have done to Israel, so will it be done to you. Your acts will boomerang upon your heads” (Obad. 15-16, TLB).

As we contemplate the judgment of the nations, we see the importance of standing with Israel now. This is certainly not an hour to be indifferent, apathetic, or uninterested in the Jewish state. Now is the time for Christians to stand wholeheartedly with Israel.

Notes

1. Joel stated that the Lord will gather the nations to the valley of Jehoshaphat, which since the fourth-century A.D. has been associated with the Kidron Valley. This valley is located between the new section of Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives. In Matthew 25, Jesus said that He will gather the nations when He sits on His glorious throne. Where will His throne be? It will be in Jerusalem (Jer. 3:17).
2. In the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus’ brothers most likely includes His Gentile brothers. However, it is beyond the scope of this class to describe how the Lord will judge the nations for their treatment of Gentile believers during the Tribulation.
3. Abba Eban, *An Autobiography* (New York: Random House, 1977), p. 392, quoted in Sandra Teplinsky, *Why Care about Israel?* (Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen Books, 2004), p. 222.

Review Questions

True or False

- _____ 1. The judgment of the nations and the judgment seat of Christ describe the same event.
- _____ 2. Because God's favor will increase upon Israel as the Lord's return draws near, most nations will bless Israel in the end-times.
- _____ 3. To stand with Israel in the end-times, we need to understand the parable of the sheep and the goats.
- _____ 4. The parable of the sheep and the goats is a general parable about the importance of giving to the poor, visiting prisoners, and clothing the homeless.
- _____ 5. Jesus' brothers in the parable of the sheep and the goats include Gentile believers and Jews.
- _____ 6. When Jesus returns, He will judge the nations twice.
- _____ 7. The parable of the sheep and the goats is based upon the Abrahamic principle of blessing and cursing Israel.
- _____ 8. In the end-times, the nations of the earth will be severely injured for not standing with Israel.
- _____ 9. Indifference towards Israel makes us an enemy of the Jewish people.

Fill in the Blanks

10. In the parable of the sheep and the goats, those who failed to take action when the Jewish people were _____, _____, _____, _____, or in _____ during the Tribulation were cursed.
11. In Zechariah 2:8, the Lord referred to the Jewish people as the _____.
12. By caring for the Jews in their hour of need during the _____, people will secure a place in the _____.
13. Putting Joel 3:1-3 together with Matthew 25, we see that the Lord's brothers definitely includes the Jewish people—Jesus' _____.

14. After Jesus wins the _____ of _____, He will gather those who survived the end-time shakings to _____ in order to evaluate their role in His _____.

15. The _____ are unbelievers who refused the mark of the beast and are still alive after the Battle of Armageddon.

Match the phrase on the left to the best description on the right (You can use an answer more than once).

_____ 16. Born-again believers with glorified bodies who will reign with Christ for a thousand years

_____ 17. Those who will be sent immediately to the eternal fire at the judgment of the nations

_____ 18. Those who will be judged for their treatment of Israel at the judgment of the nations

_____ 19. Those who will take the mark of the beast but are still alive after the Battle of Armageddon

_____ 20. Unbelievers who will refuse the mark of the beast and are still alive after the Battle of Armageddon

Possible Matches for 16-20

- a. The reprobate
- b. The resisters
- c. The redeemed

Session 8

Covenant Prayer for Israel's Destiny

This session covers:

- An overview of covenant prayer
- A summary of Israel's covenants
- Examples of covenant prayer for Israel's destiny
- How covenant prayer for Israel's destiny will activate end-time prophecy

This session corresponds to:

- Chapter 12 of *The Zion Mandate* book
- Session 8 of *Learning to Pray for Israel* CDs

Covenant Prayer—the Key to Israel's Restoration

1. Isaiah wrote about covenant prayer in Isaiah 62:6-7.

- Pay attention to the word *remind* in these verses:

On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. You who *remind* the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

- The Hebrew word for remind in this passage is *zakar*, meaning "to remember, to recall, to call to mind."

2. Often, *zakar* is used in the context of a covenant promise.

- For example, in Genesis 8:1, "God remembered [*zakar*] Noah...and God caused a wind to pass over

the earth, and the water subsided.”

- Why did God remember Noah and take action on his behalf? Because in Genesis 6:18, God made a covenant with him. This covenant motivated the Lord to take action on Noah’s behalf and make the flood waters recede.
- We see another example of *zakar* when God delivered Israel from Egyptian captivity. Through a covenant, God had promised Abraham that his descendants would be in a foreign land for four-hundred years (Gen. 15:13-14).
- When the time came for Israel to be released from Egypt, the Lord told Moses, “I have heard the groaning of the sons of Israel, because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and I have remembered [*zakar*] My covenant. Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments’” (Ex. 6:5-6).
- Because God remembered His covenant, He took action and delivered the Israelites from Egyptian bondage.
- In Exodus 32, we see another example of how covenant prayer moved God to action. While Moses was seeking the face of God on the mountain, the Israelites were praising a golden calf for delivering them out of Egypt. After observing this brazen idolatry, the Lord told Moses, “Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation” (Ex. 32:10).
- Completely opposed to this idea, Moses pleaded with God, “Remember [*zakar*] Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever’” (Ex. 32:13).
- Immediately after reminding God of His covenant promises, the Bible says, “The Lord changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people” (Ex. 32:14).
- Moses’ covenant prayer caused the God of the universe to change His mind. The good news is that we can have this same type of power with God when our prayers are based upon His covenants.

3. Covenant prayer is the key to Israel’s full restoration.

- From these three examples, we see that the word *zakar* means more than just remembering. It means to retain in thought in order to take an action in response to a covenant promise.
- When we remind the Lord of His covenants with Israel, He will take action upon His Word and make Jerusalem the praise of the earth.

Understanding Israel’s Covenants

- 1. Since our role is to remind God of His covenants, we need a better understanding of Israel’s covenants.**

- What the prophets said would take place in the end-times will happen for one reason—God will fulfill Israel's covenants.
- Everything that God has done or will do for Israel is based upon His covenants. God is a covenant-making, covenant-keeping God.
- In Paul's letter to the Romans, he said that the covenants, which were made with Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus, belong to Israel (Rom. 9:3-5).

2. Reading the Bible, we see that God has always acted on behalf of His covenants.

- Typical covenants involved promises of blessings for keeping the covenant and warnings of curses for breaking the covenant.
- In a typical covenant ceremony, an animal was often sacrificed, and the blood was used to seal the covenant in the presence of witnesses.
- The word covenant, which means to fetter or bind together, shows us that God binds Himself to His promises.
- Seeing Israel as a nation in covenant with God helps us understand the Lord's special dealings with this beloved country as He works to sum up all things in Christ.
- For when God fulfills all of Israel's covenant promises, Jerusalem will become the praise of the earth, and Jesus will reign as King from Mount Zion for a thousand years!
- Such a destiny is possible because of three covenants that God made with Israel. These are:
 - The Abrahamic Covenant
 - The Davidic Covenant
 - The New Covenant

3. As watchmen, we need to understand the Abrahamic Covenant.

- Spanning over twenty-five years and ten chapters in the Bible, the Abrahamic Covenant contains some of the most profound promises in history. In this covenant, God promised Abraham:
 - I will make you a great nation, I will bless you, and you shall be a blessing (Gen. 12:2-3; 22:18).
 - You will be an instrument for blessing or cursing (Gen. 12:2-3).
 - I will give you and your descendants the land of Canaan as an eternal inheritance (Gen. 12:6-7; 13:14-17; 15:18; 17:8).
 - I will give you a multitude of natural descendants (Gen. 13:16; 17:2,16; 22:17-18).
 - I will give you a multitude of spiritual descendants (Gen. 15:5; 22:17-18).
 - I will be God to your descendants (Gen. 17:7).
- Through this covenant, God made an eternal promise to Abraham's descendants that they would possess the land of Israel forever.
- When God completely fulfills the Abrahamic Covenant during the Millennial Kingdom, the Lord will make Israel the greatest nation in the

earth. Israel's borders will expand from Egypt to Iraq, her territory will cut across the heart of the Middle East, and Abraham's natural and spiritual sons will possess this land as one new man in Christ (Gen. 15:18; Isa. 19:23-25, 26:15, 62:5).

4. As watchmen, we need to understand the Davidic Covenant.

- In the Davidic Covenant, God promised David that his house, his kingdom, and his throne would endure forever (1 Chron. 17:11-15; Ps. 89:3-4).
- From King Rehoboam to King Zedekiah, God faithfully watched over the Davidic Covenant as twenty kings from the line of David ruled Judah.
- More importantly, the Bible shows us that the Messiah of Israel will sit "on the throne of David and over his kingdom" and that "there will be no end to the increase of His government" (Isa. 9:7).
- Who is the Messiah of Israel who will sit on the throne of David? Notice what the angel Gabriel told the virgin Mary: "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him *the throne of His father David*; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end" (Luke 1:31-33).
- As David's greatest son, Jesus will reign over the house of Jacob forever. He will rule the nations from Jerusalem for a thousand years when God completely fulfills the Davidic Covenant.

5. As watchmen, we need to understand the New Covenant.

- As the Messiah of Israel, Jesus Christ came to "make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah" (Jer. 31:31).
- Though the details of the New Covenant are far beyond the scope of this class, there is one truth that we need to understand. Namely, that all of the promises of God, including those made to Israel, are fulfilled in Christ (2 Cor. 2:20).
- In other words, the New Covenant fulfills every covenant from Abraham to David.
- Paul said, "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as referring to many, but rather to one, 'And to your seed,' that is, Christ" (Gal. 3:16).
- When Jesus died on the cross, He made a New Covenant with Israel through His blood. This covenant secures every promise that God ever made to Israel.
- This means that in Christ, Israel will become a great nation. In Christ, Israel's borders will expand from the Nile River to the Euphrates River. In Christ, Israel will bless the whole earth. And in Christ, Israel will have a King who will rule the nations with a rod of iron.
- Thus, every promise of Israel's future restoration, as detailed by the Old Testament prophets, was secured in the New Covenant through Christ's blood.

Because Israel's prophetic destiny is secured by God's covenants with Israel, it is critical that we pray according to these covenant promises. When we pray in this way, it fills God with great pleasure and moves Him to fulfill His Word.

Examples of Covenant Prayer for Israel's Destiny

1. Below is an example of covenant prayer for the fullness of aliyah.

Father, You said in Jeremiah 31:8-9 that the Jewish people would return to Israel from the north country and from the remote parts of the earth. You promised to lead them back by earnest prayer. I pray Father, remember Your promises, remember Your covenant, remember Your Word. Bring Your people back to the land of Israel.

Father, You said in Isaiah 43:5-7 that the Jewish people would return from the north, south, east, and west in order to give You glory. I pray Father, remember what You said, take action, and fulfill Your Word. Remove everything in the north that would try to hinder Your prophetic purposes and breakdown every barrier in the south that would prevent the Jews from returning to Israel. Bring in the fullness of aliyah from the north, south, east, and west so that the Jewish people might welcome Jesus back to Jerusalem with a cry of "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

2. Below is an example of covenant prayer for the peace of Jerusalem.

Father, in Joel 2:17 You told us to pray that the Jewish people would be spared and that their reproach would be removed. In obedience to this command, we pray that You would remember Your Word and have mercy upon Israel. Save them from their enemies and take away their reproach. Remove their shame and release Your favor upon them. We also pray that the nations would no longer rule over the Jewish people. In compliance with Your Word, we pray that You would break the yoke of bondage that the Arab League, the United Nations, the European Union, Russia, and even the United States has placed upon them.

Father, You said in Joel 2:18-29 that if we prayed this way, then You would restore Israel—that You would destroy their enemies and release prosperity, favor, and peace. Father, we pray that You would fulfill Your prophetic promises and make Jerusalem a place of peace.

3. Below is an example of covenant prayer for the salvation of Israel.

Father, You said in Isaiah 62:1 that Israel's righteousness would go forth like brightness and her salvation like a torch that is burning. Father, remember Your covenant promise, remember Your Word, remember what You spoke through Your Prophet Isaiah. Father, save

Your people Israel. Open their eyes to see, unstop their ears to hear, heal their hearts, and give them the grace to return to You through Jesus Christ.

At the same time, we realize that all Israel will not be saved until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in. So we also pray for the gospel of the kingdom to penetrate into every nation of the earth. As Your Word says, we pray that You would bring in the fullness of the Gentiles. Remember what You promised about the Middle East. In Isaiah 19, You said that a highway would extend from Egypt to Assyria and that You would send Egypt a Savior and a Champion. Release a revival in the Middle East. We also pray that revival would spread throughout the whole earth. Bring in the fullness of the Gentiles, we pray, in Jesus' name, amen.

4. Below is an example of covenant prayer for the Millennial Kingdom.

Father, You said that Jerusalem would be a praise in all of the earth. You said that all the nations would stream to Jerusalem to worship the King; that they would come seeking wisdom, guidance, and blessings. You promised that the borders of Israel would expand and extend from the Nile River to the Euphrates River—right through the heart of the Middle East.

Father, You also said that the glory of the Lord would shine from Mount Zion—a glory so intense that it would eclipse the sun and the moon. I bring all of these covenant promises to You, which were secured by the blood of Jesus Christ. I ask You Father God, remember Your Word, fulfill these covenant promises, and fill Jerusalem with favor, prosperity, and glory. Make Jerusalem the praise of the entire earth. Let Your kingdom come in fullness to Jerusalem.

Awake, O Arm of the Lord

1. In Exodus 6:5-6, we see what will happen when we remind God of His covenant promises.

- God told Moses, "I have heard the groaning of the sons of Israel, because the Egyptians are holding them in bondage, and *I have remembered My covenant*. Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. *I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments*'" (Ex. 6:5-6).
- Notice first that God said, "I have remembered My covenant."
- He then assured Israel, "I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments."
- What did God mean by an outstretched arm and great judgments? Reading the next five chapters of Exodus, we realize that the Lord was referring to the destructive plagues that were released through the rod of Moses upon Pharaoh and his kingdom (Ex. 7-11).
- When God stretched out His arm and released these great judgments, it meant redemption for Israel but destruction for Egypt.

2. At the end of the age, when God remembers His covenant once again, He will stretch out His arm and release great judgments.

- The Bible teaches that another Pharaoh will step onto the stage of the end-time drama. Like Pharaoh of old, the antichrist will persecute Israel and place a heavy yoke of bondage upon the Jewish nation. This Pharaoh will not just rule Egypt; he will have dominion over all the earth.
- Just as God remembered His covenant long ago, He will remember His covenant once again through the prayers of the watchmen. As a result, God will stretch out His arm with great power and release destructive judgments upon the modern-day Pharaoh and his worldwide empire.
- Isaiah cried out for this to happen when he prayed, "Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake as in the days of old, the generations of long ago. Was it not You who cut Rahab [in Isaiah 30:7, Rahab refers to Egypt] in pieces, who pierced the dragon? Was it not You who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep; who made the depths of the sea a pathway for the redeemed to cross over?" (Isa 51:9-10).
- Longing for the fulfillment of Israel's destiny, Isaiah prayed that God's arm of strength and power would awaken like it did during the exodus from Egypt.

3. At the end of the age, when God's arm awakens, it will bring redemption to Israel, but destruction to her enemies.

- After praying that God's arm would awaken, notice what Isaiah wrote one chapter later: "Break forth, shout joyfully together, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. *The LORD has bared His holy arm in the sight of all the nations*, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God" (Isa. 52:9-10).
- In these verses, as Isaiah looked down the corridor of time, he saw Israel entering into the fullness of her prophetic destiny when the Lord's arm is awakened at the end of the age.
- God will stretch out His arm once again, just as He did in the days of the exodus from Egypt, to redeem Israel from the hand of her enemies.
- As we stand in the gap and remind the Lord of Israel's promises, God's arm will awaken in strength. In turn, He will release great judgments that will remove everything hindering His kingdom from coming in fullness to the earth.

There is a prophetic parallel between what happened in Egypt when God remembered His covenant and what will happen at the end of the age when watchmen remind God of His covenant.

The Prayers of the Saints and the Fulfillment of Prophecy

1. When the incense bowls are filled with kingdom-oriented prayers, the prophetic events in the book of Revelation will be activated.

- For example, look at what John saw in Revelation 8:3-6:

Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.

- Notice that immediately after God responds to the prayers of the saints, seven angels, each having their own trumpet, release judgments from heaven to earth. These seven trumpet judgments are detailed in Revelation 8-11.
- Though most commentaries elaborate on these judgments, few, if any, emphasize that *our prayers* set these in motion.
- As a result of this critical omission, most Christians *assume* that everything will just happen one day *without our involvement or participation*.
- As watchmen, we must know that God will not fulfill end-time prophecies in His sovereignty. God has given us a mission-critical role to activate end-time events described in the book of Revelation and by the Old Testament Prophets.
- As believers around the world fulfill this call and cry out for God's kingdom to come in fullness to Jerusalem, the Lord's prophetic agenda will be set in motion.

2. The Lord is looking for people who understand His judgments and will partner with Him, like Moses did, in releasing these judgments to the earth.

- Though the Lord delights in mercy, the day of His vengeance must come for a short season to remove everything hindering His kingdom from coming in fullness.
- As God's kingdom begins to come in fullness, there will be an unprecedented upheaval in the earth. The kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light will clash like never before in history.
- As this battle begins to intensify, the Lord is looking for people who understand His judgments and will partner with Him, like Moses did, in releasing these judgments to the earth.
- When comparing the judgments that God released in the days of Moses (Ex. 7-11) with the judgments of the end-times (Rev. 8-11), we see an amazing similarity.

- This shows us that God will once again remember His covenant, as He did in the days of Moses, and send destructive judgments against Israel's enemies.

3. What type of prayer will activate the seven trumpet judgments described in Revelation 8-11?

- Since the prayers of the saints release the seven trumpet judgments described in Revelation 8-11, we can study these judgments to discern what type of prayer will activate them.
- For example, immediately after the seventh trumpet sounds, look at what the Bible says: "Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever'" (Rev. 11:15).
- This verse shows us that the seventh trumpet blast, which was activated by the prayers of the saints in Revelation 8:3-4, results in the kingdoms of the world becoming the kingdom of our God.
- Thus, the prayers of the saints are heartfelt cries for God's kingdom to come in fullness. They are kingdom-oriented prayers that cry out to God, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10).
- Hopefully, after this class, you know that God's kingdom will go forth in fullness from Jerusalem into every Gentile nation in the earth. For when Jesus sets up His Millennial Kingdom in Jerusalem, every major city, no matter how prominent and self-sufficient today, will depend upon Jerusalem for everything—including finances, governmental decisions, justice, and peace.
- That is why the prayers of the saints, to a large degree, include covenant prayers for Israel's prophetic destiny.

4. Through our prayers, God will redeem Israel once again with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

- As we fill the heavenly incense bowls with kingdom-oriented prayers—reminding God of Israel's covenant promises all day and all night—He will release judgments that will prepare the way for the Lord's return and His millennial reign from Jerusalem.
- Do you see how we can prepare the way of the Lord through intercessory prayer?
- Do you understand how our prayers will release God's judgments against everything hindering His kingdom from coming in fullness?
- Do you see that the Lord's return depends upon our covenant prayers for Jerusalem to become the praise of the earth?

We are not waiting on the Lord to return; He is waiting on us to prepare the way for His return by activating prophecies through fervent prayer. Our prayer or lack of prayer will either hasten or delay the second coming of Christ.

Review Questions

True or False

- _____ 1. In Paul's letter to the Romans, he said that the covenants, which were made with Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus, belong to all Gentile believers.
- _____ 2. Three important covenants that God made with Israel are: The Noahic Covenant; the Abrahamic Covenant; and the Davidic Covenant.
- _____ 3. In the Abrahamic Covenant, God promised the Jewish people that they would possess the land of Israel forever.
- _____ 4. In the New Covenant, God promised David that his son would sit on the throne of Israel forever.
- _____ 5. Covenant prayer for Israel is reminding God of the covenant promises that He made to Israel.
- _____ 6. When God remembers His covenant, He responds by stretching out His arm and releasing great judgments.
- _____ 7. There is a prophetic parallel between what happened in Egypt when God remembered His covenant and what will happen at the end of the age when watchmen remind God of His covenant.
- _____ 8. The seven trumpet judgments detailed in Revelation 8-11 are prophetic events that will happen whether or not the Church prays.

Fill in the Blanks

9. The Lord is looking for people who understand His _____ and will partner with Him, like _____ did, in releasing these _____ to the earth.
10. The prayers of the saints in Revelation 8:3-4 include _____ for Israel's _____.
11. We are not _____ on the Lord to return; He is waiting on us to _____ the way for His return by activating prophecies through _____.
12. When the incense bowls are filled with _____ prayers, the prophetic events in the book of Revelation will be activated.

13. At the end of the age, when God _____ His covenant once again, He will stretch out His _____ and release great _____.
14. Because Israel's prophetic destiny is secured by God's _____ with Israel, it is critical that we pray according to these _____.
15. In the _____, God promised _____ that his house, his kingdom, and his throne would endure forever.

Match the description of a covenant on the left with the name of the covenant on the right (You can use the answers more than once).

- _____ 16. All of the promises of God are yes and amen in Christ
- _____ 17. Defined the borders of Israel as stretching from Egypt to Iraq
- _____ 18. Promised to make Israel a great nation
- _____ 19. Promised that the Messiah would be the king of Israel forever
- _____ 20. Promised to make Israel an instrument for blessing or cursing

Possible Matches for 16-20

- a. Adamic
- b. Palestinian
- c. Abrahamic
- d. New
- e. Davidic

Session 9

Praying for the Fullness of Aliyah

This session covers:

- A detailed look at the modern-day Jewish exodus (aliyah) to Israel
- Four important aspects of aliyah
- How fervent prayer is required to bring in the fullness of aliyah

This session corresponds to:

- Chapter 7 of *The Zion Mandate* book
- Session 9 of *Learning to Pray for Israel* CDs

The End-Time Aliyah

1. The Hebrew word aliyah (ah-lee-AH) is used to describe a couple of different events.

- This word means “going up” or “ascent.”
- Over the years, this word has been associated with going up to Jerusalem to celebrate the feasts.
- Today, the most common meaning of aliyah is Jewish immigration to the land of Israel. That is how we will use aliyah in this session.

2. Numerous Scriptures prophesy the end-time exodus of Jews to Israel.

- Moses said that God would send the Jews back to Israel if they were ever dispersed (Deut. 30:3-5).
- Jeremiah prophesied that God would send fishers to allure the Jews to Israel and hunters to drive them back home (Jer. 16:14-16).
- Ezekiel listed this end-time exodus as a vital step in Israel’s restoration (Ezek. 36:24-28).

- Isaiah declared that God would bring the Jews home from the north, south, east, and west (Isa. 43:5-6).
- This end-time Jewish exodus permeates the writings of the prophets and is a vital step in the overall restoration of Israel.

3. Since the early 1900s, millions of Jewish people have returned to Israel.

- In the eight years following the Balfour Declaration in 1917, the Jewish population in Israel doubled, going from 55,000 to 103,000.
- From 1924 to 1928, the population doubled again as God faithfully watched over His word to perform it.
- Within the first four months after Israel's independence, approximately 50,000 Jews fled to Israel. These were mostly Holocaust survivors.
- From 1948 to 1951, the total number of Jews reached almost 700,000, which doubled Israel's population once more.
- Between 1949 and 1950, Operation Magic Carpet airlifted most of the Jewish population of Yemen to Israel, some 45,000 Jews.
- Then, in a small window of opportunity, over 50,000 Jews were airlifted from Baghdad before immigration to Israel became a capital offense.
- In November 1984, a six-week mission dubbed Operation Moses transported almost 8,000 Jews from Ethiopia to Israel.
- In May 1991, over the course of 36 hours and a total of 34 flights, Operation Solomon brought over 14,000 Ethiopian Jews home.
- This massive influx of Jews back to Israel has profound prophetic significance. The words of the Old Testament prophets are being fulfilled right before our eyes.
- Isaiah prophesied to Israel, "Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth" (Isa. 43:5-6).
- With Jews residing in over 120 different countries, they are literally coming home "from the ends of the earth."
- They are returning to Israel from the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe, and America. From the south, they are coming from countries such as Ethiopia and South Africa. From the east, they are coming from countries such as Iran, Pakistan, and India. From the west, they are coming from countries such as the U.S.A and France. From the north, they are coming from countries such as Russia and Romania.
- In 1948, approximately six percent of the world's Jewish population lived in Israel; in 2005, some thirty-five percent of the world's Jews have chosen to make Israel their home.

4. There are four important aspects of aliyah that we need to understand.

1. Aliyah is important to God.
2. Aliyah prepares the way for God to be glorified.

3. Aliyah prepares the way for Jesus to return.
4. God will use every possible means to bring the Jewish people home.

1. Aliyah Is Important to God.

1. Intercessors who pray for Israel's prophetic destiny need to understand how important aliyah is to God.

- Many who live in the western world, especially in America, view aliyah as an option—not a divine mandate.
- Uprooting one's family and moving to a foreign land would be exceptionally difficult. Leaving behind the luxuries of the west to face the turmoil of the east would be an enormous challenge for anyone.
- God also has a time and season for everything—even for aliyah.
- Many hindrances also make aliyah difficult, particularly for Messianic Jews who do not qualify for immigration to Israel.
- Nevertheless, as intercessors who pray for the fullness of aliyah—especially from the western world—we need to understand how important this is to God.

2. God is bringing the Jews back to Israel in order to glorify His name and honor the covenant that He made with Abraham.

- After Ezekiel detailed the Lord's agenda to bring the Jews back to Israel (Ezek 36:8-11), God specifically said that He was doing this for His sake—not Israel's (Ezek. 36:22-24).
- God specifically said, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name....I will vindicate the holiness of My great name....Then the nations will know that I am the LORD,' declares the Lord GOD, 'when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight. For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land'" (Ezek. 36:22-24).
- God is bringing the Jews back to Israel for His namesake, to honor the covenant that He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- The Lord is using aliyah to show the world that He is a covenant-making, covenant-keeping God. Therefore, gathering the Jews from every corner of the earth back to Israel is very important to God. He is committed to bringing His chosen people back to the Promised Land.
- Ezekiel prophesied, "As I live,' declares the Lord GOD, 'surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out'" (Ezek. 20:33-34).
- By saying "as I live," God was making an oath to bring His people home. God vowed to use His mighty hand, His outstretched arm, and His wrath to remove every hindrance that stands in the way.

3. Aliyah is so important to God that He promised to bring every Jew back to Israel.

- Through Ezekiel, God promised to bring home “all the house of Israel, all of it” (Ezek. 36:10).
- This statement shows God’s commitment to the end-time Jewish exodus. Aliyah is so vital to God that He vowed to bring every Jew back to Israel.
- Later in Ezekiel, the Lord reiterated this objective, saying, “Then they will know that I am the LORD their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them again to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer” (Ezek. 39:28).
- Aliyah is so critical to God’s prophetic agenda that He pledges to “leave none of them there [in Gentile nations] any longer.”
- Since aliyah is important to God, as intercessors, we need to stand in the gap for the Jewish people scattered abroad. We need to cry out that God would do whatever it takes to bring aliyah to completion.

2. Aliyah Prepares the Way for God to be Glorified.

1. Aliyah is a significant way by which God will be glorified.

- Ezekiel prophesied, “When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the lands of their enemies, *then* I shall be sanctified through them in the sight of the many nations” (Ezek. 39:27).
- Notice the keyword “then” in this passage. This shows us that God will be sanctified and glorified through Israel after the Jews return to the land.
- The Hebrew word for sanctified in this passage is *qadash*. Some of the meanings of *qadash* are to consecrate, to dedicate, to be hallowed, to be holy, to show oneself sacred or majestic, to be honored, or to be treated as sacred.
- Aliyah is important because it will glorify God.

2. There are many ways by which God is being glorified through aliyah.

- When the Jews return home from the north, south, east, and west, God’s name will be glorified in the earth. Even now, God is being glorified through the return of the Jews to Israel.
- For example, aliyah shows God’s power to bring down antichrist governments, such as the Soviet Union, which stand in the way of His prophetic agenda.
- Aliyah illustrates God’s faithfulness to His covenant as He fulfills ancient prophecies.
- Aliyah also reveals God’s love for the Jewish people, even though they have broken His covenant.
- Though God is being glorified as the Jews return to Israel, the best is yet to come. That is why Ezekiel used the keyword “then” in his prophecy.
- For God to be fully glorified, aliyah must be completed in every nation, including the western world.
- Since God has told us plainly that He will be fully glorified after the Jews return to Israel, praying for the fulfillment of aliyah should rank

high on our intercessory agenda.

3. Aliyah Prepares the Way for Jesus to Return.

1. Israel's end-time revival will usher in the return of the Lord.

- When the Jews in Jerusalem cry out, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord," Jesus will return (Matt. 23:39).
- For this to take place, the Jewish people must return to Israel.

2. The Jewish people must be in the land before God pours out His Spirit upon the house of Israel.

- Ezekiel prophesied, "When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the lands of their enemies....*Then* they will know that I am the LORD their God....I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," declares the Lord GOD" (Ezek. 39:27-29).
- Once again we see the key word "then." God revealed that the Jews must return to Israel before "they will know that I am the Lord their God."
- As the fullness of aliyah approaches, we know that the greatest revival in Israel's history is just over the horizon.
- Aliyah is a major factor in the second coming of Christ.
- Jesus is restrained from returning in glory until the Jews return to Israel.

3. Israel's end-time revival depends upon the Jews returning to the land.

- Ezekiel prophesied to Israel, "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God" (Ezek. 36:24-28).
- Once more, the keyword "then" appears, linking the day of national revival to the return of the Jews to Israel.
- When God takes the Jews from the nations, gathers them from all the lands, and brings them to Israel, *then* He will cleanse them from sin; *then* He will give them a new heart and a new spirit; *then* He will remove their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh; *then* He will put His Spirit within them and cause them to walk in His statutes; *then* the Jews will become God's New Covenant people in Jesus Christ!
- The Prophet Hosea confirmed this truth when he prophesied, "Yet the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which

cannot be measured or numbered; and in the place where it is said to them, 'You are not My people,' it will be said to them, 'You are the sons of the living God'" (Hos. 1:10).

- Where did God tell the Jews, "You are not My people"? He spoke this to them in the land of Israel thousands of years ago when they broke His covenant.

4. God Will Use Every Possible Means to Bring the Jewish People Home.

1. God will use fishers and hunters to bring the Jews back to Israel.

- Jeremiah revealed how important aliyah is to God when he prophesied:

"Therefore behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when it will no longer be said, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' but, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them.' For I will restore them to their own land which I gave to their fathers. Behold, *I am going to send for many fishermen,*" declares the LORD, "and they will fish for them; and afterwards *I will send for many hunters,* and they will hunt them from every mountain and every hill and from the clefts of the rocks" (Jer. 16:14-16).

- Through this prophecy, God unveils His determination and resolve to see the Jews return to Israel. God's prophetic agenda will not be thwarted, even though Satan is using every weapon possible to hinder aliyah.
- Through fear, politics, prosperity, presidents, intimidation, comfort, terrorism, economic pressure, and the liberal media, the powers of darkness are doing whatever it takes to obstruct the Jews' exodus to Zion.
- Satan knows that his time of judgment is at hand when aliyah has run its full course.
- Nevertheless, God has already told us His strategy to bring the Jews back to Israel—He will use fishers and hunters.

2. The fishers are God's preferred method for sending the Jews back to Israel.

- These men and women are strategic gatherers who, through the power of the Holy Spirit, devise and implement strategies that help gather the Jews back to Israel.
- Just as fishers cast out their nets and gather in fish, God's fishers gather Jews back to Israel through fervent prayer, strategic planning, and by providing them with whatever resources they need.
- In addition, fishers try to persuade the Jews to make aliyah by en-

couraging them to fulfill their God-given destiny in the Promised Land. They even warn the Jews what might happen if they don't make aliyah.

- God's fishers are men like Jeb Zobotinsky, who traveled through Europe and Germany in 1933, warning the Jews to return to the land while the doors were still open.
- They are men like Steve Lightle, author of the book *Exodus II*, who had a vision in 1974 of throngs of Russian Jews immigrating to Israel when it seemed impossible. Lightle went throughout the Soviet Union, proclaiming to the powers and principalities over the U.S.S.R, "Let God's people go." When Communism fell, Lightle then aided the Jews in their return to Israel.
- Tom Hess, leader of the Jerusalem House of Prayer, is another example of a fisher. Hess' book, *Let My People Go!*, is a prophetic message to the American Jews, warning and exhorting them to make aliyah before it is too late. To woo them to the Promised Land, Hess' goal is to give his book to every Jew living in America.
- In summary, God's fishers are prophetic voices who are filled with love, mercy, compassion, and concern for the Jewish people. They speak the truth in love to the Jews, urging them to flee the coming judgments and return to the Promised Land.

3. If the fishers fail to woo the Jews back to Israel, the Lord is forced to send the hunters.

- God said, "Afterwards I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them from every mountain and every hill and from the clefts of the rocks" (Jer. 16:16).
- Notice that God would send for the hunters "afterwards." This is important to understand. In the Lord's great mercy and love, He will always send the fishers first. God will exhaust every possible means to allure the Jews back to Israel through the gentle wooing of the fisher.
- Nevertheless, if the Jewish people don't respond to these loving admonitions, the Lord will send the hunters.
- Hunters show no mercy, no regard for human life, and no tolerance for Jews. They will use any kind of force, any kind of weapon, and any kind of strategy to annihilate the Jewish people.
- The hunters literally "hunt them from every mountain and every hill and from the clefts of the rocks," just as the SS and Gestapo did as they carried out Hitler's Final Solution.
- When God set His mind on reestablishing the Jewish people in the land of Israel, He used what the Nazis intended for evil to accomplish His purposes. In this case, the Nazis were the hunters.
- God only sends the hunters when the fishers have exhausted all possible means to allure the Jews to Israel.
- Though the Jews were warned before Hitler carried out the Final Solution, only an estimated six-hundred thousand heeded the call to flee the coming persecution.

Praying for the Fullness of Aliyah

1. For aliyah to reach its fullness, fervent prayer is required.

- In Ezekiel 36:37, the Lord encourages us to ask Him for an increase in aliyah. He said, "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'This also I will let the house of Israel ask Me to do for them: I will increase their men like a flock'" (Ezek. 36:37).
- Describing the end-time aliyah, Jeremiah said, "Behold, I am bringing them from the north country, and I will gather them from the remote parts of the earth...a great company, they will return here. With weeping they will come, and by supplication I will lead them" (Jer. 31:8-9).
- Notice that Jeremiah said that "by supplication I will lead them." The Hebrew word for supplication is *tachanuwn*. It means earnest prayer.
- The dictionary defines earnest as "serious and intense; not joking or playful; zealous and sincere; not petty or trivial; important."
- Because the kingdom of darkness will not let the Jewish people return to Israel without an all-out war, earnest prayer is required for aliyah to reach its fullness.
- Massive breakthrough is needed for demonic opposition to be broken down, for entrenched strongholds to be dismantled, and for every hindrance to be removed so that the Jewish people might return to Israel.

As we take ownership of Israel's restoration, our heartfelt, serious, and diligent prayers for the fullness of aliyah will result in massive breakthrough and will help activate end-time prophecy.

Review Questions

True or False

- _____ 1. Aliyah means "going down" or "descent."
- _____ 2. The most common meaning of aliyah is Jewish immigration to the land of Israel.
- _____ 3. God is not bringing the Jews back to Israel only for their sake but to glorify His name and to honor the covenant that He made with Abraham.
- _____ 4. At some point in time every Jewish person alive in the earth will return to Israel.
- _____ 5. The hunters are God's preferred method for sending the Jews back to Israel.
- _____ 6. Fishers are strategic gatherers who, through the power of the Holy Spirit, devise and implement strategies that help gather the Jews back to Israel.
- _____ 7. Earnest prayer is required for aliyah to reach its fullness.
- _____ 8. If the hunters fail to woo the Jews back to Israel, the Lord is forced to send the fishers.
- _____ 9. The Jewish people must be in the land before God pours out His Spirit upon the house of Israel.

Fill in the blanks

10. The Lord is using _____ to show the world that He is a _____, _____ God.
11. Aliyah prepares the way for God to be _____.
12. Because the kingdom of darkness will not let the Jewish people return to Israel without an all-out war, _____ is required for aliyah to reach its fullness.
13. In the Lord's great mercy and love, He will always send the _____ first. Nevertheless, if the Jewish people don't respond to these loving admonitions, the Lord will send the _____.

14. Israel's end-time _____ depends upon the Jews _____ to the land.

15. God is bringing the Jews back to Israel for His _____, to _____ the _____ that He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Match the Scriptures on the right with the appropriate statement on the left.

_____ 16. Shows how the Jewish people must be in the land of Israel before God pours out His Spirit upon the Jewish nation

_____ 17. Reveals how earnest prayer is essential for aliyah to reach its fullness

_____ 18. Describes the Lord's promise to send fishers and hunters in order for aliyah to reach its fullness

_____ 19. Shows God's desire to glorify His name by bringing the Jews back to Israel

_____ 20. Prophecy that describes Israel's end-time role of welcoming Jesus back as their Messiah

Possible Matches for 16-20

- a. Matthew 23:39
- b. Jeremiah 31:8-9
- c. Ezekiel 39:27-29
- d. Ezekiel 36:22-24
- e. Jeremiah 16:14-16

Session 10

Praying for the Peace of Jerusalem

This session covers:

- The Arab-Israeli conflict as described in Bible prophecy
- The modern-day history of the Arab-Israeli conflict
- The root issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict
- Why we need to pray for the peace of Jerusalem
- Four ways to pray for the peace of Jerusalem

This session corresponds to:

- Chapter 8 of *The Zion Mandate* book
- Session 10 of *Learning to Pray for Israel* CDs

The Arab-Israeli Conflict Described in Psalm 83

1. Psalm 83 is a prophecy which depicts the modern-day Arab assault against the nation of Israel.

- This prophetic prayer lists ten different nations that join together in order to destroy Israel.
- Most scholars agree that such an alignment has never happened in Israel's ancient history.
- By breaking down this Psalm, we find that this prophecy accurately describes what has taken place during the Arab-Israeli wars fought during the last sixty years.
- Amazingly, we are living in the days when this prophecy is being fulfilled right before our eyes!

2. To understand how Psalm 83 applies to our day, we need to identify the ancient nations in this passage.

- Edom refers to southern Jordan.
- The Ishmaelites lived in what is now Saudi Arabia.

- Moab alludes to central Jordan.
- The Hagrites are probably from Syria and Arabia.
- Gebal and Ammon relate to southern and central Jordan.
- Amalek refers to the Sinai desert.
- Philistia refers to the land governed by the Palestinian Authority.
- Tyre is southern Lebanon.
- Assyria alludes to Syria and Iraq.
- In short, these nations describe the Arab League.
- This prophecy does not just describe one battle, but an entire Pan-Arab military campaign that will culminate prior to the Lord's return.

The Arab-Israeli Conflict

1. The Arab League wants to destroy Israel.

- Composed of twenty-two independent Arab states, the Arab League has a population that exceeds forty-million and has a combined land-mass that spans more than five-million square miles.
- This is in stark contrast to Israel, which has a population of six-million and covers less than thirteen-thousand square miles.
- This coalition of Arab states hates Israel with a passion. Just like the Psalmist prophesied, these Arab nations "make shrewd plans against Your people, and conspire together against Your treasured ones" (Ps. 83:3).
- These warriors of Allah "have conspired together with one mind"; against God "they make a covenant," saying, "Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more" (Ps. 83:4-5).
- For over fifty years, the cry to drive the Jews into the sea has resonated from Islamic mosques from Iraq to Egypt.
- The Arab world wants to remove Israel from the landscape of the Middle East. Most Arab nations believe that Israel has no right to exist.

2. Beginning in the late 1940s, the Arab League declared jihad ("holy war") against the Jewish nation.

- Throughout this war, which has continued for over six decades, the Arabs have used numerous strategies to destroy the Jewish nation and recapture Palestine for Allah.
- Employing tactics such as all-out invasions, surprise attacks, terrorism, media propaganda, oil embargoes, suicide bombers, and political blackmailing, the Arabs have done anything and everything to annihilate Israel.
- The Arab League has weakened the Israeli economy, fostered world-wide anti-Semitism, blanketed Israelis with fear, and murdered thousands of Jews.
- As the psalmist put it, their goal is to "wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more" (Ps. 83:4).
- The Arab-Israeli wars of 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, and 1982, along with the Intifadas of the 80s and the twenty-first century, testify that

the Arabs have one agenda—the total annihilation of Israel.

- After the Arabs were defeated in the 1948 War of Independence, the Six-Day War of 1967, and the Yom Kippur War of 1973, they devised a new strategy to wipe out the Jewish nation.
- Using media propaganda, political blackmailing, and terrorism, the Arab League sought to slowly drain the Israeli economy, and little by little, liberate Palestine from their Zionist enemies.
- This shift in strategy has resulted in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

3. Yassar Arafat created the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1964 with the goal of destroying Israel.

- The PLO Covenant declares, “The Arab Palestinian people, expressing themselves by the armed Palestinian revolution, reject all solutions which are substitutes for the total liberation of Palestine.”¹
- This declaration is carried out by suicide bombers blowing themselves up on buses, terrorists murdering innocent Jewish civilians, and the PLO training children to be martyrs for the cause of Allah.
- Though there have been numerous attempts to quell the violence in Israel, the PLO has vowed to “reject all solutions which are substitutes for the total liberation of Palestine.”

4. Behind the scenes, the Arab League is empowering the Palestinian cause.

- Notice what the PLO covenant states about the Arab world and the liberation of Palestine:

The destiny of the Arab nation [the Arab League], and indeed Arab existence itself, depend upon the destiny of the Palestine cause. From this interdependence springs the Arab nation's pursuit of, and striving for, the liberation of Palestine. The people of Palestine play the role of the vanguard in the realization of this sacred (qawmi) goal.²

- The Palestinians are the “vanguard” in this war—doing the dirty work on behalf of the Arab League.
- Hamas, a known terrorist organization, is now controlling the Palestinian government. According to the U.S. State Department, Hamas is funded by Iran, Palestinian exiles, and private benefactors in Saudi Arabia and other Arab states. In other words, the Arab League and Iran are the masterminds in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Islam—the Root Issue in the Middle East Conflict

1. Why is Israel crucial to the Islamic cause?

- To answer this question, look at what Randall Price, a noted Ph.D in Middle Eastern Studies, states in his book, *Unholy War*:

There is yet another reason that Jerusalem has become so important in the present conflict: It is territory that has come under the control of Islam but which has been "occupied" by non-Muslims (the Jews). According to Islamic law, once a place has been conquered by Allah through Islam, it must remain Allah's property in perpetuity. Otherwise, the command of Allah to conquer the world would be negated and the Muslim religion would be repudiated as inferior. Therefore, regardless of the city's spiritual significance, it has now become Islamic property that cannot be relinquished to the infidel or dhimmi without the honor of Allah being affected.³

- Since Muslims occupied Jerusalem for hundreds of years, they view the Holy City as Islamic property that must be reoccupied for the glory of Allah. Otherwise, the Jews dishonor and besmear Allah's name.
- In addition, Jerusalem is considered the third holiest Islamic city because this is where Muhammad supposedly ascended into heaven.
- These reasons explain why the Arab world has declared a permanent jihad against Israel.

Praying for the Peace of Jerusalem

1. What is our role in the Arab-Israeli conflict?

- The Bible says, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Ps. 122:6).
- This Scripture is more than a suggestion; it is a divine mandate. God commands us to pray for Jerusalem's security and well-being.

2. Why are we called to pray for the peace of Jerusalem?

- Because the devil wants to destroy Israel in order to abort God's prophetic agenda.
- Jesus told the Jews living in Jerusalem, "You will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'" (Matt. 23:39, NIV).
- Jesus' return depends upon a unified, sincere, and contrite invitation from the Jewish people living in Jerusalem. No other nation has ever been given such an awesome privilege and responsibility.
- This is why the devil has repeatedly tried to annihilate the Jewish race. Why? Because if he succeeds, there will be no return of Jesus. If he succeeds, the devil will not be cast into prison for a thousand years and ultimately sentenced to the lake of fire for all eternity (Rev. 20:2-3, 10).
- Jesus has bound Himself by His sacred word; and if it were possible to exterminate the Jewish people, Jesus would remain in self-induced exile.
- We know that will not happen, but this is why we need to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. God wants to use our prayers to restrain the devil's plans to annihilate Israel and abort God's prophetic agenda.

- Talking about this very issue, Jim Maher states in his book, *As Storm Clouds Gather*:

If the devil and his demonic hosts succeed in removing the Jewish people from the planet, then it's checkmate. Game over. Why? Because God cannot lie and He cannot return if the Jewish people don't exist to invite Him back. Are you beginning to feel the weightiness of this matter? Do you understand why the church's principal, yet very neglected last-day mandate is to pray for and reach the heart of the Jews? Not only are they a precious people but they play a pivotal role in the return of the Messiah. Beloved, this is huge in God's last day economy.⁴

- Because the powers of darkness want to annihilate Israel, as intercessors, we must stand in the gap and restrain demonic powers from carrying out their evil plans.
- This is why we must pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

3. Four ways to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

1. Pray that God would give the Arabs humility so that they would come to know Him.
2. Pray for the destruction of Israel's enemies.
3. Pray for a supernatural Israeli victory.
4. Pray that God would spare the Jews, take away their reproach, and break the nations' stranglehold over them.

1. Pray That God Would Give the Arabs Humility So That They Would Come to Know Him.

1. In Psalm 83, one of the main burdens of the psalmist was for Israel's enemies to know the one true God.

- The Psalmist prayed, "Fill their faces with dishonor, that they may seek Your name, O LORD. Let them be ashamed and dismayed forever, and let them be humiliated and perish, that they may know that You alone, whose name is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth" (Ps. 83:16-18).
- At first glance, this prayer might seem a little harsh. The psalmist prayed that God would fill their faces with dishonor, bring upon them eternal shame and dismay, and humiliate and destroy them.
- However, the psalmist's ultimate goal was to see them seek God's name and know that He alone is the Most High over all the earth.

2. We need to pray that the Arabs would come to know the Hebrew God Yahweh as the Most High over all the earth.

- Notice that the psalmist prayed that the Arabs would know the One whose name is the Lord (Ps. 83:18).
- The Hebrew word for Lord in this passage is Yahweh, which is the

most commonly used name for Lord in the Hebrew Scriptures.

- In essence, the psalmist prayed that the Arabs would come to know that the Hebrew God Yahweh—not the moon god Allah—is the Most High over all the earth.
- Realizing that this prophecy has never been fulfilled, we can use this prophetic prayer as a model of how to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- We should pray that God would remove the veil of Islam from the Arabs' eyes and release a spirit of humility on them so that they would come to know the Hebrew God Yahweh through faith in Jesus Christ.

2. Pray for the Destruction of Israel's Enemies.

1. It is important to know that Muslims are not our enemies.

- In the chaos and confusion of the Middle East conflict, we must always remember that we do not wrestle with flesh and blood, but with principalities and powers (Eph. 6:12).
- We must always remember that demonic spirits are trying to carry out hell's agenda in the Middle East.
- As intercessors who stand in the gap for Israel, let's heed the Lord's advice to Joshua. The Lord told him that He was neither for him or his adversaries, but He came as captain of the Lord of hosts (Josh. 5:13-15). Let's make sure that we stay on the Lord's side, not on the side of the Arabs or the Jews.

2. We need to pray that the destruction of Israel's enemies will lead to the redemption of the Arab world.

- The psalmist prayed, "O my God, make them like the whirling dust, like chaff before the wind. Like fire that burns the forest and like a flame that sets the mountains on fire, so pursue them with Your tempest and terrify them with Your storm" (Ps. 83:13-15).
- When you pray for the Arabs, make sure that you do not pray with hate, spite, or bitterness, but with a true heart that yearns to see them come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- Ultimately, the destruction of Israel's enemies will lead to the redemption of the Arab world.

3. Pray for a Supernatural Israeli Victory.

1. We need to pray for a climatic, supernatural Israeli victory in the Middle East conflict.

- The psalmist prayed, "Deal with them as with Midian, as with Sisera and Jabin at the torrent of Kishon, who were destroyed at En-dor, who became as dung for the ground. Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb and all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna, who said, 'Let us pos-

sess for ourselves the pastures of God'" (Ps. 83:9-12).

- You might be wondering what all of these cryptic names mean—Midian, Sisera, Jabin, Kishon, En-dor, Oreb, Zeeb, Zebah, and Zalmunna.
- First, we find Midian, Oreb, Zeeb, Zebah, and Zalmunna in Judges 6-8. This passage recounts Gideon's supernatural victory over the Midianites.
- Second, we find Sisera and Jabin in Judges 4. This passage records Deborah and Barak's supernatural victory over the Canaanites.

2. Gideon's supernatural victory over the Midianites shows us how to pray for the Middle East conflict.

- Because of Israel's sin, the Lord sent Midian to rule over Israel for seven years (Judg. 6:1).
- When the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord, however, He raised up Gideon to deliver them from the hand of Midian (Judg. 6:6; 6:11-18).
- To ensure that Israel did not boast, "My own power has delivered me," God winnowed Gideon's army from twenty-two thousand to three-hundred men (Judg. 7:2-8). This tiny army faced 135,000 well-equipped warriors (Judg. 8:10).
- With trumpets in one hand and pitchers in the other, Gideon's army miraculously routed Midian's troops. When Gideon's men blew their trumpets, the Lord "set the sword of one against another even throughout the whole army; and the army fled" (Judg. 7:22). This divinely inspired civil war cost Midian's army 120,000 men (Judg. 8:10).
- Following this conquest, Gideon killed Oreb and Zeeb, two key Midianite leaders, and Zebah and Zalmunna, the two Midianite kings.

3. Deborah and Barak's supernatural victory over the Canaanites shows us how to pray for the Middle East conflict.

- Jabin was the king of Canaan and Sisera was his military commander.
- Once again, when Israel sinned, God gave them into the hands of their enemies.
- The Bible says that the Canaanites ruled over Israel for twenty years (Judg. 4:3). Nevertheless, when the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord, he defeated the Canaanites through Deborah and Barak.

4. When the psalmist used these stories to pray for the Arab-Israeli conflict, it showed us two things that we need to pray.

- First, we need to pray that Israel would have a supernatural, once-and-for-all victory against the Arabs.
- Second, we need to pray that God would remove every leader who is responsible for turmoil in the Middle East.
- This second point is important for us to understand because many Muslims are peace-loving people who, unfortunately, are under the control of ruthless leaders.
- Praying this way will activate ancient prophecy, bring about temporary peace, and set the stage for God's end-time agenda.

4. Pray That God Would Spare the Jews, Take Away Their Reproach, and Break the Nations' Stranglehold over Them.

1. Joel 2:15-29 reveals how our prayers can shape the destiny of Israel, the Middle East, and the entire world.

- When reading through Ezekiel 38-39, which we looked at in Session 6, it appears that this prophecy will just happen in the sovereignty of God. There is nothing that hints or suggests that this end-time jihad will be activated by prayer.
- The book of Joel, however, looks at the same events in Ezekiel 38-39 from a different angle, showing us the role of prayer in the activation of prophecy.
- Joel prophesied:

Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; 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. 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, NKJV).

- For many years, leaders have used this passage to call solemn assemblies of prayer and fasting.
- When leaders use this passage, however, it is usually not in relation to praying for Israel. Certainly, using Joel's prophecy as a way to motivate prayer, fasting, seeking God, and repentance is a great way to apply these verses. Don't we all need more of this!
- Nevertheless, taking this call to prayer out of its original context can weaken what the Lord is really saying in this passage.

Joel's call to solemn assemblies of prayer and fasting—centered primarily on Israel—could well be one of the Holy Spirit's most urgent cries in this hour.

2. Joel 2:15-17 teaches us to pray for three things.

- First, Joel exhorted us to pray that God would "spare [His] people."
 - In its most direct application, the Lord's people in this verse refers to the Jews.
 - This means that we should ask the Lord to have mercy and compassion upon the Jewish people.

- This is really a prayer of deliverance; a cry that God would set Israel free from the oppression of her enemies.
- Second, Joel admonished us to pray that God would “not give [His] heritage to reproach.”
 - Once again, the Lord’s heritage refers to Israel (Joel 3:2).
 - A reproach is an object of blame, censure, scorn, shame, and disgrace.
 - One quick glance through history testifies that Israel has been a reproach for thousands of years. The Jewish people have been the object of shame in the Crusades, the Inquisitions, the Russian pogroms, and the Holocaust.
 - Clearly, this prophetic call to prayer has never been fulfilled.
 - That is why it is important for us to come into agreement with this prayer and ask God to take away Israel’s reproach.
- Third, Joel advised us to pray that God would break “the [nations’]...rule over them.”
 - For thousands of years, the nations have persecuted the Jewish people and ruled over the land of Israel.
 - In fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy, Jerusalem has been “trampled under foot by the Gentiles” as Rome, the Persians, the Byzantines, the Muslims, the Crusaders, the Ottoman Empire, and the British have each occupied this Holy City (Luke 21:24).
 - Even in our day, we have seen the devastating effects of the Arab-Israeli conflict upon the land, the economy, and the morale of Israel.
 - Clearly, the nations are still dictating their will upon the Jewish people. That is why we need to come into agreement with Joel’s prayer and ask God to break this yoke of bondage.
 - We need to pray that God would deliver Israel from the stranglehold of the United Nations, the Arab League, the European Union, Russia, and even the United States.
 - This prayer is really about shifting the world from “the times of the Gentiles” into the time when Jerusalem is the praise of the earth (Luke 21:24).

3. What will happen when intercessors pray Joel’s mandated prayer of deliverance?

- Joel 2:18, which follows directly after this prayer of deliverance, shows us. It says, “Then the LORD will be zealous for His land and will have pity on His people.”
- As we have seen so often in this class, the keyword “then” appears.
- Joel revealed that the Lord will be zealous for His land and have compassion on His people *after the intercessors cry out to God*.
- The remaining part of Joel 2 details what happens when we pray. Specifically, Joel said that our prayers will result in:

- God destroying the northern army, which is most likely the Pan-Islamic army that we have talked about in this session (Joel 2:20).
- God giving Israel fame and renown among the nations (Joel 2:19).
- God releasing prosperity and favor upon the Jewish people (Joel 2:19).
- God pouring out His Spirit in an unprecedented way (Joel 2:28).

Recall that we have a mandate to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Begin today fulfilling this call by praying for Israel's supernatural victory in the Arab-Israeli conflict and for the nations' stranglehold to be broken off of Israel. As you do this, your prayers will be preparing the way for the Lord's return.

Notes

1. <http://www.mideastweb.org/plocha.htm>, referenced on December 12, 2005.
2. <http://www.mideastweb.org/plocha.htm>, referenced on December 12, 2005.
3. Price, *Unholy War*, p. 100.
4. Jim Maher, *As Storm Clouds Gather* (New Song International Ministries, 2005), pp. 76.

Review Questions

True or False

- _____ 1. Psalm 83 is a prophecy which depicts a historical Arab assault against the nation of Israel.
- _____ 2. Most Arab nations believe that Israel has no right to exist.
- _____ 3. Saddam Hussein created the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) with the goal of destroying Israel.
- _____ 4. The Arab League is not involved in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.
- _____ 5. The Arab-Israeli conflict is a political war not a religious war.
- _____ 6. As intercessors, we should not take sides with the Jews or the Arabs, but should only seek to be on the Lord's side.
- _____ 7. Our primary role in the Arab-Israeli conflict is to vote for pro-Israel leaders in our governments.
- _____ 8. Since Muslims occupied Jerusalem for hundreds of years, they view the Holy City as Islamic property that must be reoccupied for the glory of Allah.

Fill in the blanks

9. The Arab-Israeli wars of _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____, along with the Intifadas of the _____ and the _____ century, testify that the Arabs have one agenda—the total _____ of Israel.
10. The psalmist in Psalm 83 prayed that the Arabs would come to know that the Hebrew God _____—not the moon god _____—is the _____ over all the earth.
11. As intercessors who stand in the gap for Israel, we need to make sure that we stay on the _____ side, not on the side of the _____ or the _____.
12. The book of Joel looks at the same events in _____ and _____ from a different angle, showing us the role of _____ in the _____ of _____.

13. We need to pray that Israel would have a _____ victory against the Arabs.

14. In Psalm 83, Edom refers to southern _____ and the Ishmaelites lived in what is now _____.

15. In Psalm 83, Moab alludes to central _____. The Hagrites are probably from _____ and _____. Gebal and Ammon relate to southern and central _____.

16. In Psalm 83, Amalek refers to the _____. Philistia refers to the land governed by the _____. Tyre is southern _____. Assyria alludes to _____ and _____.

Match the appropriate Scripture with a way to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

_____ 17. Pray that God would give the Arabs humility so that they would come to know Him.

_____ 18. Pray for the destruction of Israel's enemies.

_____ 19. Pray for a supernatural Israeli victory.

_____ 20. Pray that God would break the nations' rule over the Jews.

Possible Matches for 17-20

- a. Psalm 83:13-15
- b. Psalm 83:16-18
- c. Psalm 83:9-12
- d. Isaiah 62:6-7
- e. Jeremiah 31:8-9
- f. Joel 2:15-17
- g. Ezekiel 36:37

Session 11

Praying for the Descendants of Abraham

This session covers:

- Three important dynamics in the salvation of Israel
- The coming revival in the Middle East
- Four ways to pray for revival in the Middle East

This session corresponds to:

- Chapter 9 of *The Zion Mandate* book
- Session 11 of *Learning to Pray for Israel* CDs

Three Important Dynamics in the Salvation of Israel

1. We need to understand how all Israel will be saved.

- As we pray for Israel's prophetic destiny, we must learn how to pray for Abraham's descendants—especially for the salvation of the Jewish people.
- In Paul's famous passage about the restoration of Israel (Rom. 9-11), he identified three important dynamics that we need to understand about the salvation of Israel.
- These three dynamics are:
 1. The Jewish remnant
 2. The fullness of the Gentiles
 3. The salvation of all Israel

1. The Jewish Remnant

1. In Romans 11, Paul identified two categories of Jews.

- Referring to Israel, Paul wrote, "In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice" (Rom. 11:5).
- A few verses later, Paul said, "What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened" (Rom. 11:7).
- Why were the rest hardened? The Bible says that "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes to see not and ears to hear not, down to this very day" (Rom. 11:8).
- From these Scriptures, we see that Paul identified two categories of Jews.
- The first group is a Jewish remnant who has a tender heart towards the gospel. You could call this group the softened, seeing, part of Israel.
- The second group is hardened to the gospel and has rejected Jesus as the Messiah of Israel. You could call this group the hardened, blinded, part of Israel.

2. A revival is taking place among the remnant of Israel.

- Scattered throughout the world, there is a Jewish remnant who believes that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel. These believers are commonly known as Messianic Jews.
- Though an exact number of Messianic Jews is difficult to determine, published estimates range from five-hundred thousand to one-and-half million.
- No matter the precise count, there is clearly a revival taking place among the remnant of Israel.
- The year 1967 is a date to remember. As several surrounding Arab nations prepared to attack the Jewish nation, Israel bombed the airfields of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq—destroying more than four-hundred planes in three hours.
- In just six days, Israel had defeated the Arabs, and more importantly, captured the Old City of Jerusalem—including the Western Wall and the Temple Mount.
- After the Jews captured Jerusalem, something was unlocked in the heavens as tens of thousands of Jews came to faith in Jesus following this six-day war.
- Many of today's messianic Jewish leaders were saved in the Jesus Movement that began in 1967. Not since the first century have so many Jewish people put their faith in Jesus.
- Before this time, there were no messianic congregations in the world and only an estimated two-thousand Jewish believers. Today, according to an article in *Christianity Today*, the number of messianic congregations has grown to 400-500 and hundreds of thousands of Jews have put their faith in Christ.
- Even in Israel, where Messianic Jews have been persecuted, deported, and fired from jobs, the harvest is growing. Israel claimed 250 Messianic Jews in 1967; today that number has increased to seven-thousand.

- Clearly, the Jewish remnant is expanding!

2. The Fullness of the Gentiles

1. In Romans 11, Paul also wrote about the fullness of the Gentiles.

- Paul stated that “a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in” (Rom. 11:25).
- This verse, which is referred to as a mystery, informs us that part of Israel has been hardened to the gospel. It is important to understand that this is only *a partial hardening*.
- This partial hardening of Israel will remain until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in.

2. What does the fullness of the Gentiles mean?

- Some believe, as the NIV translates, that the fullness of the Gentiles is really “the full number of the Gentiles” (Rom. 11:25, NIV).
- They believe that God will take away the blinders from the Jewish people after the last Gentile in the world comes to faith in Jesus. Until that time, they believe it is pointless to reach out to the Jews since they are blinded to the gospel.
- Others believe that the fullness of the Gentiles refers to Spirit-fullness, Christ-like maturity, or as Paul stated, “the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13).
- The belief is that when the Gentile Church comes into Spirit-led maturity it will provoke the Jews to jealousy and lead them to Christ (Rom. 11:11).
- Since the Greek word for *fullness* means “completion,” it appears that Paul was referring to the completion of the Gentile harvest.
- The Gentile harvest has both a quantitative and qualitative dimension. When both the quantitative and qualitative dimensions have reached their fullness, the Gentile harvest will be complete—resulting in the fullness of the Gentile harvest.

3. We need to understand the quantitative dimension of the full Gentile harvest.

- The quantitative dimension is a massive harvest that will be reaped among every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.
- Remember that Jesus said the gospel of the kingdom would be preached in the whole world before the end comes (Matt. 24:14).
- In many countries, especially in the Muslim world, preaching the gospel is forbidden. Christians risk imprisonment, torture, and death to preach Christ in these areas. Therefore, God still has a massive harvest to reap in the Middle East and in other areas around the world.

4. We need to understand the qualitative dimension of the full Gentile harvest.

- The qualitative dimension is the Gentile Church coming into Christ-like maturity.
- We need to realize that the harvest is not just about bringing people to faith in Christ; it is also about bringing them to maturity in Christ.
- Describing the end-time harvest, Jesus said that the wheat or the good seed was the “sons of the kingdom” (Matt. 13:38).
- Interestingly, Jesus used a word for sons which indicated Christ-likeness and Spirit-led maturity.

5. Romans 11:25 shows us that all Israel will be saved after the Gentile harvest is complete.

- Inserting the concepts we have learned so far into Romans 11:25, the verse could be paraphrased as follows:

For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this puzzling and perplexing concept—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the full Gentile harvest has been reaped, which includes preaching the gospel of the kingdom in every nation and bringing the Gentiles into Spirit-led, Christ-like maturity.

- In stating this, we must stay away from the extremes. We must avoid the false belief that the Jewish people will not come to Christ until the full Gentile harvest is reaped.
- As with everyone, whoever calls upon Jesus for salvation will be saved—including the Jewish people.

3. The Salvation of All Israel

1. When the Gentile harvest is complete, God will remove Israel’s partial hardening.

- According to Paul, after the Gentile harvest is complete, “all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, ‘The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob’” (Rom. 11:26-27).
- When Paul wrote this, he quoted Isaiah 59:20, which states, “A Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob.”
- Just as we have seen throughout this book, the salvation of Israel will trigger the Lord’s second coming. Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, will come to Zion to those who repent of their transgressions.

2. Isaiah wrote about all Israel being saved.

- Concerning the Jewish people, the Lord told Isaiah, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on listening, but do not perceive; keep on looking, but do not understand.’ Render the hearts of this people insensitive, their ears dull, and their eyes dim, otherwise they might see with their

eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and return and be healed" (Isa. 6:9-10).

- Obviously, this message disturbed Isaiah, for one verse later we see him crying out to God, "How long?" (Isa. 6:11).
- The Lord answered and said, "Until cities are devastated and without inhabitant, houses are without people and the land is utterly desolate" (Isa. 6:11).
- This prophetic description matches Israel's condition under the Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Crusaders, Turks, and British. For almost two-thousand years, Israel was an utter desolation.
- Now that God is restoring the land of Israel, we know that He is beginning to heal their blind eyes, unstop their deaf ears, tenderize their hardened hearts, and lead them to faith in Jesus Christ.

3. Ezekiel had a vision about all Israel being saved.

- Ezekiel saw Israel as a multitude of dry bones scattered in a valley. God then asked the prophet whether the bones could live. The prophet answered, "O Lord GOD, You know" (Ezek. 37:3).
- Following this, Ezekiel was commanded to prophesy life to the dry bones. As he prophesied, the bones began to shake and come together.
- Then, as the prophet watched, ligaments grew over the bones, followed by skin. Bone-by-bone, joint-by-joint, human bodies were emerging—complete and whole. But the motionless bodies were without breath—and life.
- Then the Lord told Ezekiel, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life'" (Ezek. 37:9).
- As the prophet obeyed, "breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army" (Ezek. 37:10).
- The Lord then told Ezekiel the meaning of this revelation:

"Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.' Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it,' declares the LORD" (Ezek. 37:11-14).

- Israel now has the land, a growing population, a valiant army, a strong government, an educational system, and a stable economy. Israel has everything but spiritual life.
- At this moment, most Israelis are like the bodies that lacked breath in

Ezekiel's vision. They have the physical framework in place, but they lack spiritual vitality.

- Nevertheless, a great revival is coming to the heart of Israel. This massive outpouring of the Spirit will ultimately lead to all Israel being saved.
- God has promised to wash away Israel's filthiness and idolatry (Ezek. 36:25). He has vowed to take away their hearts of stone, give them new hearts of flesh, and put His Spirit within them (Ezek. 36:26-27).
- In the days to come, all Israel will see that Jesus Christ is the Son of God; the One pierced for their iniquities. The Jewish people will know Jesus as the Passover Lamb who takes away the sins of the world.

The land that God is most interested in is not the dusty region between the Nile and the Euphrates; it is the land of the heart. God yearns to bring the Jewish people to faith in Jesus Christ and give them the New Covenant promise of a tenderized heart. With roadmaps to peace, land for peace, and settlement withdrawals, we need to always keep in mind that the real battle is for the hearts of Jewish men and women. The heart is God's ultimate Promise Land.

Revival in the Middle East

1. We must remember that Abraham also had children through two other women—Hagar and Keturah.

- When we talk about praying for the descendants of Abraham, most of us automatically think about the Jews.
- Certainly, praying for the children of Sarah is critical. But we must remember that Abraham also had children through two other women—Hagar and Keturah.

2. Hagar's child Ishmael is the father of a large portion of the Arab world.

- The Bible says that Ishmael and his sons "settled in the area from Havilah to Shur, near the border of Egypt, as you go toward Asshur [modern-day Iraq]" (Gen. 25:18, NIV).
- Most scholars believe that the Ishmaelites settled in modern-day Saudi Arabia—the birthplace of Islam.
- Islamic tradition holds that Ishmael settled in Mecca and that the Prophet Muhammad is a direct descendant of Ishmael.

3. Following Sarah's death, Abraham married Keturah and had six sons with her.

- That is three times the children that he had with Sarah and Hagar put together! That in itself suggests the significance of these sons of Abraham.

- The Bible goes on to say that Keturah, “Bore to him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah. Jokshan became the father of Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim and Letushim and Leummim. The sons of Midian were Ephah and Epher and Hanoch and Abida and Eldaah. All these were the sons of Keturah” (Gen. 25:2-4).
- Understanding who the sons of Keturah are today is important to end-time prophecy. So who do these six sons of Abraham relate to today? To answer this question, we need to read on for two more verses.
- The Bible says that Abraham “sent them away from his son Isaac eastward, to the land of the east” (Gen. 25:6).
- The land east of Israel, where Abraham lived, was the Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia and Yemen), Assyria (Syria and Iraq), and Persia (Iran). Most scholars believe that the sons of Keturah settled somewhere in these regions.

4. The sons of Hagar and the sons of Keturah are listed in end-time prophecy.

- In Isaiah 60, God promised to glorify Israel at the end of the age. To the war-torn Jewish nation, God said, “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you” (Isa. 60:1).
- Despite that darkness will cover the earth, God’s glory will shine upon Israel. The Lord promised the Jews that “nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising” and that “the wealth of the nations will come to you” (Isa. 60:3,5).
- When describing how Gentiles will gather to Israel to worship the King, it is interesting that Isaiah only mentioned a few people groups. Besides Lebanon and Tarshish, he named only five others.
- Take a look at what he said to Israel, “A multitude of camels will cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba will come; they will bring gold and frankincense, and will bear good news of the praises of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar will be gathered together to you, the rams of Nebaioth will minister to you; they will go up with acceptance on My altar, and I shall glorify My glorious house” (Isa. 60:6-7).
- Notice the names that Isaiah mentioned. Midian was one of Keturah’s sons, and Ephah and Sheba were two of her grandsons. In the future, as these descendants of Keturah flock to worship the Lord, they will cover the land of Israel with their camels.
- Interestingly, Keturah’s name means “incense.” Since incense symbolizes prayer (Ps. 141:2), God will transform the Arab people—who pray to Allah five times a day—into passionate worshipers and fervent prayer-warriors of the Most High God!
- Continuing on with this prophecy, Isaiah also mentioned Nebaioth and Kedar, Ishmael’s first and second born sons (Gen. 25:13).
- What we see in this prophecy, both with the sons of Keturah and the sons of Hagar, is a massive harvest among the Arab people.

5. The prophecy recorded in Isaiah 60 will fulfill God’s promise to make Abraham a great nation (Gen. 12:2).

- Amazingly, God will honor Abraham's obedience and bring all of his descendants into the fulfillment of His covenant promises.
- Though the devil has worked overtime to turn the Middle East into a desolate region, God's prophetic plans will prevail. There will be revival in the Middle East.
- Eventually, God will restore the breach between Isaac and his brothers. We see this hope when Isaiah said, "The sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, and all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet; and they will call you the city of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel" (Isa. 60:14).

6. Isaiah 19:19-22 reveals that Egypt will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

- In Isaiah 19:19-22, Isaiah prophesied that Egypt would come to know the Lord Jesus in the end-times. Isaiah showed us that the Lord will strike Egypt, perhaps through an oppressive military dictator or a hostile regime. This striking will work for Egypt's good, however, moving the Egyptians to cry out to the Lord for deliverance.
- As a result, the Lord promised to "send them a Savior and a Champion, and He will deliver them. Thus the Lord will make Himself known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day" (Isa. 19:22). Egypt will come to know God through the saving grace of heaven's Champion, Jesus Christ.

7. Isaiah 19:23-25 reveals that a revival is coming to the Middle East.

- Not only will revival take place in Egypt, but throughout the whole region of the Middle East. Isaiah prophesied,

In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. In that day Israel will be the third party with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance" (Isa. 19:23-25).

- Isaiah declared that a highway would extend from Egypt—through the heart of the Middle East—into Assyria, which is modern-day Syria and Iraq. On this highway, the redeemed sons of Abraham—in unity, peace, and love—will travel together to worship the King.
- In the days to come, God will transform the Middle East into a highway of holiness; a bridge of worship that will heal the millenniums-old rift between Isaac and Ishmael.
- God specifically stated that Egypt will become "My people"; that Assyria will be "the work of My hands"; and that Israel is "My inheritance."
- Though it seems impossible when we watch the nightly news, God will transform the entire Middle East into "a blessing in the midst of the earth." What the devil means for evil, God will use for good.

Three Ways to Pray for Revival in the Middle East

1. Know God's intense desire for Israel's salvation.

- Isaiah articulated the Lord's deep yearnings for all Israel to be saved when he wrote, "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, and her salvation like a torch that is burning" (Isa. 62:1).
- Consumed with God's passion for the Jewish nation, Isaiah vowed never to keep silent about Israel's prophetic destiny until her salvation blazed like a torch and her righteousness shined brightly into the nations.
- Paul said, "I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh" (Rom. 9:1-3).
- Paul, the ever-rejoicing apostle, also had "great sorrow and unceasing grief" in his heart for the Jews. With intense longing, Paul declared that he would suffer in hell for all eternity if that would lead the Israelites to salvation. Now that is zeal and passion for all Israel to be saved!
- Isaiah's and Paul's desire for Israel's salvation was not natural, but supernatural. Because these two men drew near to God, the Lord put His unrelenting desire for Israel's salvation within their hearts.
- Let's all ask God to impart to us His consuming passion to see all Israel saved.

2. Pray for the salvation of the Jewish remnant.

- A good way to begin praying for all Israel to be saved is to focus on expanding the Jewish remnant.
- Remember that God has already reserved a remnant according to His gracious choice.
- Keep in mind also that there are certain conditions that have to be met before all Israel will be saved, such as the fullness of aliyah, a temporary peace plan, a pan-Islamic invasion, and the fullness of the Gentiles.
- However, there is no God-ordained constraint on expanding the Jewish remnant. Our prayers can enlarge the Jewish remnant right now.
- Jeremiah instructed us to pray specifically for the Jewish remnant when he said, "For thus says the LORD, 'Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise and say, "O LORD, save Your people, the remnant of Israel'" (Jer. 31:7).
- Rather than beginning with prayers for all Israel to be saved, concentrate on praying for the expansion of the Jewish remnant.
- Detailed, specific prayers usually work much better than vague, generalized prayers.

- Then, as you pray for other prophetic events to be fulfilled, the day of Israel's national salvation will be accelerated and all Israel will be saved.

3. Pray for the fullness of the Gentile harvest.

- Praying for the fullness of the Gentiles is also a great way to pray for all Israel to be saved.
- As we have seen, God will not completely remove the blinders from all Israel until the full Gentile harvest comes in.
- Over the past forty years, it appears that there has been a direct relationship between the Gentile harvest and the salvation of the Jewish remnant.
- As the Gentile harvest increases and approaches fullness, the Jewish remnant will increase and approach fullness, until all Israel is saved.
- Therefore, praying for the salvation of the Gentiles from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation will hasten the day when all Israel is saved.
- At the same time, we also need to pray that Gentiles would grow into Christ-like maturity and Spirit-led sensitivity.
- Praying for both the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of the Gentile harvest will accelerate the day of Israel's salvation.
- Specifically, we need to pray for the one-billion Muslims around the world.
- Pray that God would fulfill the prophecies of Isaiah 19. Pray that the veil of Islam would be pierced. Pray that the gospel of the kingdom would penetrate deep into Islamic nations, especially Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Sudan. Pray the prophetic prayer from Psalm 83 that we looked at in the last session.
- In particular, pray that God would cause the Arabs to "seek [Yahweh's] name" through Jesus Christ (Ps. 83:16, emphasis added).
- Ask the Father to make the sons of Hagar and the sons of Keturah "know that [Yahweh] alone...[is] the Most High over all the earth" (Ps. 83:17-18, emphasis added).
- As we fill up the heavenly incense bowls with these prayers, God will activate ancient prophecy and release an unprecedented revival in the Middle East.
- At the same time, pray that God would break through the antichrist religions of the world, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Shintoism. Pray that a massive Gentile harvest would be reaped in northern Africa, India, and the Far East.
- As we cry out for the Great Commission to be completed in the earth, we are in essence praying for all Israel to be saved.

Our prayers are really powerful enough to unleash an unprecedented revival in the Middle East, to shape the eternal destiny of millions in the 10/40 Window, to bring about the fullness of the Gentiles, and to help all Israel come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Review Questions

True or False

- _____ 1. The Bible says that all of Israel is hardened to the gospel until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in.
- _____ 2. Following Sarah's death, Abraham married Hagar and had six sons with her.
- _____ 3. Most scholars believe that the Ishmaelites settled in modern-day Saudi Arabia.
- _____ 4. Most scholars believe that the sons of Keturah settled in the region of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and Iran.
- _____ 5. All Israel will be saved after the Gentile harvest is complete.
- _____ 6. The fullness of the Gentiles describes a massive harvest that will be reaped among every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.
- _____ 7. The fullness of the Gentiles describes the Gentile Church coming into Christ-like maturity.
- _____ 8. The year 1972 is a date to remember. After Israel defeated the Arabs in the Six Day War and captured the Old City of Jerusalem, tens of thousands of Jews came to faith in Jesus.
- _____ 9. When the Bible describes the fullness of the Gentiles, the Greek word that is used for fullness means "completion."

Fill in the blanks

10. Israel's _____ will remain until the _____ of the Gentiles comes in.
11. The Gentile harvest has both a _____ and _____ dimension.
12. Now that God is _____ the land of Israel, we know that He is beginning to heal the Jews' _____ eyes, unstop their _____ ears, tenderize their _____ hearts, and lead them to faith in Jesus Christ.
13. Islamic tradition holds that Ishmael settled in _____ and that the _____ is a direct descendant of Ishmael.

14. Keturah's name means _____.

Match the statement on the left with the dynamic of Israel's salvation on the right (You can use an answer more than once).

_____ 15. Isaiah 19:23-25 reveals that a revival is coming to Syria and Iraq.

_____ 16. The softened, seeing, part of Israel.

_____ 17. Thousands of Jewish people believe that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel.

_____ 18. When the Gentile harvest is complete, God will remove Israel's partial hardening.

_____ 19. Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones describes this.

_____ 20. The Bible describes a great revival that will take place in Egypt.

Possible Matches for 15-20

- a. The Jewish remnant
- b. The fullness of the Gentiles
- c. All Israel being saved

Session 12

One New Man

This session covers:

- God's eternal goal to make Jew and Gentile one new man in Christ
- An overview of how the Church has persecuted the Jews throughout history
- The need for repentance, reconciliation, and restoration between the Jews and the Gentile Church

This session corresponds to:

- Chapters 10-11 of *The Zion Mandate* book
- Session 12 of *Learning to Pray for Israel* CDs

One New Man in Christ

1. God wants to make Jew and Gentile one new man in Christ.

- In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul wrote about one of God's most important goals for the Church. He stated that God would take Jew and Gentile and make "the two into one new man" in Christ (Eph. 2:15).
- God's goal is to have one distinct covenant people comprised of Jew and Gentile.
- Jesus is coming back for His Bride, composed of Jew and Gentile in one body. Before He returns, the Bible says that His Bride will make herself ready (Rev. 19:7).
- One aspect of the Bride making herself ready is for the dividing walls, the enmity, and the division between Jew and Gentile to be torn down.
- The devil has fought against this consummation of Jew and Gentile for almost two thousand years, infecting both Israel and the Church with negative feelings about each other.
- However, the fullness of God's eternal purposes will

only be fulfilled when Israel embraces Jesus as her Messiah, and the Bride of Christ, composed of Jew and Gentile, are reconciled to each other as one new man.

2. In the age to come, Jew and Gentile will rule the earth as one new man in Christ.

- In Session 5, we looked in detail at the Millennial Kingdom. We saw that believers in Christ will rule the earth in partnership with Jesus from Jerusalem.
- At this time, when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in and all Israel has been saved, when both Jew and Gentile have been fully grafted into the rich root of the olive tree, God will have fully broken down the dividing walls and made the two into one new man.
- Then Jew and Gentile will inherit the land of Israel together in union with Jesus—their Bridegroom.
- Notice what Isaiah prophesied to Israel, “For as a young man marries a virgin, *so your sons will marry you*; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so your God will rejoice over you” (Isa. 62:5).
- Who are the sons of God who will marry the land of Israel? Paul said, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26).
- Believers in Christ—both Jew and Gentile—are the sons of God who will be joined together as one and will marry the land of Israel and possess it as an inheritance in the age to come.
- In summary, Jews and Gentiles will be fully reconciled and joined together as one in the Millennial Kingdom. Together they will be the Lord’s worthy and beautiful Bride. Out of this union with Jesus and each other, Jews and Gentiles will rule the nations with a rod of iron from Jerusalem.

For God’s eternal purpose to be fully realized, for Jew and Gentile to become one new man in Christ in this age and the age to come, the dividing walls that separate us must be torn down.

3. From a Gentile perspective, there are three things that we can do to help break down the dividing walls between Jew and Gentile. These are:

1. Gentile believers need to understand how the Church has persecuted the Jews throughout history.
2. Gentile believers need to repent of anti-Semitism.
3. Gentile believers need to develop a heart of reconciliation toward Israel and the Jews.

1. Gentile Believers Need to Understand How the Church Has Persecuted the Jews throughout History.

1. We must take a quick journey through Church history to see how the Church has persecuted the Jewish people.

- Many Gentiles have never heard about the Church's crimes against the Jewish people. This makes repentance, reconciliation, and restoration difficult, if not impossible.
- As the old saying goes, "Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it."
- Ignorant about these former atrocities, many in the Church continue to practice, preach, and promote anti-Semitism.

2. A few hundred years after the first apostles, the majority of the Church hated the Jewish people.

- Saint Gregory of Nyssa, a fourth-century church father, declared that the Jews were:

Slayers of the Lord, murderers of the prophets, adversaries of God, haters of God, men who show contempt for the law, foes of grace, enemies of their fathers' faith, advocates of the devil, brood of vipers, slanderers, scoffers, men whose minds are in darkness, leaven of the Pharisees, assembly of demons, sinners, wicked men, stoners and haters of righteousness.¹

- This type of disdain was not just the opinion of a few church leaders. Rather, the majority of the early and medieval Church viewed the Jews with contempt.
- Revered church fathers such as Origen, Saint John Chrysostom, Jerome, Peter the Venerable, Bernard of Clairvaux, and Pope Innocent III all spewed out anti-Semitic scorn.
- As a result, the early and medieval Church was infected with a deep hatred of the Jews.

3. Early and medieval Church councils, which set the precedent for many years to come, slowly contaminated the Church with anti-Semitic policies.

- It all began during the Nicene Council in A.D. 325. Since church leaders viewed the Jews as Christ-killers, they believed that celebrating the resurrection on Passover was too Jewish. Wanting a resurrection celebration that was not tainted by Judaism, the bishops moved this event to the first Sunday after the Jewish Passover.
- After this watershed event, church policies grew increasingly anti-Semitic. For example, at the Council of Antioch in A.D. 341, Christians were prohibited from celebrating Passover with the Jews.
- About twenty years later, the Council of Laodicea banned Christians from observing the Jewish Sabbath.

- In A.D. 787, the Second Nicene Council forbade the Jews from taking communion or even entering the Church unless they forsook the Sabbath and renounced all other Jewish customs.
- The Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 instituted five important regulations against the Jews. These were: 1) The Jews had to pay tithes on property formerly owned by Christians; 2) The Jews had to be distinguished from the Christians by a difference in dress; 3) The Jews were prohibited from appearing in public during Easter celebrations; 4) The Jews were prohibited from holding public office; and 5) Jews that converted to Christianity were forbidden to observe any Jewish rites, such as celebrating the feasts or keeping the Sabbath.

4. During the Crusades, the Church's anti-Semitic policies reached a new level of depravity.

- The Crusades were fought from the eleventh-century to the end of the thirteenth-century.
- As the Crusaders charged toward Jerusalem with a cross embroidered on their chest, they realized that a traditional enemy of Christ was much closer than the Holy Land—the Jews in Germany.
- Godfrey of Bouillon, a respected knight and the leader of the First Crusade, stated that “he wouldn't leave his country for the Holy Land until he had avenged the crucifixion by spilling a Jew's blood with his own hands.”² Within a three-month period, over ten-thousand Jews were murdered in Germany.
- Believing that they were bringing God's vengeance upon the Christ-killers, the Crusaders cried out, “The Jews have killed our Savior. They must convert or be killed.”³
- When the Crusaders seized Jerusalem in 1099, the Crusaders killed hundreds of Jewish women and children by setting their synagogue on fire. While God's chosen people burned to death within, the Crusaders were singing “Christ We Adore Thee.”⁴
- According to the highest historical estimates, some one-hundred thousand Jews were killed by the Crusaders in less than two-hundred years.⁵ Keep in mind that all of this took place while the soldiers wore the cross of Jesus on their uniforms.

5. During the Spanish Inquisitions, the Jews were persecuted, deported, and murdered because they would not convert to Christianity.

- The Inquisition—derived from the Latin word for inquiry—was a tribunal created by the Church to discover and suppress heresy.
- Because a large number of Jews lived in Spain, the Spanish implemented the Inquisition to root out converted Jews who secretly practiced Judaism.
- To the Spaniards, converted Jews were known as *Conversos* (“converted ones”). To the Jews, converted Jews were known as *Marranos* (“swine” or “pigs”).
- In 1391, when Christian zeal was rekindled in Spain, the Jews were given the choice of immediate baptism or immediate death.
- Though many accepted baptism, more than fifty-thousand refused and

were murdered over a three-month period. The Jews who survived became known as Conversos—or new converts to the Christian faith.

- To be baptized, Conversos had to renounce everything Jewish. Read what one baptismal candidate had to confess:

I renounce the whole worship of the Hebrews, circumcision, all its legalisms, unleavened bread, Passover, the sacrificing of lambs, the feast of Weeks, Jubilees, Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles, and all other Hebrew feasts, their sacrifices, prayers, aspersions, purifications, expiations, fasts, Sabbaths, new moons, foods and drinks. And I absolutely renounce every custom and institution of the Jewish laws....in one word, I renounce absolutely everything Jewish.⁶

- When Conversos acknowledged that they were still practicing Judaism, they were sentenced to death by strangulation and then burned at the stake. If the accused did not confess, the Inquisition would judge the suspect; if found guilty, the Conversos were burned at the stake alive—without strangulation.
- In *Our Hands Are Stained with Blood*, Michael Brown states, “It is estimated that 30,000 Marranos [Jewish converts to Christianity] were burned at the stake in Spanish Inquisitions from the fifteenth-century until 1808.”⁷
- In 1492, the Spanish Jews were given four months to decide whether to leave Spain or convert to the Christian faith. More than one-hundred thousand Jews packed their bags and abandoned the homeland their ancestors had lived in for fifteen-hundred years.
- For an estimated fifty-thousand Jews, however, leaving their homeland was too difficult. These Jews forsook everything Jewish and converted to Christianity.
- Finally, after much bloodshed, ridicule, persecution, and heartache, the Spanish Inquisitions ended in 1834.

6. The anti-Semitic doctrines propagated throughout Church history laid a foundation that Nazi Germany built upon.

- Though the Church did not kill six-million Jews directly, the hellish attitudes and demonic mindsets propagated throughout Church history laid a foundation that Nazi Germany built upon.
- Consider what Hitler wrote in his book *Mein Kampf* (“My Struggle”): “I am convinced that I am acting as the agent of our Creator. By fighting off the Jews, I am doing the Lord’s work.”⁸
- Martin Luther, the respected reformer of the late fifteenth and early sixteenth-centuries, did many great things for the Church. But his anti-Semitic writings helped shape Hitler’s anti-Jewish policies.
- In his book, *On the Jews and Their Lies*, Martin Luther said, “Aside from the devil you have no enemy more venomous, more desperate, more bitter than the Jews. They are the children of the devil.”⁹
- Since Hitler publicly praised Luther’s teachings, reprinted his writings, and carried out his prescribed attacks against the Jews, the evidence shows that Hitler was heavily influenced by Martin Luther.

- In fact, on November 10, 1938—the same day that Luther was born—the Third Reich celebrated Luther’s birthday by carrying out their first large-scale Jewish persecution. They wrecked thousands of Jewish shops, burned synagogues to the ground, broke into Jewish homes, and beat, arrested, and killed innocent Jews. Known as *Kristallnacht*, the Night of Broken Glass, the Nazis were merely following Luther’s anti-Jewish teachings.¹⁰
- The Holocaust did not begin with Nazi soldiers gathering the Jews for extermination. Rather, Hitler initiated the Final Solution by reviving anti-Jewish doctrines and laws which had been imbedded into the DNA of the Church for hundreds of years.
- Hitler merely looked at the Church’s résumé, saw what so-called Christians had done to Jews in the name of Christ, and followed the precedent set by church fathers, bishops, popes, and reformers.

2. Gentile Believers Need to Repent of Anti-Semitism.

1. Gentile believers must take responsibility for what the Church has done to the Jewish people.

- As Gentile believers, we must take responsibility for the Church’s sins against the Jews and repent for what our spiritual forefathers did in the name of Christ.
- Perhaps you will protest this statement by saying, “I was not alive when these crimes were committed. Why should I take responsibility for what happened hundreds of years ago?”
- Or you might reason, “The so-called Christians who committed these monstrous sins were probably not even born-again. Why should I take ownership for the transgressions of an apostate Church?” These are all good and relevant questions.

2. Daniel’s prayer for the Jewish people demonstrates our need to repent for the Church’s sins against the Jews.

- Daniel walked with such integrity that God Himself highlighted his name twice as the highest possible standard of wisdom and righteousness (Ezek. 14:14; 28:3).
- Despite his upright walk, Daniel took responsibility for the Jews’ transgressions—transgressions that he did not commit.
- Observe how Daniel prayed:

We have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land....Open shame belongs to us, O Lord, to our kings, our princes and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. To the Lord our God belong compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him; nor have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to

walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets (Dan. 9:5-10).

- Though completely innocent, Daniel did not pray with self-righteous pride. Instead, he prayed "we have sinned" not "they have sinned." He said "we have not listened to Your servants the prophets" not "they have not listened to Your servants the prophets."
- Daniel always inserted "we" in place of "they." He did not have a holier-than-thou type attitude and blame the Jews for their rebellion.
- To the contrary, Daniel took ownership of Israel's sins and took responsibility for their rebellious deeds. *Then* he asked God to forgive the Jewish nation.
- Likewise, we need to take responsibility for the sins of our Christian ancestors and repent on their behalf.

Not only do we need to repent for what the Church has done to the Jews, we also need to search our hearts and repent of any anti-Semitism.

3. Gentile Believers Need to Develop a Heart of Reconciliation toward Israel and the Jews.

1. For Jews and Gentiles to be reconciled, Gentile believers must walk in humility toward the Jews.

- In his letter to the Romans, Paul warned us about being proud toward the Jewish people. He wrote, "Do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you" (Rom. 11:18).
- Blinded by pride, we have not seen that Israel is the reason why we are so blessed in the first place. We have forgotten that our blessings, inheritance, and salvation are the result of being grafted into Israel's promises. We have thought that we supported the root instead of the root supporting us.
- By forcing the Jews to convert to a Gentile form of Christianity and requiring them to renounce their God-given cultural distinctiveness, Gentile Christians have been arrogant and proud toward the Jews.
- That is why we need to replace our haughtiness with humility and our brazenness with brokenness.
- For true reconciliation to take place, Gentile believers need to understand clearly that we have the wonderful privilege of being in Christ because of our Jewish brothers and the covenants that God established with them.
- We need to know that Israel is the root of the tree and we are the branches.

2. For Jews and Gentiles to be reconciled, Gentile believers need to honor Israel—our spiritual father and mother.

- Quoting from the Ten Commandments, Paul wrote, “Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth” (Eph. 6:2-3).
- If you think about it, Israel is the spiritual father and mother of all true believers in Christ. Remember: The Church was birthed in Jerusalem by twelve Jewish apostles; most of the Bible was written by Jews; our Savior is Jewish; and salvation is from the Jews (John 4:22).
- For us who share in the rich bounty of Israel’s blessings, what would life be like if Israel never existed? For starters, we would all be hell-bound. We would be without hope, without blessings, and without the Word of God.
- God has truly blessed the entire world through Israel. Gentile Christians, above all people, need to appreciate and value our Jewish roots.
- It is time for the Church to follow in Ruth’s steps—a Gentile who was greatly blessed for embracing the Jews wholeheartedly—and say to the Jews, “Your people shall be my people” (Ruth 1:16).
- For reconciliation between Jews and Gentiles to take place, Gentiles need to value our Jewish roots, embrace the Jews as our own people, and honor them with the respect they deserve.

3. For Jews and Gentiles to be reconciled, Gentile believers need to provoke the Jews to jealousy by a Christ-like lifestyle.

- Paul said that we are called to provoke the Jews to jealousy. He wrote, “By their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous” (Rom. 11:11).
- When writing this, Paul was alluding to what God told Moses years before, “They have made Me jealous with what is not God; they have provoked Me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation” (Deut. 32:21).
- Sadly, the Gentile Church has not yet fulfilled this calling. Instead of provoking the Jews to jealousy we have only provoked them to bitterness. Rather than displaying love, compassion, and humility to them, we have shown them hate, indifference, and arrogance.
- The good news, however, is that this is changing! As the Holy Spirit forms Christ within our hearts and souls, His beauty, glory, and personality will radiate from us. This will make the Church like a divine magnet that attracts the Jews back into the rich root of their own olive tree.

We live in the days when the age-old walls separating Jew and Gentile are coming down. This is an hour when God’s eternal goal of bringing Jew and Gentile together as “one new man” in Christ is being fulfilled.

Notes

1. Malcom Hay, *The Roots of Christian Anti-Semitism* (USA: Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and Alice Ivy Hay, 1981), p. 26, quoted in Hagee, *Final Dawn over Jerusalem*, p. 45.
2. http://www.jewishgates.com/file.asp?File_ID=54, referenced on December 12, 2005.
3. Hagee, *Final Dawn Over Jerusalem*, p. 48.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 50.
5. Max I. Dimont, *Jews, God and History* (New York, NY: New American Library, 1994), p. 225.
6. James Parkes, *The Conflict of the Church and the Synagogue*, p. 395, quoted in Michael L. Brown, *Our Hands Are Stained With Blood* (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers, Inc., 2000), p. 96.
7. Brown, *Our Hands Are Stained With Blood*, p. 78.
8. Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, see <http://www.humanismbyjoe.com/hitler.htm>, referenced on December 12, 2005.
9. <http://home.inu.net/skeptic/antisem.html>, referenced on December 12, 2005.
10. If you compare what the Nazis did to what Luther recommended in his writings, you will see that the Nazis followed Luther's advice for dealing with the Jews. For more information, see Brown, *Our Hands Are Stained With Blood*, pp. 14-15 and Martin Luther, *On the Jews and Their Lies*, quoted on <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/luther-jews.html>, referenced on December 8, 2005.

Review Questions

True or False

- _____ 1. In the Millennial Kingdom, Jew and Gentile will inherit the land of Israel together in union with Jesus.
- _____ 2. A few hundred years after the first apostles, the majority of the Church hated the Jewish people.
- _____ 3. Because the Church persecuted the Jewish people hundreds of years ago, there is not much that we can do today to help restore this relationship.
- _____ 4. As a result of the Council of Antioch, church bishops moved the celebration of Christ's resurrection to the first Sunday after the Jewish Passover.
- _____ 5. During the Spanish Inquisitions, the Jews were persecuted, deported, and murdered because they would not convert to Christianity.
- _____ 6. Martin Luther's anti-Semitic writings helped shape Hitler's anti-Jewish policies.
- _____ 7. *Kristallnacht* (the Night of Broken Glass), describes a terrible act of depravity that took place during the Crusades.
- _____ 8. For God's eternal purpose to be fully realized, Gentiles and Jews should fulfill their divine mandate independent from one another.
- _____ 9. The Fourth Lateran Council prohibited the Jews from holding public office.

Fill in the Blanks

10. Gentile believers need to develop a heart of _____ toward Israel and the Jews.
11. Israel is the _____ of the tree and Gentiles are _____.
12. For reconciliation between Jews and Gentiles to take place, Gentiles need to _____ our Jewish roots, _____ the Jews as our own people, and _____ them with the respect they deserve.
13. Gentile believers need to _____ the Jews to _____ by a Christ-like lifestyle.

14. As Gentile believers, we must take _____ for the Church's sins against the Jews and _____ for what our spiritual forefathers did in the name of Christ.

15. God's goal is to have one distinct _____ people comprised of _____ and _____.

Match the statement on the left to the best description of how the Church has persecuted the Jewish people on the right.

_____ 16. The Jews had to be distinguished from the Christians by a difference in dress.

_____ 17. The Jews were persecuted, deported, and murdered because they would not convert to Christianity.

_____ 18. According to the highest historical estimates, some one-hundred thousand Jews were killed in less than two-hundred years.

_____ 19. Wanting a resurrection celebration that was not tainted by Judaism, the bishops moved this event to the first Sunday after the Jewish Passover.

_____ 20. Banned Christians from observing the Jewish Sabbath.

Possible Matches for 16-20

- a. The Crusades
- b. The Spanish Inquisitions
- c. The Final Solution
- d. Martin Luther's writings
- e. The Council of Nicene
- f. The Council of Antioch
- g. The Council of Laodicea
- h. The Fourth Lateran Council

Answer Sheet

Session 1

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. F
6. F
7. pray; peace
8. pray; day; night; a praise in the earth
9. partner; with; restoration
10. mandate; destiny
11. blessed; in the name of the Lord
12. mandate; authoritative; order; command
13. a
14. i
15. d
16. h
17. c
18. a
19. d
20. f

Session 2

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. T
5. T
6. F
7. F
8. F
9. understanding
10. understanding
11. understand; passion; pray
12. restoration; Replacement Theology
13. demons
14. Christian; anti-Semitism
15. Interpreting; allegorically; spiritually
16. d
17. c
18. f
19. h
20. g

Session 3

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. T
6. F
7. T
8. blesses; blessed; curses; cursed
9. 74
10. 89; 192; 103; 45
11. make small; trifling; little account; insignificant
12. Spanish Empire
13. British Empire
14. United States
15. g
16. b
17. f
18. j
19. h
20. b

Session 4

1. F
2. T
3. T
4. T
5. F
6. F
7. F
8. T
9. My land
10. 39; Gospel of Luke; Acts
11. Christianity; Gentiles; Law; Prophets
12. Passover; Feast; First-Fruits
13. jealousy; jealousy; covenant
14. Father; Keeper; Shepherd
15. Six; Day; Jerusalem; Blessed; name; Lord
16. c
17. e
18. f
19. g
20. h

Session 5

1. F
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. T
7. F
8. F
9. prepare; Father; glory
10. progressive; increase
11. thousand
12. peace; prosperity; righteousness; and glory
13. saved; Jesus; national; government
14. Millennial; Kingdom
15. Jerusalem; fullness; Gentile
16. b
17. e
18. c
19. d
20. a

Session 6

1. T
2. F
3. F
4. T
5. T
6. F
7. F
8. F
9. prepare; baptizing; fire
10. prophetic; clock; perceive
11. Arab; League; 22; 40 million; 5 million
12. Muslims; Jerusalem; Allah; dishonored; occupation
13. 6; 35
14. Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Uzbekistan; Turkmenistan; Tajikistan; Russia; Turkey; Iran; Sudan; Libya; ruler; coalition
15. May; 14, 1948
16. d
17. i
18. c
19. f
20. e
21. b

Answer Sheet

Session 7

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. F
7. T
8. T
9. T
10. hungry; thirsty; naked; homeless; prison
11. apple; of; His; eye
12. Tribulation; Millennial; Kingdom
13. inheritance
14. Battle; Armageddon; Jerusalem; kingdom
15. resistors
16. c
17. a
18. b
19. a
20. b

Session 8

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. T
7. T
8. F
9. judgments; Moses; judgments
10. covenant; prayer; prophetic; destiny
11. waiting; prepare; fervent; prayer
12. kingdom; oriented
13. remembers; arm; judgments
14. covenants; covenant; promises
15. Davidic; Covenant; David
16. d
17. c
18. c
19. e
20. c

Session 9

1. F
2. T
3. T
4. T
5. F
6. T
7. T
8. F
9. T
10. aliyah; covenant-making; covenant-keeping
11. glorified
12. earnest; prayer
13. fishers; hunters
14. revival; returning
15. namesake; honor; covenant
16. c
17. b
18. e
19. d
20. a

Session 10

1. F
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. F
6. T
7. F
8. T
9. 1948; 1956; 1967; 1973; 1982; 80s; twenty-first; annihilation
10. Yaweh; Allah; Most; High
11. Lord's; Arabs; Jews
12. Ezekiel; 38; 39; prayer; activation; prophecy
13. supernatural
14. Jordan; Saudi Arabia
15. Jordan; Syria; Arabia; Jordan
16. Sinai; desert; Palestinian; Authority; Lebanon; Syria; Iraq
17. b
18. a
19. c
20. f

Session 11

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. T
5. T
6. T
7. T
8. F
9. T
10. partial; hardening; fullness
11. quantitative; qualitative
12. restoring; blind; deaf; hardened
13. Mecca; Prophet; Muhammad
14. incense
15. b
16. a
17. a
18. c
19. c
20. b

Session 12

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. T
6. T
7. F
8. F
9. T
10. reconciliation
11. root; wild; branches
12. value; embrace; honor
13. provoke; jealousy
14. responsibility; repent
15. covenant; Jew; Gentile
16. h
17. b
18. a
19. e
20. g

Learning to Pray for Israel Final Exam

The following questions are true or false. Place a "T" for true or an "F" for false in the space provided (2 points per question).

- _____ 1. Israel is the orange of God's eye.
- _____ 2. The judgment of the nations and the judgment seat of Christ describe the same event.
- _____ 3. Because God's favor will increase upon Israel as the Lord's return draws near, most nations will bless Israel in the end-times.
- _____ 4. There is a prophetic parallel between what happened in Egypt when God remembered His covenant and what will happen at the end of the age when watchmen remind God of His covenant.
- _____ 5. The U.N. voted thirty-three to thirteen to make Israel a sovereign nation a few days after Thanksgiving in 1947.
- _____ 6. The Jewish people must be in the land before God pours out His Spirit upon the house of Israel.
- _____ 7. On November 29, 1947, Israel's statehood became official as God caused a nation to be "born in one day."
- _____ 8. At some point in time every Jewish person alive in the earth will return to Israel.
- _____ 9. *Kristallnacht* (the Night of Broken Glass), describes a terrible act of depravity that took place during the Crusades.
- _____ 10. As a result of the Council of Antioch, church bishops moved the celebration of Christ's resurrection to the first Sunday after the Jewish Passover.

Fill in the Blanks (2 points per question)

11. Psalm 122:6 states that we are to _____ for the _____ of Jerusalem.
12. Whoever _____ the Jews will be _____ and whoever _____ the Jews will be _____.
13. God is called Israel's _____, _____, and _____.

14. The prayers of the saints in Revelation 8:3-4 include _____ for Israel's _____.

15. Israel's _____ will remain until the _____ of the Gentiles comes in.

16. The greatest reason for Replacement Theology in the Church today is _____ the prophetic Scriptures _____ or _____.

17. When God gave Israel a supernatural victory in the _____ War and the Jews recaptured their eternal capital city, it set the stage for the Jewish people in _____ to cry out, "_____ is He who comes in the _____ of the _____."

18. The _____ are unbelievers who refused the mark of the beast and are still alive after the Battle of Armageddon.

19. At the end of the age, when God _____ His _____ once again, He will stretch out His _____ and release great _____.

20. In the Lord's great mercy and love, He will always send the _____ first. Nevertheless, if the Jewish people don't respond to these loving admonitions, the Lord will send the _____.

21. Israel officially became a nation on _____, _____.

22. Israel is the _____ of the tree and Gentiles are _____.

23. Isaiah 62:6-7 exhorts us to _____ all _____ and all _____ until Jerusalem becomes _____.

24. _____ is one of the main reasons why Replacement Theology has gained significant ground in the Church today.

25. We have a _____ to pray for Israel's _____.

Multiple choice: Circle the correct answer (2 points each)

26. In Genesis 12:3, God said that He would curse those who curse Israel. The first word for curse is the Hebrew word *qalal*. Which of the following is not part of this definition?

- a. To make small
- b. To be trifling
- c. To falsely accuse or blame
- d. To be of little account
- e. To be insignificant

27. Which of the following statements are false?

- a. Interpreting the prophetic Scriptures allegorically or spiritually is major reason for Replacement Theology in the Church today.
- b. Even though Israel did not exist for almost two-thousand years, most people who lived during that time believed that Israel would exist someday.
- c. God has rejected Israel because they rejected Jesus as their Messiah.
- d. The kingdom of God has been given to the Church for a season.
- e. b and c
- f. b, c, and d

28. Which of the following best describes why Israel is important to the Church?

- a. Israel's modern-day restoration is the greatest miracle in two-thousand years.
- b. Israel is the apple of God's eye.
- c. Israel is God's land.
- d. Understanding Israel's geography and history helps us understand the Bible much better.
- e. Israel is God's servant.
- f. a, b, and e
- g. b, c, and e

29. Which of the following is not a phase of Israel's restoration?

- a. Reconciliation between Israel and the Church
- b. Israel will be a place of unspeakable joy and gladness.
- c. Supernatural victory in the greatest jihad ever
- d. Statehood

30. Which of the following is a phase of Israel's restoration?

- a. An unprecedented national revival
- b. Israel will be the place from which divine blessings, favor, prosperity, and peace are released into the nations.
- c. Israel will be the standard of judgment in the end-times.
- d. Israel will be the place from which God's glory shines into the nations.

31. Which of the following is not true?

- a. Israel has blessed the world throughout history.
- b. Those who bless Israel will be blessed.
- c. As we approach the end of the age, we can be neutral about Israel and still be blessed.
- d. Indifference towards Israel makes us an enemy of the Jewish people.

32. Which of the following is not a prerequisite for Jesus to return?

- a. The Church must pray for Jerusalem to be a praise in the earth.
- b. The Jews must return to Israel.
- c. The Jewish people living in Jerusalem must welcome Jesus back by saying blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- d. The Church must bless Israel.

33. Which of the following best describes the Millennial Kingdom?

- a. The purpose of the millennial reign of Christ is to prepare the nations for the Father coming in the fullness of His glory to the earth.
- b. The kingdom of God is in the earth now.
- c. The kingdom of God is not in the earth fully.
- d. Jesus' government will be fully established in all nations the moment He returns.
- e. God's glory will be so intense that it will eliminate the natural processes of life.

34. Which of the following best describes why aliyah is important to understand?

- a. Aliyah means "going up" or "ascent."
- b. Jesus cannot return until the Jewish people in Jerusalem welcome Him back.
- c. At some point in time every Jewish person alive in the earth will return to Israel.
- d. The most common meaning of aliyah is Jewish immigration to the land of Israel.

35. Which of the following is a true statement?

- a. Our primary role in the Arab-Israeli conflict is to vote for pro-Israel leaders in our governments.
- b. The Arab League is not involved in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.
- c. The Arab-Israeli conflict is a political war not a religious war.
- d. Most Arab nations believe that Israel has no right to exist.

Discuss in your own words (10 points each)

36. List the six traits about Israel in the Millennial Kingdom and, in your own words, give a brief description of each.

37. Explain why we need to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

38. State whether the following statement is true or false. Then, from what you have learned in this class, defend your position. Use Scripture to support your argument.

Because of the Abrahamic Covenant, God relates to the Jewish people in a unique way. Since His dealings with the Jews are based upon this covenant, He relates to the Jews differently than He does to the Gentiles. Therefore, God has a different plan for Israel's salvation and redemption than He does for the Gentiles.

