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 statues; 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 Zabotinsky, 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