

I. Praying for Israel

- A. This series has highlighted several passages that we might normally insert ourselves into and understand from a symbolic/metaphorical perspective, when really they are about a literal people group and their relationship with God – a reminder to pray for Israel through those passages.
- B. Prayer is not so much about bringing lists, but a relational conversation – more about listening than talking. We draw near to Him, find out what’s on *His* heart, and pray about those things.
- C. “No prayer, no care” – if we really care about the things God cares about, we will pray about them.
 - 1. Our focus should be less about us and what we’re thinking about, and more about Him and what is on His heart.

II. Romans 10

- A. The prayer movement needs feet. It needs to come out of the closet. We need to add actions to our prayers, especially as it relates to Israel.

“¹⁴How then will they call on him whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’” (Rom. 10:14-15, NIV)

- 1. The Church needs to be building relationships with the Jewish community, relating to them, loving them as our neighbours.
- B. Paul’s heart was for the salvation of the Jewish people; ours should be as well.

“Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.” (Rom. 10:1, NIV)

- 1. Even though they were the first to hear and many were disobedient, God has not rejected them (Rom. 11:1).
 - 2. Again: how will they know unless we go to them?
- C. Reach out to and befriend the Jewish community. There are open doors right now for us to walk out Isaiah 40 (“Comfort, comfort my people”) and call them to the Highway of Holiness described in Isaiah 35:8-10.

1. We get to build up the roads and remove the stumbling blocks, to clear the way for the Jewish people to be restored to God.

III. Isaiah 62

- A. NHOP's vision to build a Canopy of Prayer over Canada: prayer teams in all 338 ridings across the country, covering both Canada and Israel in prayer.
- B. Prayer is growing for Israel in Canada, but it needs to keep growing.

"⁴For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch...⁶I 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, ⁷and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth." (Is. 62:1,6-7, NIV)

1. Israel is currently despised among the nations – far from a praise. Isaiah 62 says we are to give Him no rest until that changes.
 2. We have thousands of houses of prayer across Canada – they're called local churches (Is. 56:7). What if the local churches of our cities worked together to pray night and day?
 3. When we hear the thoughts and plans of His heart and give Him no rest in prayer, agreeing with what He wants to do, we will see Him do "exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we can ask or think" (Eph. 3:20).
- C. We pray and we work (act) to help prepare the way for the people of Zion to return to the Lord.

"¹⁰Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. ¹¹The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: 'Say to Daughter Zion, "See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him."' ¹²They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted." (Is. 62:10-12, NIV)

IV. Conclusion – Why Pray for Israel?

- A. We want to pray for the things that are on His heart, and Israel is on His heart.
 1. "To the Jew first, then to the Gentile" – they are still the apple of His eye.

- B. “No prayer, no care” – if we truly care for/about them, we will pray for them.
- C. Add feet to your prayer – don’t hide in your prayer closet, but add actions to your prayer.

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’” (Is. 52:7, NIV)