God Will Fulfill His Word over Israel



GARY HARGRAVE



Israel Is God's Firstborn Son

Like everything else, the love we have as Christians comes by impartation. When we love the Father, we love that which is born of Him.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.

I JOHN 5:1

With God's love, we love the child born of God. God Himself said, "Israel is My son, My firstborn" (Exodus 4:22). The Jewish people are the child of God that He gave birth to and brought forth. That is where our love comes from—from Him. "We love, because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). Through God's love for us and our love for God, this deep love for all of Israel is imparted to us. This godly love includes not only a deep love for the Jewish people, but also for the Word that the Father has spoken over them and for the covenants that He has sworn by Himself to fulfill.

For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "I will surely bless you AND I will surely multiply you."

HEBREWS 6:13-14

Do you think that this great love for Israel and the Jews goes beyond what is necessary? That is what love does. It takes us beyond what is necessary. And through that love we release faith. It is one thing to talk about love; it is another thing to recognize that faith works through love.

For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

GALATIANS 5:5-6



God wants us to "fervently love one another from the heart" so that our faith and authority will be ministered through this great love for one another (1 Peter 1:22). There are many things that we could be doing, but I would rather minister this love and have our faith imparted to others through this love. We minister to Israel because of the love that God has put in our hearts.



"Our Bones Have Dried Up and Our Hope Has Perished"

We are familiar with the story of God taking Ezekiel out to the valley full of dry bones and asking him, "Can these bones live?" Ezekiel answers, "I don't know. You're God; why are You asking me?" God then tells him to prophesy to the bones, and the bones begin to come together. When Ezekiel has finished prophesying, there is an army standing in the middle of the valley (Ezekiel 37:1-10). Usually, that is about as far as we go with this story. We are so amazed by that part, why read any further? But the good part comes later, and I want you to read some of those verses.

Then He said to me, "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."

EZEKIEL 37:11

Now we know who the army was. We know who the bones were. It was Israel lying there in the valley as a bunch of dried up, dead bones. They had been destroyed. Because of this devastation, the people of Israel had a certain mentality, as the LORD explained to Ezekiel: "They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off" (Ezekiel 37:11). God was telling Ezekiel, "My people feel annihilated. Their attitude about themselves is that they have been completely destroyed, completely cut off, without any hope."



"I Will Take You Out of Your Graves and Place You in Your Own Land"

Today, there is a sense on Israel and a feeling on them as a people that everyone is against them, that hope is destroyed. Over the years, it has been the plan of satan, a plan executed by nations for century after century, to destroy all of Israel. Therefore, the LORD told Ezekiel to prophesy to them in response to this annihilation. Watch what happens.

"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."

EZEKIEL 37:12-14

The way situations appear does not matter to God. It does not matter if it looks like we are dead. God, through Ezekiel, was literally talking to generations that were dead, and He said, "I will take you up out of your graves, and I will place you in your own land."

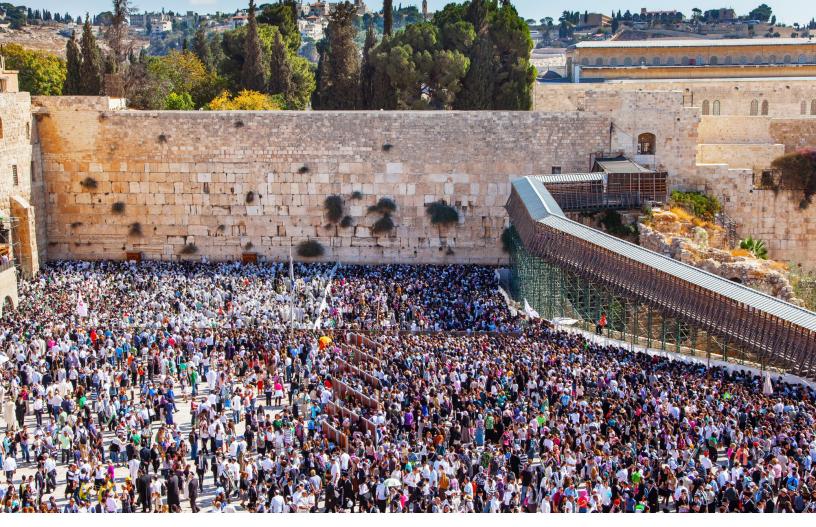


The Most Important Thing Is That God Has Spoken

A t some point in our walk with God we are going to get the idea that God will fulfill His Word. He will do it for His own name's sake (Ezekiel 20:42-44, 36:22-24). It does not matter what it looks like. It does not matter if it seems like it is too late, like all the promises are gone and we are all dead. The faith of Abraham was that God could raise Isaac from the dead to fulfill the promise (Hebrews 11:17-19). Abraham had to look at his own body as good as dead and look at Sarah beyond the age of child-bearing and say, "No problem. This time next year I will have a baby" (see Genesis 18:11-14; Romans 4:18-21).

We think that Abraham being as good as dead and Sarah being unable to have children are major problems. No, they are minor details. And we need to stop dealing with the minor details. According to Paul, we have been grafted into the faith of Abraham and now we begin to see why. It is true faith (Romans 11:17-18; Galatians 3:6-7). Abraham had come to the place of knowing that the most important thing was that God had spoken. We are coming to that same place.

Israel may feel that they are under annihilation, that all the nations are coming against them, but we can stand with this faith and say, "That is a minor detail." What is important is the Word from God that says, "No matter how things look, I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land."



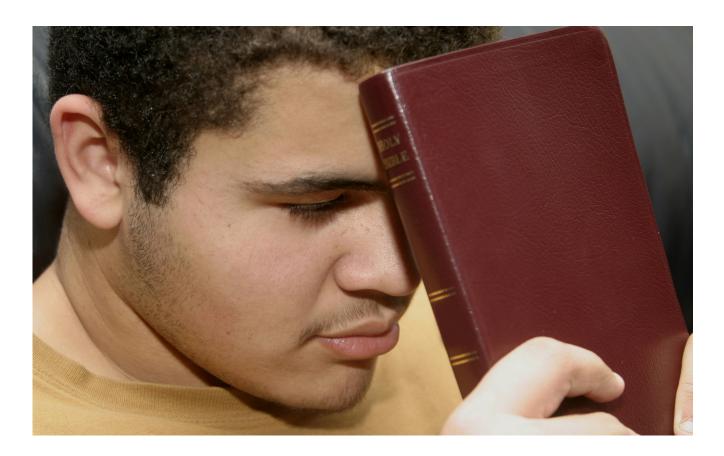
God Spoke, "I Will Bring Them Back."

Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name. They will forget their disgrace and all their treachery which they perpetrated against Me, when they live securely on their own land with no one to make them afraid. 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. 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. 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.

EZEKIEL 39:25-29

God said, "You will forget all these devastating things you experienced." We think, "How is it possible to forget all of those terrible things?" We have lived all these years with one cry about the Holocaust: "Never forget!" But a time will come when they will forget because God will place the Jews securely on their own land with no one to make them afraid. "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" (Ezekiel 39:28).

This is like reading a history book. We have watched these events happen. The children of Israel were sent into exile into all the nations; they have been spread around the world. But God spoke, "I will bring them back. I will gather them again to their own land and leave none of them in the other nations any longer."



A New Heart to Walk in His Statutes

Not only will God gather them back to the land, but He will also pour out His Spirit on the house of Israel. That is wonderful! I did not make this up; this is the Bible! I do not know how people can read this and not have faith for what God will do for Israel. The only thing I can assume is that they do not read the Hebrew Scriptures. There are Christians who have the attitude, "Well, that's the Old Testament; it's all gone." No, God will fulfill His Word over His people. He has promised it.

"Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Though I had removed them far away among the nations and though I had scattered them among the countries, yet I was a sanctuary for them a little while in the countries where they had gone." Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord God, "I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries among which you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel." When they come there, they will remove all its detestable things and all its abominations from it. And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God."

EZEKIEL 11:16-20

One of the reasons I want this change to happen so quickly for Israel is because I want it to happen for us. This is one of the promises for which I am excited that we have been baptized into Abraham. I am waiting for God to bring into me a new spirit, to take out of my flesh the heart of stone, and give me a heart to walk in His statutes and keep His ordinances. That is what we are looking for. We want this experience. Therefore, we minister it to Israel. It is their Word, and we proclaim it to them. They will have it, and we will also enter into it by faith.

There are many Scriptures that contain these tremendous prophecies to Israel. Read Ezekiel 36:22-38, which is about restoring Israel again. Then there is Jeremiah 24:4-7. This is another Scripture about bringing Israel back to the land and giving them a new heart. Also read Jeremiah 32:36-44, which speaks about the one heart that Israel will have in following the LORD. We look at these promises and see that they are about half fulfilled. Israel has gone into exile, and God has begun to bring them back. Now we are beginning to see other fulfillments: the complete return of the people, the outpouring of His Spirit, the release of a new heart, their safety in the land, freedom from their enemies, and no more annihilation. It is to be an absolute release. In love, by faith, we create it. Lord, pour out Your Spirit on Your people. By our faith and love, we release it.

GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org.

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes:

- Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel
- · Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers
- Provide physical and emotional care to child victims of terrorism
- Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research
- Support archaeology and preservation of the biblical City of David
- Provide 24/7 care for Holocaust survivors
- Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

