

GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



GIG253 – Our Meeting with Mike Huckabee

Hi everyone, and welcome to this podcast. I am actually in Jerusalem, sitting in my hotel room, making this recording; so you may hear children playing in the hall, people yelling back and forth. There is even a dog that has been barking in the background that someone brought with them for their Sabbath outing to the hotel. But be that as it may, I felt it was still important to make this podcast and get the information to you.

It is very fun to me to be able to talk about this. We are on the solidarity tour for Hargrave Ministries, as many of you know, in Jerusalem and traveling throughout Israel. One of the events that we had, one of the times that we had, was a meeting with Ambassador Mike Huckabee. As you probably know, Mike Huckabee was appointed by President Trump to be the United States ambassador to the state of Israel. Now I think this is very important, and I did not want to talk about just that reality; but while I was talking with Ambassador Huckabee, he gave me a message for you. And so, I am doing this podcast primarily to pass on his heart and what he wanted to have conveyed to the American public, but especially to evangelical Christians and all Christians in America. So I will tell you what that message was, but first I want to just emphasize my own personal feelings about this event.

It has been many, many years since there has been someone who is the ambassador from the United States of America to the state of Israel that is not Jewish by heritage. And the fact that Mike Huckabee is not Jewish, the fact that he is a born-again Christian, an evangelical Christian, and really a true, true man of faith is important. I do not know how many of you out there have listened to Mike or followed his ministry as well as his political career and his television career, but he is a tremendous man of God. In my personal opinion, he is, as I said, a true man of faith and has done already a great deal for the United States of America; and now I feel like he is representing us to the state of Israel. And so, not only is he representing us as the ambassador to Israel from the United States, but I believe that he represents all of us who are believing Christians of whatever denominational background we are from, whether it be Catholic, or Protestant, or Evangelical, and obviously the Baptists out there, since that is what he is himself; for many years he has been a Baptist minister. I just recognize the fact that we have someone who is representing the heart of Christianity to the Jewish people and to the state of Israel.

I believe this is so important, because one of the issues that we try to deal with so much in Hargrave Ministries is the need for Jewish-Christian relations to really manifest on another level. There are so many things that have happened through the years that have been negative, even from the beginning of our Christian faith as far as the development of church is concerned. I mean, we have seen leaders of the Christian Church be involved with issues of the Holocaust and creating things that transpired in the Holocaust. So, you have to recognize that for the Jewish people, especially for those who are Orthodox believers, there is a concern when Christians get involved because they wonder, what is the message? Are they coming to persecute us more? Are they coming with pogroms? Are they coming to missionize and to try to convert us to Christianity? As you know, I have talked about that before. I think it is a real problem when Christians try to missionize the Jewish people, because you are doing more than just saying, "Be a Christian"; you are trying to change the culture, you are trying to change really who the

Jewish people are, what the history of the Jewish people is. There is just a lot that goes into all of that, the way people present it; and I have seen them presenting it in Israel, and it is something that is a concern.

So when I see Mike Huckabee coming in as the ambassador from the United States, I feel, as I said, that he is also an ambassador for Christians, coming in to tell the Jewish people that there is a love. Our message, and the message that is not just ours to give to others but the message we were given by Christ, is to love one another; it is to be an expression of His love, to be an expression of the Father's love. And God is love; it is His personality. It is who He is. It is what He is. And we see that expressed in John, the fact that "God so loved the world." When you look at that word *world* in the Greek it can be humanity – He loved mankind, His creation, the creation of humanity. He loved them so much that He gave His only begotten Son to be on the earth and in the flesh a manifestation of that love; and that is what Israel needs. That is what the Jewish people need, whether they are in Israel or not. They need to see that Christ is an expression of the love of the Father. And the Father loves the Jewish people. They are His chosen people, and He has made permanent, ongoing covenants with the Jewish people in that love. He made that with David, that His *hesed*, His lovingkindness, would be upon David and his descendants. And of course, when we look forward to the Kingdom, we talk about the Messiah of the seed of David coming to sit on the throne of David, which again was promised by God that there would always be someone on that throne.

So there is this need, this deep need for an expression to Israel, to the Jewish people, of a pure love for them that is expressing the Father's love, expressing Christ's love – which is the manifestation of the Father's love to them and for them. I believe that through the ministry of Mike Huckabee as the ambassador from the United States to the state of Israel, we are going to see this reflected in a way that is going to literally be earth shaking. It is something new and different, and I hope that you can see how dramatic of a difference this is from previous ambassadors, who were Jews in their own right and coming back to minister to the Jewish people from the United States. And of course, as I said, we need that as a country. We need to be ministering who we are as America in the strength and the backing, the friendship that we have with the state of Israel.

In all of this, to me it is extremely important that we see what is happening; I mean, in a day when we are seeing history made, day by day amazing changes, things that are obviously the fulfillment of prophecy, we have this aspect that I do not want you to miss in the fact that Mike Huckabee has been appointed as the ambassador from the United States to the state of Israel. So, my message to you, and I am here to pass on his message to you, but my message is, pray for Mike Huckabee. Pray for the embassy here in Jerusalem, and believe that God is going to have an expression through them to His people; and that that is going to be led and guided by the heart, the love, and the faith of Mike Huckabee, our new ambassador.

So that is my message and my part of this that I wanted to pass along. But as I promised when I was talking to Ambassador Huckabee – and we had a wonderful, very deep connection of heart and spirit together in the time that we had – his message to you is, "Come to Israel." If you are a believer, if you are a Christian, one of the greatest things you can do right now is to come to Israel. Israel needs to see this expression of faith. I know we are here right now on this solidarity tour. We are probably halfway through now, and we have been here many days traveling to many areas and aspects of what is going on in Israel. But what we keep hearing is, "You have no idea. Thank you for being here. Thank you for coming to Israel. Just your presence reflects the support in a way that we can see it." And everything we

do, everywhere we go, we hear this over and over and over again. So when I am standing with Mike Huckabee and he is saying, "I have one message that I want you to give to Christians out there, and that is, 'Please, come to Israel and show your love,'" of course, experience Israel and what it is going to do for you personally. I have never come to Israel over the last thirty-five years when it is not a personal experience and change in my own life, and I know it will be for you if you come. But the impact of it right now on people, over and over again, as I said, they are just thankful: "Thank you for coming. Thank you for being here. We appreciate it." And it is before you do anything for them, or buy anything from them in a store or in a restaurant; they are already thanking you just for being here. This was what Mike was trying to express to us as Christians. Come to Israel right now, it would be a blessing for him. One of the things he is going to be doing is encouraging Christians to come to Israel at this time. And so, I want to pass on that message to you from your new ambassador to Israel. He is asking you, "Come to Israel and be a part of what God is doing here."

I know many people right now just say, "Well, don't you know there is a war going on?" That is true, there is a war going on, and many times that is the overwhelming message that we get from the news; and as we know, the news is not always accurate about how things really are on the ground. I would say that I have been here since the fifteenth of May, this is now the twenty-fourth of May that I am recording this, and we have been all over the state of Israel; and I would say that Israel is a safe place to come. Certainly we can look at what just happened in Washington DC, where two Jews were slain at the museum for the Holocaust and Jewish faith; and this is Washington DC! We look at the news and we see things happening all over the country. I would say there is an aspect of Israel that is much safer. You do not have the basic crime and assault and things like that. Yes, there is a war going on. Have the sirens gone off for incoming missiles since we have been here? Yes. Actually, it took me three days to get here, and I was so tired when I got here that the first night the sirens went off and I slept through it. I did not even get up, much less run for the bomb shelter. But there is an overabundance of caution and safety to take care of the people here. There are wonderful notifications that follow where you are and let you know if anything is happening in the immediate area, and tell you what to do in case of danger. So there is a sense of safety, and I would encourage you to come.

The other aspect is that just getting here can be difficult, because airlines are canceling. You may say, "Well, they are canceling because it is unsafe." But some of the investigation I have done since being here actually shows that the true problem is coming to the airlines from the insurance companies, where they are saying, "Hey, we are going to cancel your insurance if you fly there." So it is not even that the airlines are necessarily afraid to come, but there is a pressure that is being put on them. And you know, there are things happening; it can be difficult, there can be situations. But again, it is because of some of the things that are happening that Israel and the Jewish people need to hear your voice, and not just from overseas. They appreciate the donations. As you know, we at Hargrave Ministries send donations and support every month to eight different organizations here in Israel. But I will tell you, when we walk in the door and we show up here, that really impacts them, and they appreciate it beyond what you can imagine.

So I am giving you this message from your ambassador to the state of Israel and to the Jewish people: "Please come to Israel." Be a blessing here to the people, and it will be a blessing to you, if you are able to make the trip. And if you cannot, I understand that; but you can pray. You can believe. You can pray for ambassador Huckabee and you can pray for his staff. You can pray for the people of Israel. You can pray for the nation of Israel. Pray for the soldiers. Pray for those that are in need in Israel. There are so many things that you can pray for if you are not able to come. But if you are able, know that you have

an invitation with an open heart from our current representative here and his staff, Mike Huckabee, the new ambassador from the United States to the state of Israel.

So, God bless you. I hope this is a blessing to you and a help for you, and we will see you again on the next upcoming podcast.