

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG156 – God’s Appointed Watchmen

Hi, and welcome to this podcast this morning. I am sitting in a city park in Jerusalem, close to the area of Yemin Moshe. I am currently overlooking the statue of the Lion of Judah, which was donated to the city of Jerusalem by Evangelical Christians to express their support for Israel and the people of Israel. Beyond the statue, I am seeing the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, and I thought this would be a fitting area to bring this podcast. Now there may be a little bit of background noise, people walking by, things happening; in fact, there goes a cat running in front of me right now, but he was very quiet, and I appreciate that. So if the sound quality is not what we usually have on our podcast, I apologize; but I thought that the atmosphere that we were in would make up for it in the anointing.

This podcast today is a burden that I had actually before arriving in Jerusalem, and it is something that the Lord was making very real to my heart in preparation for coming here. The Scripture I want to read from is Isaiah 62, starting at verse 6. This is something that has been very much in the hearts and minds of millions over this last thirty days as there has been prayer leading up to the Feast of Pentecost, or Shavuot in Hebrew. This has been a main Scripture that people have been reading, praying over, thinking about; and while I was reading it, it very much struck me to bring this podcast and give my feelings about Isaiah 62. I will begin with verses 6-12.

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. 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.”

This is a tremendous prophecy over Jerusalem, over Israel, the Jewish people; and one of the things that really struck me so deeply in reading it is just in the first verse. He says, “I have appointed watchmen.” I think we all have this concept that there are to be watchmen on the walls, and that there is to be prayer day and night, that we are to give God no rest. But it really struck me, the fact that He is appointing the watchmen. I do not think this is something people just decide for themselves to do. I think that there is a commission. I think there is an appointing by God of those who are going to have deep, deep within their hearts this revelation of the prayer for Jerusalem, the prayer for Israel, the prayer for the Jewish people; and we are not to keep silent. And I just feel like part of my prayer today with this podcast is, Lord, I ask that You appoint me as one of Your watchmen. I ask that You commission me and anoint me as a watchman over the walls, over the peoples, over the prophecies that You have

spoken about Jerusalem and about Israel. And I feel like that is probably going to be the prayer of many listening to this podcast.

I think we can believe the Lord to be appointed, to be commissioned, to be given a special impartation from the Lord to this ministry of intercession over the Word of the Lord to Jerusalem – and I think that is what it is really about. He said that we are to give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. I do not think this is something that we can do on our own, or by ourselves, or within human strength or ability; but it is something that God Himself is going to do. He is going to fulfill it. There are many prophecies and Words that He has given about His will for Israel, His will for Jerusalem, the peace of Jerusalem that we are to see in the earth. And it is something that we contend for, we intercede for Him to bring about. We know that He is going to do it, because in verse 8 it says, “The Lord has sworn by His right hand and by His strong arm.” So, the ability to see peace in Jerusalem, to see the fulfillment, is the fact that God Himself has spoken it. We are not making up prayers about Israel, about Jerusalem, about the people of Israel, His chosen people; these are things that He has spoken in His Word through the mouth of His prophets over millenniums. And what we intercede for and what we contend for is to see God now, in this day and age, bring about the fulfillment, to see Him establish and make Jerusalem the praise, to see Him establish His Word and bring the fulfillment of the Word that He Himself has spoken. And so, this is the contention.

I know this is a very familiar Scripture that we talk about. It has been emphasized over these last thirty days leading up to Shavuot, or the Feast of Pentecost, that there would be prayer. But I am looking for something of an anointing to come, a commissioning to come on those who will pray and who will contend with the Lord to fulfill these things by virtue of the Word that He has spoken. And it is because, and by, His Word, that we see this come to pass.

So I want to look at some other Scriptures and Words and prophecies that the Lord has given regarding Jerusalem, regarding the peace of Jerusalem. Of course, one of the Psalms that immediately comes to our minds is Psalm 122, and I will read it, from verses 6-9. It says, “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May they prosper who love you. May peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces.’ For the sake of my brothers and my friends, I will now say, ‘May peace be within you.’ For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.” So, again, the intercession that we are to have is to contend with the Lord that He fulfill these Words and bring about the fulfillments in our day of these things that have been promised so long ago. I feel like now there should be a new life and a new impetus; and that is why I seek the Lord for this anointing of commission, where He is appointing these watchmen over His walls to bring these things to pass. And so, we say, “Lord, bring peace to Jerusalem. Bring peace within the walls.” Peace is something that is hard to find in this day and age. Just yesterday, there were riots within the walls of Jerusalem; there was conflict and contention. And that is not to be the future of the Jerusalem that is spoken of in the Scriptures.

Let’s look at Isaiah, the fifty-fifth chapter, and we will start at verses 6-7. It says, “Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” This is something that I believe – the Lord is near. I believe His coming is near. I believe His Presence is near, and here with us. And again, that is why I wanted to record this podcast sitting out in the midst of the park and in His Presence, looking over the walls of the City, looking over Jerusalem, and thinking about these things that God has said and prophesied.

Verse 8 goes on to say, “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ declares the Lord.” And I think this goes back to the prophecy we have already read. The fact that the will of the Lord in Israel, in Jerusalem, is not going to be accomplished by the will of man. It is not going to be accomplished by the strength of man. It is going to be accomplished because God Himself brings it to pass, and brings it about for the sake of His name in the fulfillment of His Word.

Verses 10-11 go on to say, “‘For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.’” So we again see that we are the ones who are interceding; but we are reminding the Lord of the Word that He spoke and of the things that He has promised and brought in His Word that will be the future of Jerusalem and of Israel. And so, we will see these things accomplished, because His Word going forth will not return to Him void. His Word will accomplish for His name’s sake what He has proclaimed and what He has spoken.

Verses 12-13 go on to say, “‘For you will go out with joy and be led forth with peace.’” There will be peace. There will be peace in Jerusalem. “‘The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up, and instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up, and it will be a memorial to the Lord, for an everlasting sign which will not be cut off.’” We see that again happening in these days in Israel. We see the replanting of the cypress trees. We see that the days of desolation of the land are gone, and that the new fruitfulness and the blooming forth of the trees is taking place now; and we rejoice in that, because as He returns, even the trees will clap their hands and rejoice at His coming, and will rejoice at the fulfillment of His Word.

I want to go to Jeremiah the thirty-third chapter and start with verse 1. It says, “‘Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the second time, while he was still confined in the court of the guard.’” Now, this to me is significant, because as we see the Word of the Lord coming to pass, we know that sometimes as it comes to us, we may still feel in bondage, or we may still feel confined. We can look around and say, “‘How can some of these things be possible that the Lord has said and proclaimed?’” But because it is His Word, it will be fulfilled. So, Jeremiah received these words while he was still confined, while he was locked up.

Verses 2-3 go on to say, “‘Thus says the Lord who made the earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it, the Lord is His name, “‘Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’”” As those who are commissioned and appointed by the Lord on the walls of Jerusalem, we are to call to Him, and He will answer, and He will tell us of great and mighty things. I think it is a time when the Word of God is opening up to us that we might see and behold what it really says about the fulfillment, the peace, and the breakthroughs that are just ahead for Jerusalem, for Israel and the Jewish people.

Verses 4-6 go on to say,

“‘For thus says the Lord God of Israel concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah which are broken down to make a defense against the siege ramps and against the sword, “‘While they are coming to fight with the Chaldeans and to fill them with the corpses of men whom I have slain in My anger and in My wrath, and I have hidden My face

from this city because of all their wickedness: behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth.””

So we recognize by the Word of the Lord that whatever Israel has gone through, whatever Jerusalem as a city has gone through, whatever the people, the chosen of God as a covenant people, have gone through, God is going to bring forth health and healing. He is going to reveal the abundance of peace and truth. And we believe that we are in those days, but we cry out as the intercessors on the wall that God now fulfill these Words over Israel and Jerusalem.

Verses 7-9 say, ““I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel and will rebuild them as they were at first. I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned against Me and by which they have transgressed against Me. It will be to Me a name of joy, praise and glory before all the nations of the earth.” This is what we see in the future of Israel; what we see in the future of this city of Jerusalem, that will be filled with health and peace; what we see for the Jewish people coming forth in this day, that they will be a name of joy. Jerusalem ““will be to Me a name of joy, praise and glory before all the nations of the earth which will hear of all the good that I do for them, and they will fear and tremble because of all the good and all the peace that I make for it.””

When you look around today, when you look at the news, you look at the UN, you look at what is happening on many fronts, you just think, “Boy, the nations of the earth are not hearing the good that God is doing. They are not believing for the peace of Jerusalem, in many ways.” But I tell you, they will see the good that God does. ““And they will fear and tremble before the Lord because of all the good and because of all the peace that I will make for it,’ says the Lord.” The Lord will bring the peace, and it will leave the nations with their jaws on the floor in surprise and unbelief over what God will do in His blessings, for His restoration, for His bringing once again the restoration of the fortunes of Judah and Israel. We loose that day. That is what we cry for, that is what we intercede for, and that is what will happen. Because, again, we are not praying for things that we are making up from our own hearts and minds. We are praying for that which the Word of the Lord has declared for thousands of years, and that Word will come to pass.

It says in verses 10-12,

“Thus says the Lord, ‘Yet again there will be heard in this place, of which you say, “It is a waste, without man and without beast,” that is, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast, the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who say, “Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting”; and of those who bring a thank offering into the house of the Lord. For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were at first,’ says the Lord.

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘There will again be in this place which is waste, without man or beast, and in all its cities, a habitation of shepherds who rest their flocks’”

And we are already seeing this. We are seeing the fulfillment of this already. Israel is no longer a wasteland, a devastated place. We are seeing the restoration of the land and of the people. We are seeing the return of the people to the land.

Verses 13-16 go on to say,

“In the cities of the hill country, in the cities of the lowland, in the cities of the Negev, in the cities of Benjamin, in the environs of Jerusalem and in the cities of Judah, the flocks will again pass under the hands of the one who numbers them,’ says the Lord. ‘Behold, days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and he shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the Lord is our righteousness.’”

We know the prophecies of the Messiah, the Messiah that is to come. That will transpire, and there will be the blessings and the safety that come to this land by virtue of the seed of David being enthroned upon the throne of Israel.

Verses 18-22,

“And the Levitical priests shall never lack a man before Me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to prepare sacrifices continually.”

The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, “Thus says the Lord, ‘If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that day and night will not be at their appointed time, then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers. As the host of heaven cannot be counted and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.’”

This is a pretty sure Word from God. God is saying, “If you can stop the morning from happening, the sun from rising, the sun from setting, the moon from coming up, the order of day and night on the earth, then there is a possibility that the covenant with David can be broken and the Word of God over Israel and Jerusalem may not be fulfilled.” But that is impossible, and we will never see that happen. So I just think that we should have faith. We should be those watchmen. We should cry out for the anointing of intercession to rest upon us, that we see God move on behalf of His own name’s sake to fulfill all that He has spoken and prophesied.

If we move to the New Testament, in Second Peter 3, starting with verses 3-4, it says, “Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.’” And I know this is so much in the spirit today, that people are just saying, “Well, look, it hasn’t happened for thousands of years. Why should we have faith that it happens now?” But that is the spirit of mockery that is coming, and we bind that spirit of mockery, because it is a lie out of the abyss that says God will not fulfill His Word. But we just read the truth – the truth is that God says, “Only if you can stop the day from happening, only if you can stop the night from existing, will this covenant be broken.” It is impossible for the Word of the Lord not to come to pass.

In verses 8-9, it goes on to say, “But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” This is a day of repentance. It is a day when God is ready to fulfill His Word. And God is not slow about fulfilling His Word. I know to us it may seem like it is a slow thing, and like, you

know, you can agree with the mockers, "Will we ever see the breakthrough in the fulfillment of God's Word?" The answer to that is absolutely amen and amen and yes. We will see God fulfill His Word of peace and prosperity and restoration for Israel and the Jewish people.

So I bless this Word to you from Jerusalem. We believe for its fulfillment today. We believe for you and me to be those who are anointed to stand upon the walls and to cry out to God to see the peace of Jerusalem, the restoration of His prophecies, and the fulfillment of His Word happen in our day.

Amen.