

GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



GIG255 – When the Lord Sanctifies Israel

Hi, and welcome to this podcast. I am glad you could join me today. This is being very fun, Shabbat day, the Sabbath Day; and I am in Israel, actually sitting in my hotel room while recording several things today. I just want to make you aware that as I am recording, it is the Sabbath, and so people are celebrating, and there are people talking and running down the halls. There are dogs barking. There are children playing, there are other children crying. So there is going to be potentially a lot of noise in the background, and I just want you to understand what that is and to try to keep your focus through it. I also will try to keep my focus on my notes and what I am really wanting to convey in this podcast. But it is actually kind of fun to have this atmosphere.

As many of you know, we have been on a solidarity tour in Israel for the past week, and today, because it was Sabbath, I was just waiting on the Lord and reflecting back over the week and some of the things that we have done and seen. Sometimes when you look at the situation in Israel, it can seem very complicated. There are a lot of things that are happening surrounding the war that is taking place right now, that began on October the seventh last year. There are other issues in Israel, of course – social, religious, all kinds of things; and when you look at the landscape here of things, it does really play out on the world stage. Everybody is aware and watching it, and the news is all about Israel and things that are happening here. And yet, it is very confusing sometimes. What I want to do is try to simplify that, because the confusion, I think, is many times clutter that is hiding what is really taking place behind the scenes in the heart of God and what is really transpiring.

I just think it is so important for us to recognize that what God is doing in Israel and has been doing in Israel, especially since the state of Israel was formed, is of great significance to the world, because it is a time when we begin to see prophecy fulfilled at a much more rapid pace than maybe prophecy had been being fulfilled at times prior to that. And so, if I could just try to clarify, because as I am saying, touring around and seeing everything, going to different places and visiting those who are providing food and those going and visiting the soldiers; going to Mount Herzl, the National Cemetery of Israel; going to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Israel; and just viewing and immersing yourself into life and into the reality that surrounds you in Israel, it can be almost daunting to reach in to God and say, “What are You doing?” And I feel like what God is doing is what He has been doing, and really there is a simplicity and there is a clarity to it, which hopefully I can work on in this podcast.

I want to read to you out of Ezekiel the thirty-seventh chapter, starting with verses 21-23. This is God speaking. It says,

“Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in

which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God.”””

The simplicity and the clarity that we see in the Scripture here in Ezekiel is wonderful, and these types of promises and prophecies and Scriptures appear many times throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. God is very, very clear of what is to take place here, and that is that He is gathering the sons of Israel from among all the nations where they have been scattered. Israel and the Jewish people have been scattered through the world, and God is in a time of bringing them back together; and it is becoming more and more rapid, as far as the pace of Him gathering His chosen people Israel, the Jewish people, back to Israel. He is very clear, and I think it is important to see this, because we hear the shouts on college campuses today about Palestine being free, and there is so much that goes on out there, and it really is born out of ignorance. There needs to be a lot of education, because people are entering into some very scary things and statements that are very scary about, “From the river to the sea, Palestine should be liberated,” and whatever. But God here is very clear about the fact. In verse 22, He says, “And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will be king for all of them.” So God is the one who says, “I am gathering Israel to Myself in the land of Israel. I am gathering the Jewish people. I am bringing them back to this land”; and it is very clear that God is the one who is settling the Jewish people in Israel. And so, if you are fighting that, or if people are having difficulty with that, one thing that is very clear is you need to understand, you are having a hard time with God. You are coming up against what God is doing.

It says in the Scriptures, in Jeremiah 32:41, that “with all My heart I am bringing Israel into the land, the Jewish people into this land.” That is what God is doing with all of His heart. And if you find yourself confused or battling that, or working against that in some way, then you are really working against the very thing that God, the God of heaven, the Creator of the universe, is doing with all of His heart as we live and breathe now on this planet. So there needs to be a carefulness in the nations. There needs to be a carefulness in the world; and yes, even on the college campus, there needs to be a carefulness. Because if you are going against this idea of Israel, the Jewish people, being gathered into one nation in the land of Israel, on the mountains of Israel, then you are really fighting with God, you are struggling against God. I know it is anti-Semitism, and it is growing and building now; but the truth behind anti-Semitism is people’s problem with God, and that needs, again, to be a clarity. What I am saying about this podcast is, I want to try to cut through what seems like it is so difficult to understand, so difficult to deal with. How do we deal with all of these things? How do we deal with the struggles and the war that is taking place right now? It is dealt with by coming back to the Scriptures and finding a clarity about what it is that God is doing, which is simple to do, and then beginning to have ourselves move with Him and what His purposes are.

I am going to go long and read some more of this. I am going to go back to Ezekiel 37:22: “And I will make them one nation” speaking of the Jewish people, “in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols....” God is bringing a purity, and we have to see this. Part of what God is doing in bringing Israel back together is that He is working with them as a Father, as their God, to purify them, to bring them to be the nation that He has always spoken He would make them – going back to the promises of Abraham, where the children of Abraham will be a blessing to all of the world.

So He goes on in verses 24-25, "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them." As they are coming back to Israel, part of what is transpiring is God again is working with them as one nation and He is bringing to them a purity, He is bringing to them righteousness that He has been looking for. "They will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them. They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever;" Forever. Get that. "And David My servant will be their prince forever." So if you think you are going to interrupt this process that God is into, it is going to be very difficult, because in His heart and mind what He is establishing with Israel will be, and will stand forever.

Verses 26-28,

"I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever."

So we see what God is doing. He is bringing His people together, He is sanctifying them, and He is also showing Himself to be God before the nations; because "the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel."

God is not just doing something standalone with Israel and the Jewish people. What He is doing with them is also going to show who He is to all of the nations, that the nations may know God in the way that Israel will know God, and does know Him. That is an aspect that we must see. God is working this whole plan of His, and it is really simple. You have to almost step back and look at a bigger picture rather than focus on a moment or focus on a situation or a circumstance that is taking place, because nothing is going to stop what God is doing because God is the one doing it. He says in another place in Ezekiel, He goes through this time after time of saying, "For My name's sake." God is doing these things for His name's sake, and they will be done, and they will be accomplished. You look at it and you say, "But there is so much battle over it. There is so much controversy over what is going on within the nations and the peoples. Why is that happening?" I will tell you, it is really clear – because we see Israel coming together as it is, coming back to the land, being established on the land, having God begin to work this process of purity and righteousness within them as a nation to bring them forth into the fulfillment of what He has always promised, going back to the beginning of the Scriptures. Maybe it looks confusing to us, or maybe it looks confusing to the media or to the leaders of nations out there, but let me tell you who it is very clear to: it is very clear to the demonic kingdom. It is very clear to satan himself, and to his determination to destroy that which God is doing. See, his purpose is that God will not have what He has set in His heart. What is He doing with all of His heart? He is planting Israel in the land, and He is purifying them. He is making them one people with one language, with one king. He is bringing them to walk in the covenants, and He will make a covenant of peace.

You say, "How are all these things going to end up?" Well, they are going to end up in a covenant of peace that only God can bring forth. But in the meantime, satan realizes the timing here, and that is where I think sometimes we get distracted by all the confusion of what is going on around us. But the time element is key here where satan is concerned; and that is why things seem to be getting worse rather than getting better, and things seem to be going in a direction that is really quite scary at some points. But I want to go back to the book of Revelation and read out of chapter 12, and see again if the Scriptures can be a source of clarity to us.

Verse 10 says, "Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.'" You see, it is this demonic accusation. You look at the lies that make up what we call anti-Semitism and you can see what it is, it is the accusations of satan against the Jewish people. It is always, "They are this, "They did that," "They are the cause." That is what was done in World War 2 – they were made to be the cause of all the problems that were taking place in Germany, and therefore Hitler was able to rally people against them to bring the focus upon them. And we see that this has gone on historically, from, gosh, it seems like the garden, where the Jewish people are to blame for everything. But again, it is not confusing; satan is the accuser of the brethren, he accuses them day and night before God. Day and night, day and night, he accuses them before God, and these accusations go out into all the world until they are the focus of the blame for everything negative that happens.

Verses 11-13 say,

"And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child."

Who is that? That is Israel. That is the Jewish people. Yeshua came out of the Jewish people. He came forth in the earth as an observant Jew and followed the Law, was righteous in all ways where the Law was concerned. He was birthed out of and was in fact a Jew, was in fact an observant, religious Jew. This is what is being pointed out here, that the male child was given birth from the Jewish people, and this is what caused this anger, this rage of satan against the Jewish people.

It says, "Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath." See, we are in this time that what is taking place is this outward expression of the wrath of the devil, of the wrath of satan that is taking place. Why though? Because he knows that he has only a short time. I wanted to point that out because even if we do not see, and most people do not see, what is going on here, when satan observes the Jewish people coming back to the land, and he observes the formation of them into this nation, into the oneness, into the sanctification process that God is bringing, he realizes, he knows he has but a short time. This is not going to go on for a long time, because God is going to be the one that brings an end to it. And what he recognizes is that if he is going to destroy the purposes and the plan of God, if he is going to circumvent it in some way and stop it from happening, then he has to rage and he has to move quickly, because he has a very short time to try to accomplish that. Of course, we know that he is coming against God, and that all of this is really about the battle between himself and God. But he is the loser, and God will establish His Kingdom, and God's will shall prevail in the earth. And that is the prayer that we were given: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on this earth as it is in heaven." We should be praying that with an intensity, with a determination in our minds, because we realize the great wrath that is being expressed in the earth right now to try to stop all that God is doing.

Let me go back to Ezekiel 37, verses 26-28 and just read this again. He says,

"I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. My dwelling

place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.”

So this is the clarity of what is happening. This is the clarity of what will be completed and what shall take place in these days. What we are to do is have faith to hold on to these words, to respeak and respeak and read them and proclaim them and know that this is God’s truth, this is God’s Word, and this is what will happen. You can look at the wars and rumors of wars and all that; you say, “Where is it going?” It is going to culminate in a covenant of peace that God is going to bring. And that will manifest, and we believe for it in our day.

I want to read another Scripture out of Ezekiel the twentieth chapter, verses 40-42. It says,

“For on My holy mountain, on the high mountain of Israel,” declares the Lord God, “there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land; there I will accept them and there I will seek your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your holy things. As a soothing aroma I will accept you when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered; and I will prove Myself holy among you in the sight of the nations. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the land which I swore to give to your forefathers.”

So all that is happening and transpiring – this is God. He is doing this. This is His will. He is bringing them back. Once again He is giving them the land of Israel to be their land, and He is bringing them to the high mountains of Israel. He is declaring that the whole house of Israel shall serve Him in this land of Israel, and as they serve Him, He will accept them. He is going to receive the contribution of their choicest gifts and all of their holy things, and it will be a soothing aroma to God. He will accept them when they are brought out from the peoples and gathered from all of the lands where they have been scattered.

This thing of Israel being gathered, satan understands this is the end. This is the end of what God has purposed and chosen to do with all His heart. And we know and say, “It cannot be stopped, it will not be stopped. It is taking place, and it will happen more and more swiftly as the time goes on.” God is in the process of proving Himself holy among His people, and He is doing that in the sight of all the nations. The nations will be humbled, and the nations will be called to account for the way they have responded, reacted, and treated Israel; and for the way that they have either been for God in His plan and have helped with the process of Him building His Kingdom, or whether they have worked against it, refused it, and fought to try to stop all that He has in His heart to do. But He has sworn to the forefathers, He has sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that He will bring Israel into the land, and He will do it. In the process, He will glorify Himself, not only before Israel, but before all of the nations.

And so, we believe together that these things will transpire, and that we will be understanding, we will have insight, and we will see the simplicity of what is working itself out right now. We will not be caught in the confusion, not caught in all of the craziness that is going on out in the world around us, but we will have a focus upon what God is in the process of making to happen, and what Israel is being built into. And we continue our prayer, “Thy Kingdom come, and Thy will be done, Lord, on this earth as it is in heaven. Glorify Yourself in Israel, and glorify Yourself among the nations.”

Amen.