

Introduction:

- On May 7-28, history will be made as the body of Christ around the globe comes together to pray for Israel and the City of Jerusalem.
 - So far over 1,000,000 people have committed to fast and pray for Israel during those 21 days.
 - Mike Bickle, International House of Prayer, first called for 100,000 to respond and within a week or so 1 million had committed to pray. Goal is to eventually reach 100 million people praying for Israel.
 - We've created a page on our website titled 21-Days of Prayer for Israel (under Serving and Giving tab), where you will find a link to select a date and time that you will commit to pray, and a link for a 21-day Devotional written by Mike Bickle. Both can accessed here: <https://www.houseoffreedom.org/21-days-of-prayer-for-israel.html>
 - May 14, will mark the 75th anniversary of Israel as a nation.
 - May 28, the church will celebrate Pentecost.
- Tonight I want to preach into this 21-day fast.
- *"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth." (Isaiah 62:1-7, ESV)*
- My goal for tonight is to answer the question: "Why pray for Israel?"

I. A Defining Moment?

- A. What is a defining moment?
 1. "The time that shows very clearly what something is really about." Merriam Webster.
 2. "The point at which a situation is clearly seen to start to change."
 3. "A defining moment is a point in your life when you're urged to make a pivotal decision, or when you experience something that fundamentally changes you. Not only do these moments define us, but they have a transformative effect on our perceptions and behaviors." Sidney Evan, Forbes, Leadership.
- B. I stand with Mike Bickle and a host of other leaders who see this 21-day fast and beyond as a defining moment in the life of the church and in the life of Israel.

1. May 14, 1948, Israel declared independence and became a nation. That was a defining moment. In the war that followed there were many defining moments– but that Israel won a war against five surrounding nations was truly a miracle and defining moment.
2. I will share some scriptures tonight that must come to pass if we are to see Isaiah 62 come to pass.
3. The fact that there is an Isaiah 62 call to fast and pray for Israel, and over 1,000,000 people have committed to it...has to be a defining moment. I believe that we will look back over time, at these 21-days in May, and realize that it was a defining moment in the life of the church and the nation of Israel.

II. Why Do We Value Praying For Israel and Jerusalem?

- A. Because Israel's national repentance and Jesus' return are connected.
 1. *"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,"* (Acts 3:19, ESV)
 2. *"For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"* (Matthew 23:39, ESV)
 - a) You will not see me again is a reference to Christ's return.
 - b) Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, is Israel acknowledging that Jesus is Messiah. (Ps 118:26)
 3. *"For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?"* (Romans 11:15, ESV)
- B. Peter proclaimed that the Father will not send Jesus back until many in Israel call on the name of the Lord.
 1. *"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."* (Acts 3:19-21, ESV)
- C. Paul taught that Israel would be provoked to jealousy. Romans 11:11-14; 25-26.
 1. *"So I ask, did they (Jews) stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them."* (Romans 11:11-14, ESV)
 2. Verses 25 and 26, say that some shall come to Christ now, but the nation when the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled. When millions of Gentile believers walk in mature love, power, and understanding of God's purposes (including His plans for Israel).

This will lead to “all Israel” coming to salvation (Rom. 11:26).

- D. God’s blessing on Israel is connected to the fullness of the Great Commission and His glory covering the earth.
1. *“For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?”* (Romans 11:15, ESV)
- E. Because Jesus referred to Jerusalem as His city.
1. *“for by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by **Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.**”* (Matthew 5:35, ESV)
 2. *“beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.”* (Psalm 48:2, ESV)
 3. He is jealous for Jerusalem *“...I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts, the holy mountain.”* (Zechariah 8:2-3, ESV)
 4. *“... and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion (Jerusalem) shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”* (Isaiah 2:2-3, ESV)
- F. Because we are commanded to pray for Jerusalem.
1. *“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! “May they be secure who love you!”* (Psalm 122:6, ESV)
 2. Jeremiah 29:7 says that we are to pray for the peace of the city in which we live.

III. God Has Promised To Raise Up Intercessors

- A. God places intercessors on Jerusalem’s walls. *“On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent.* They shall remind the Lord of His promises. *You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.”* (Isaiah 62:6-7, ESV)
- B. *“Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her;”* (Isaiah 66:10, ESV) Ezk 9:1-5 Those who pray for Israel are marked by God.

Conclusion:

- This will be the first time in history that this kind of prayer will have gone up for Israel and Jerusalem. *“You will...have mercy on Zion [Jerusalem]; the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come... 18This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.* (Ps. 102:13-18)
- We are called to pray and intercede for Israel, and the Holy Spirit is releasing this strategic call again in the 21st century.