

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG143 – Fasting and Prayer for Israel and Jerusalem

Hi everyone, and welcome to the podcast today. This is a very special podcast. It is born out of some information that I received yesterday, actually, when I was reading an email from CBN. They were discussing the fact that from May 7 through May 28, there is going to be a prayer vigil for Israel and Jerusalem. I wanted to do this special podcast this morning and introduce that to everyone, so that people can begin to participate if they would like to in this time of prayer. It is being called a time of fasting and prayer for Israel and Jerusalem.

The idea of it was conceived by Mike Bickle, who is the pastor of International House of Prayer in Kansas City. I am sure many of you are aware of Mike and the House of Prayer; they have been going with prayer and worship for years and years, and they have a wonderful ministry of doing that. The Lord spoke to Mike and gave him this idea; he presented it to his staff, and everyone felt good about it. Then some of the staff members came forward and said, “Why shouldn’t we expand this and let all of the body of Christ potentially be involved in it, if they would like to?” And so, they have opened this up. They created a website, which you can find at Isaiah62fast.com. If you will go to that website, there is a six-minute video by Pastor Bickle in which he explains in more detail the burden that he has and what he is trying to accomplish.

As I said, this has been picked up by many people. I learned about it from CBN, and they are also doing a video about it and encouraging people to join. What they are looking to accomplish is to have a time of fasting and prayer from May 7 through May 28, which takes you up to the Feast of Pentecost. It is going to end in a final gathering on the southern steps of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem on the 28th, which is the day of Pentecost, and they are going to have some type of a get together, worship, all of that. I was excited, because Bruce Larson, one of the directors of Hargrave Ministries, and I are going to be in Israel during that time. We had already planned a trip because we are going to be part of the Jerusalem Prayer breakfast, which takes place on the first of June, as well as visit the eight entities, the different 501c3’s in Israel, that we donate to on a monthly basis from Hargrave Ministries. So we had this trip all planned, and we will be right there. I am hoping that we can be at the gathering on the 28th and be part of the finale of this time of fasting and prayer.

This is very exciting, because what they are trying to do is get over one million believers to join in this time of fasting and prayer for Israel and Jerusalem, leading up to the Feast of Pentecost; and it is expanding. I think when you go to the website and look at it, there are already, I don’t know, maybe one hundred, one hundred fifty different languages of groups that have joined in. People are signing up on this website; different ministries are opening their churches and their different facilities, if people want to come and join them in the time of prayer rather than just doing it alone. So, it is already growing very quickly. Within the first several days, there were hundreds of thousands of participants for this event.

One thing I am excited about with it is that it is going to expand the burden within the body of Christ and within the Church for the Jewish people and for Jerusalem, which I think is very necessary. There are many people that really do not have the revelation of what God is going to do in the end time

surrounding Israel and surrounding the Jewish people; yet there are very many prophecies, and we will get into reading some of those here, for God's promises over the land and over the people. So this is going to not only be a fantastic boost of prayer for Israel, which really needs it right now. I mean, this is a wonderful time to create this burden within the body of Christ for Israel, and for the Jewish people worldwide, because part of the vision is the vision of their return to the land. So, they are believing for a million believers to participate in this global assembly; and I would not be surprised if there are not many more than that who end up being involved with what is transpiring.

I want to read a few sentences from their website, which again, please go to and check it out. It says, "Join over 1 million believers who will engage in prayer for Israel for at least one hour a day for 21 days (May 7-28) for the increase of God's salvation promises and plans for Jerusalem and Israel. Some will pray alone and others will pray with two or more"; and some will be in virtual groups. This is what they are looking forward to. It is a collaboration of several thousand ministries that have already joined together to open their facilities and to promote this. Again, we are trying to be one of those, from Hargrave Ministries, to promote this event. I think it is a fantastic event, and we should look to see it be tremendously, tremendously successful – not only in reaching the body of Christ, but also in the effectiveness of the prayer itself for Israel and Jerusalem. Because if you follow the news, this is a tremendous time of need for Israel itself, with the government and the things that are happening, plus the surrounding nations. There is just a great deal transpiring right now, and that is not unusual. This is a central focal point of what God is doing in the earth, and there is always going to be contention as we get into these last days.

What they are choosing as their Scripture to focus upon is Isaiah 62, and I am going to take the time to read that here so that everyone can be immersed into the burden that they have. Isaiah 62, starting at verse 1, and I will go all the way through verse 12:

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, and her salvation like a torch that is burning. The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; and you will be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will designate. You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

It will no longer be said to you, "Forsaken," nor to your land will it any longer be said, "Desolate"; but you will be called, "My delight is in her," and your land, "Married." For the Lord delights in you, and to Him your land will be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, so your sons will marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so your God will rejoice over you.

On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves; and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

This is an emphasis and focus of this time of prayer and fasting, that we as the body of Christ are rising up to fulfill this Scripture, being the watchman on the walls and crying out to the Lord until His Word, what He has spoken, is fulfilled over Jerusalem. Going to verse 8:

The Lord has sworn by His right hand and by His strong arm, "I will never again give your grain as food for your enemies; nor will foreigners drink your new wine for which you have labored." But those who garner it will eat it and praise the Lord; and those who gather it will drink it in the

courts of My sanctuary. Go through, go through the gates, clear the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, remove the stones, lift up a standard over the peoples. Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth, say to the daughter of Zion, "Lo, your salvation comes; behold His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him." And they will call them, "The holy people, the redeemed of the Lord"; and you will be called, "Sought out, a city not forsaken."

We bless this. This is a beautiful Scripture and promise over Israel, over the Jewish people, and we know that these Words will be fulfilled. We know that we, as gentile believers in Christ, are grafted into these promises. And yes, they are for us; but they are for us by virtue of being grafted in. And so, we also expect and anticipate and cry out to the Lord for the total fulfillment of these relative to Israel, relative to the Jewish people; and we are going to be caught up into the same fulfillments along with them.

As they are looking forward to this, one of the things they are stating is, "This will be the **first time in history** that far more than 1 million will continue 24 hours a day for 21 days in prayer for God's promises for Israel. The uniqueness of this prayer initiative is itself a sign of the times and an acceleration of God's 'set time for a generation yet to be created' to engage together in His purposes for Israel." Then they cite Psalm 102:13-18, and I will read those verses:

You will arise and have compassion on Zion; for it is time to be gracious to her, for the appointed time has come. Surely Your servants find pleasure in her stones and feel pity for her dust. So the nations will fear the name of the Lord and all the kings of the earth Your glory. For the Lord has built up Zion; He has appeared in His glory. He has regarded the prayer of the destitute and has not despised their prayer. This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.

Again, a wonderful promise that they are focusing on over Israel and over Jerusalem. So I really encourage you, get involved with this; pray for the event itself, as well as for Jerusalem and for Israel. Because I think the potential of this – the impact of this on the Jewish people, on the state of Israel, on the city of Jerusalem – is going to be amazing. When they learn how many believers are out here crying out to God for the fulfillment of the prophecies over them to come true at this time of Pentecost, it is going to radically affect them. We work a lot with Israel and the people that live in Israel and Jerusalem, and they are always touched by the love and the drive that Christians have for them. It touches them very deeply. It gives them a strength in their own faith and their own belief in the Word, and we want to do that in this event. So, I bless you with a burden for this.

I want to read one more Scripture before I end, because this to me is another one of the great promises over the Jewish people. Sometimes we, as Christians, apply this to ourselves. It is speaking of the new covenant, and we speak of the new covenant in Christ, and we see it as something for us as believers in Christ. But when we look at this prophecy, we see that it is made over Israel and over the house of Judah, and we do not want to forget that – because the fulfillment of these Words over them is still, for many, yet to come. And I just want to read this one last prophecy before we end here, and have it be part of our faith and the force of what we are doing during this time of intercession.

Jeremiah 31, starting at verses 31-37:

"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they

broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; the Lord of Host is His name: “If this fixed order departs from before Me,” declares the Lord, “then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever.” Thus says the Lord, “If the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth searched out below, then I also will cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done,” declares the Lord.

Ah, I love these verses, because it is a guarantee by God that His promises to Israel will not go unfulfilled. He will never reject them – no matter what they have done, no matter what they are doing today. These words, these promises, will be fulfilled. He will make a new covenant with them, and they will all know Him from the least to the greatest. He will forgive their sins. He will bring them forth as the nation that He has always promised that they would be, in His Presence, to stand before Him. He will be their God and they will be His people. That cannot be removed, unless the heavens can be removed; and we know that is impossible.

We bless this time. I am so encouraged. I have so much faith, and I hope you do also. Please put some time into researching this. Do go to the website, read about it. And like I say, not only engage in prayer for Israel and Jerusalem, but also pray for this event, that it be beyond successful, beyond what any man could imagine its fruitfulness will be. And let our prayers for Israel be fulfilled. Let this be the hour, let this be the Pentecost, where we see a new outpouring of the Spirit of God upon His land and His people. And we believe for it together, in the name of the Lord.

Amen.