Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem



October 6, 2013

INTRODUCTION

The World Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem is an annual event, organized by Jack Hayford and Robert Stearns through their organization "Eagles Wings". The first one occurred in 2004, in Israel.

In 2013, 300 million believers from over 175 countries will participate in this event.

SOME CHRISTIANS HAVE **MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ISRAEL** AND ITS PEOPLE

The Jews killed Jesus, so we should blame them, hate them and even persecute them. John 10:17, 18

I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.

God is finished with the Jews

Jeremiah 31:35, 36

This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— the LORD Almighty is his name: "Only if these decrees vanish from my sight," declares the LORD, "will Israel ever cease being a nation before me." This is what the LORD says: "Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done," declares the LORD.

Isaiah 11:12

He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.

Israel (northern 10 tribes + some Levites) went into exile in 722BC

Judah (southern 2 tribes + some Levites) went into captivity in 586 BC, but 70 years later returned with Nehemiah. After 70 AD they were scattered all over the world. There are now 15 to 18 million worldwide.

Romans 11:1, 2

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew.

See also Isaiah 49:6, 22-23, Jeremiah 30:1-3, Ezekiel 36: 24-29, 33-36, Amos 9:14-15

Christians have replaced the Jews as God's chosen people

Romans 11:17-20

If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." ²⁰ Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

WHAT IS GOD DOING WITH HIS ANCIENT PEOPLE IN OUR DAY?

 The land of Israel was restored to the Jews on May 15, 1948 by the British. The following day, they were attacked by the surrounding nations – and defeated them.

 Control of Jerusalem was restored to the Jews during the Six Day War (June 5-11, 1967). That brought to an end "the time of the Gentiles" referred to in Luke 21:24. The surrounding nations attacked on October 6, 1973 – Yom Kippur War. They believed that if they attacked on this holiest day, it would be easy to defeat Israel.

Egypt received \$1M in military aid from Libya and 9 countries lined up against Israel. 436 Israelis were deployed to the Suez to face 80,000 Arabs. June 7, 1981 Israel destroyed the nuclear reactor France was building for Iraq – they chose Sunday so no one would be there. Six F-16s flew from Elat to the reactor site, 18 miles south of Baghdad, dropped their bombs and flew home. King Hussein of Jordan was vacationing at Sharm el-Sheikh and saw them fly out. He phoned back to Jordanian military command in Amman, but they never notified the Iraqis. F16's can't fly that far without refueling, but they did.

5. They are returning to their homeland.

Jews – since 1948, 3 million from over 90 countries.

Tribe of Dan? –since 1979, about 82,000.

Tribe of Manasseh – about 2000 since 2006, with 7,000 more in the works.

6. They are returning to their Messiah

Currently there are 500,000 Messianic Jews worldwide.

> Fifty years ago there were no Messianic churches. Now worldwide, there are over 500, 100 of them in Israel.

WHY SHOULD WE PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF **ISRAEL?**

Genesis 12: 2-3 I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

One part of that verse says the Lord will use Israel to bless the world. They have excelled in many disciplines, for example:

22% of all Nobel prizes have been awarded to Jews – they have won in every category.

50% of all Academy and Tony awards have been won by Jews.

13% of all Grammy Lifetime Achievement Awards have been won by Jews.

2. Psalm 122: 6-9

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels." For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.

Jerusalem means "City of Peace". Shalom means "peace" or "well-being" or "completion".

Isaiah 62.6,7

I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

A Bit of History

Abraham paid tribute to the King of Salem.

Mount Moriah, where Abraham took Isaac to sacrifice him, was later called Golgotha.

The first time the name Jerusalem appears in the Bible is in Joshua 10:1

David conquered this Jebusite city and established his throne there in about 1000 BC. Solomon built the first temple. In its long history, Jerusalem has been destroyed twice, besieged 23 times, attached 52 times, and captured and re-captured 44 times.

The longest non-Jewish occupation was by the Ottoman Turks from 1517 to 1917. At that point, it then came under British control.

The 1917 Balfour Declaration was supposed to return control of Israel back to the Jews, but this was delayed until 1948.

The Neighbors

1. Egypt

In 1979 Sadat and Begin signed the Egypt-Israel peace treaty. Sadat was assassinated in October 1981, but the treaty still stands (sort of).

2. Jordan

Historically this land was home to the kingdoms of Edom, Moab and Ammon. Modern day Jordan was created in the division of the region after World War II. King Hussein signed a peace treaty with Israel in October 1994.

3.Lebanon

This is the ancient homeland of the Phoenicians (1550 to 539 BC). It came under Roman control in 64 BC. Has maintained ties to the Roman Catholic Church to the present, in spite of Arab domination for centuries. Gained independence in 1943. Hezbollah is firmly entrenched in the south. The first mention in the Bible is in Deuteronomy 1:7. Cedars from Lebanon were used n the building of Solomon's temple.

4.Syria

Damascus is considered to be the oldest, continuously occupied city in the world. Modern Syria was established after world War I. The al-Assad family seized power in 1970 and have always run a very repressive regime. In the current civil war, 100,000 people have died and 1.7 M have been displaced to neighboring countries.

5.Turkey

Partly in Europe, partly in Asia. Has also had many occupants in its long history. Modern Turkey is Muslim, but also a democratic republic, established in 1929. At that time the capital was moved from Istanbul (Constantinople) to Ankara.

The current government is religious and has changed some laws that reflect that, which recently sparked riots . Turkey has the 2nd largest military in NATO.

Ezekial 38 gives a list of the countries that will come against Israel in the last days. Five of those are in modern-day Turkey.

6. The Palestinians

In Gaza

Since 2007, this area is controlled by Hamas, a democratically elected terrorist organization. Hamas was formed in 1987 as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood and does not recognize Israel's right to exist.

In the West Bank

This area is controlled by the PLO, who have been much less aggressive under Mahmoud Abbas, who became Chairman after Yasser Arafat died in 2004 . In 1993 the PLO recognized Israel's right to exist and renounced violence.

HOW SHOULD WE PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF **ISRAEL?**

1. Pray for those who know their Messiah and their witness to those who do not

- 2. Pray for the completion of God's plan for them (and us)
- 3. Pray for those who hate Israel
- 4. Pray for the neighboring countries who are trying to maintain peace with Israel

5. Pray for Israel's leaders

6. Pray for world leaders who make decisions that affect Israel

 Pray for those who are returning to their homeland – they are not always welcome

8. Pray for the one-third of Israelis who live in poverty