

Prayer Alert M^Ay 2021

THE
ELIJAH
— PRAYER ARMY —



Image: Jerusalem Day celebrations at the Western Wall continue despite intimidation, while Muslim rioters set a tree on fire on top of the Temple Mount, May 11, 2021 (screenshot from Twitter video).

ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED

—Part 5

“And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, ‘The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob’; ‘and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.’” (Rom 11:26-27)

So far, we have established the fact that the salvation of Israel when “all Israel will be saved,” involves the religious, Jewish leadership’s corporate acceptance of Yeshua as the Messiah of Israel, welcoming him to Jerusalem with the words, “*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*” (Mt 23:39)

We will now look at what the Scriptures teach us about the dramatic turnaround among the Jewish people, specifically the religious Jewish leadership in Israel, regarding Yeshua as the Messiah of Israel.

The Recent War With Hamas

Before we do, we just need to say a word about the recent war in Israel with Hamas that just ended. It began on Jerusalem Day and lasted 11 days. Over 4,300 rockets were fired at Israel. 13 Israelis died and over 300 were badly injured. Israel attacked Gaza and killed over 200 terrorists including 25 top operatives and destroying over 100 km or 60 miles(!) of underground tunnels, approximately one third of the terrorists’ underground tunnel system in Gaza.

According to Hamas, the Palestinian death toll was 243, including 66 minors and 39 women. Given the fact that Israel claims that at least 200 Hamas terrorists killed, it seems like Gaza authorities’ death toll figure is low this time. Several Palestinians also died from Hamas rockets that landed in Gaza killing their own civilians.

The war was definitely not a clear victory for Israel. It has also, as usual, led to a growing condemnation of Israel around the world. A very worrying factor was also the civil unrest inside Israel between Arabs and Jews. [See this video! And read this article! Alarming statistics.](#) The greatest danger of all though is the Biden administration’s complete reversal of Trump’s Middle East policies, which gave Israel four years of quiet. A good analysis of this situation is an article by Daniel Greenfield called “[Why Biden Wants a War in Israel!](#)” We encourage all of you to read it.

The stage is, step by step, being set for the final attack against Israel

from all the nations. “For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle. ... Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east.” (Zech 14:2-4)

Only Messiah will be able to win the final, end time war against Jerusalem. This is why we so urgently need to pray for the salvation of Israel and why we are teaching this series. This salvation through Messiah is directly connected to the repentance of the people, as the Apostle Peter said, **“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, Jesus.”** (Ac 3:19-20)

We also need to pray for the *Aliyah* of as many Jews as possible back to Israel, since this is where God has promised to save them.

Paul: The Pattern

In his first letter to Timothy, Paul wrote,

*“I thank him who has given me strength, Messiah Yeshua our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Messiah Yeshua. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Messiah Yeshua came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. **But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Yeshua the Messiah might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.**”* (1 Tim 1:12-16)

The New King James Bible translates verse 16, *“However, for this reason I obtained mercy, **that in me first** Yeshua the Messiah might show all longsuffering, as a **pattern to those who are going to believe on Him** for everlasting life.”* In other words, **Paul viewed his salvation experience, as a**

first example and pattern for others like him in the future who will experience the same thing.

To the Corinthians, Paul wrote, *"Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the assembly of God."* (1 Co 15:8-9) The Amplified Bible translates verse 8, "and last of all, as to one untimely (prematurely, traumatically) born, He appeared to me also." Other translations read, *"I was different, like a baby born before the normal time."* (ERV) *"And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."* (KJV)

Paul knew that he was born again into the Kingdom, out of season, as a pattern for others like him coming to faith in the Messiah in the end times! The parallels between Paul's salvation experience and that of the rabbinic, Jewish community in Jerusalem in the end times are striking.

Paul grew up in Jerusalem as a Pharisee, taught by Rabbi Gamliel, who was the most prominent rabbi in the Jewish world at the time. Paul testified before the Jewish worshippers at the Temple in Jerusalem, *"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day."* (Ac 22:3) To the Galatians he wrote, *"And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers."* (Gal 1:14)

At that time, there were several different streams, or sects, among the Jewish people. Besides the Pharisees, there were the Sadducees, the Herodians, the Zealots, the Essenes, and others. After the fall of Jerusalem, first in 70 and then in 135 CE, all of these sects, except for the Pharisees, eventually lost their influence and disappeared from history.

Among the Pharisees, there were two different schools. One was the school of Shammai and the other was the school of Hillel. These two rabbinic giants disagreed on most issues in their interpretations of the Torah. Shammai was more strict in his views, whereas Hillel was known to

take a more lenient approach in most matters. In the end, the school of Hillel won the power struggle between the two. The school of Hillel laid the foundation for the rabbinic Judaism that has survived two thousand years of exile among the Jewish people, up to our own time.

Rabbi Gamliel, who trained and raised the Apostle Paul, was the grandson of Rabbi Hillel. There were not many Jewish boys in those days who had the tremendous privilege to sit at his feet and learn the Torah of Israel. Undoubtedly, one of the reasons Paul received this privilege, was that his ancestors also were Pharisees. Paul explained before the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem, *"Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees."* (Ac 23:6) His parents must have been well off and have seen tremendous potential in Paul and, therefore, paid the price to have him trained at the feet of the most prestigious rabbi in the Jewish world at the time. With this background and upbringing, Paul represents the very core and essence of today's Judaism, centered in Jerusalem.

Paul also personally identified with the calling of Israel to be a light to the nations. He told the Jews in the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch, *"we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has **commanded us**, saying, '**I have made you a light for the Gentiles**, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" (Ac 13:46-47) Paul applied the national calling of Israel to himself. And just like Israel has been predestined from the beginning for an eternal calling to be a light to the nations, so was Paul. He wrote, *"But when he who **had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace**, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles."* (Gal 1:15-16)*

Finally, just like the rabbinic community today is very antagonistic and opposed to the claim that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel, Paul was extremely hostile to the Gospel before he encountered Yeshua on the road to Damascus. He told King Agrippa:

"I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Yeshua of Nazareth. And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. And I punished

them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.” (Ac 26:9-11)

Paul also said to the ones who tried to kill him in the Temple, “*I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women.” (Ac 22:4)*

Paul’s Salvation Experience

It is important to note that Paul did not become a follower of the Messiah because somebody witnessed to him or preached the gospel to him. On the contrary, Stephen’s anointed sermon before the Sanhedrin only made Paul even more hostile. Right after the unjust execution of Stephen, Luke wrote, “*But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.” (Ac 9:1-2)* And when Yeshua appeared to Paul a second time in the Temple, Paul said to him, “*And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.” (Ac 22:20)*

The religious, Jewish leadership in Jerusalem will not in the end times believe Jesus is the Messiah because of preaching on TV or through a gospel campaign. That is not how all Israel will be saved. Just like Paul, the zealous Pharisee, had a personal encounter with the risen Messiah on his way to persecute him, Zechariah prophesied thousands of years ago what will happen in the end times when all Israel is saved:

“And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a

firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves.” (Zec 12:9-12)

The NIV translation reads, *“They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”* In the end times, God will pour out a spirit of grace and supplication, or “pleas for mercy” on the inhabitants of Jerusalem and they *“will look on me, the one they have pierced.”*

This is not necessarily describing the coming of Messiah in power on the clouds of heaven when **“every eye will see him, even those who pierced him.”** (Rev 1:7) The Hebrew word that is translated “on” in Zechariah 12:10, primarily means “towards” and not “on”. It should then rather be translated, **“They will look towards me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”** The spirit of God will fall upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem so that they will begin to look towards the one they have pierced.

Now, look carefully who the recipients of this spiritual outpouring specifically are. Verse 12 reads, *“The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, **and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves [etc.]”*** This is a description of the Orthodox Jewish community where men and women pray separately! This indicates that Orthodox Jews will be the primary candidates for this end time Jewish revival in Israel, not secular Jews.

When this happens, no wonder they will weep! *“they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.”* Interestingly, this is referring to the weeping in Jerusalem after the death of the righteous King

Josiah. He died in Megiddo right after he had restored the Feast of Passover in Jerusalem, like no other Jewish king had done before him. *"None of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as was kept by Josiah."* (2 Ch 35:18) It says *"All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. Jeremiah also uttered a lament for Josiah; and all the singing men and singing women have spoken of Josiah in their laments to this day. They made these a rule in Israel; behold, they are written in the Laments."* (2 Ch 35:24-25) The rabbis view King Josiah as a prophetic picture of Messiah ben Yosef (the suffering Messiah, son of Joseph).

In the same way, we can only imagine the emotions that went through Paul right after his encounter with Yeshua on the road to Damascus, when he neither ate nor drank for three days. He was also praying and must have wept a lot with "pleas for mercy," like Zechariah prophesied about the Jews in Jerusalem in the end times. Luke wrote,

*"And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' And he said, 'Here I am, Lord.' And the Lord said to him, 'Rise and go to the street called Straight, and **at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying.**"* (Ac 9:9-11)

The spirit of grace and pleas for mercy certainly was upon Paul during those three days *"at the house of Judah"*, just like it will happen to the whole house of Judah in Jerusalem, in the end times. When he heard what had happened to Paul, the messianic believer Ananias (or, Chananiah in Hebrew) said to the Master,

"Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings.'" (Ac 9:13-15)

Truly, Paul was prematurely born out of season. He is a pattern for his contemporaries in Israel in the end times who will embrace Yeshua as the Messiah of Israel.

Israel Will Not Convert to Become Christian

It is very important to understand that all Israel being saved, does not mean that they will all become Christians. They will continue to be orthodox, rabbinic Jews in the same way that Paul continued to be a Torah-keeping Pharisee to the end of his life, even after he met Yeshua. On his last visit to Jerusalem, Paul boldly testified before the Sanhedrin, *"Brothers, **I am** a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees."* (Ac 23:6) Paul did not say, "I was a Pharisee before I met Jesus." He said, "I **am** a Pharisee." And it says that the Pharisees in the Great Council defended Paul! *"Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, '**We find nothing wrong in this man.**'"* (Ac 23:9)

The chances that Paul could have pulled this off as a mere trick, are about as great as if the Israeli left-wing politician Yair Lapid were to claim to the ultra-orthodox community in Jerusalem that he is a Haredi Jew and the people taking his word for it. There is no way Paul could have fooled the judges in the Sanhedrin about his identity.

To the Philippians, Paul wrote, *"If anyone else thinks he has reason **for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee.**"* (Php 3:4-5) Just as Paul after his salvation still was a Hebrew and of the tribe of Benjamin, he was still a Pharisee in his relationship to the Torah. He explained that if he wanted to, he could brag about this, but he chose not to because he did not want to put any confidence in the flesh.

To the Jewish leaders in Rome, Paul said, *"Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people **or the customs of our fathers**, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans."* (Ac 28:17) The "customs of our fathers" is referring to the Oral traditions of the Torah. Paul did nothing against neither the Torah, nor even the Oral Torah!

Christian animosity against rabbis, and the demonization of them even among Messianic Jews today in Israel, is both against Scripture and, most of all, very counterproductive toward God's plan of salvation for Israel. A majority of the Messianic Jewish movement today in Israel is, unfortunately, spitting into the wind. At the same time, they are applauded and supported for their anti-rabbinic stance by Christian leaders and organizations, especially in the West. A few years ago, the author of one of the most well-known books on Christian anti-Semitism approached Messianic leaders in Israel about publishing it in Hebrew. They refused, claiming it would put "the rabbis" in a too positive light. What a shame!

Rabbinic Judaism has been God's instrument to preserve the Jewish people during two thousand years of exile, so that his promises to them as a nation can be fulfilled when all Israel is saved. The Torah has protected and guarded the Jewish people, keeping them united as a nation, just as Paul wrote in Galatians, *"Now before faith came, we were being guarded under Torah—bound together until the coming faith would be revealed. Therefore the Torah became our guardian to lead us to Messiah."* (Gal 3:23-24 TLV translation)

The Torah is not against the Gospel! It says about the first, Jewish disciples in Jerusalem: *"You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law."* (Ac 21:20) No wonder the Jewish people in Jerusalem *"held them in high esteem"* (Ac 5:13) and the Jewish believers were *"having favor with all the people."* (Ac 2:47) They continued to pray daily in the Temple (Lk 24:53) and in the regular Jewish synagogues (Ac 9:2).

After Paul came to faith in Yeshua, it was a Torah keeping, Spirit filled, Jewish disciple named Chananiah (Ananias), who laid hands on Paul to receive the Holy Spirit, healed his blindness and prophesied to him. Paul later testified about this,

"And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight

and saw him. And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'" (Ac 22:12-16)

It was this "devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews" that was able to help Paul and minister to him after he came to faith. We need to pray that God will raise up this type of Torah-faithful, Jewish community of disciples in Israel, operating in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs and wonders. The Torah and the Holy Spirit are not opposites! Ezekiel prophesied about the new covenant, "*And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*" (Ez 36:26-27)

The Church Father Irenaeus, who was a spiritual grandson of the Apostle John, wrote in his Apology,

"And the Apostles who were with Jacob [i.e., "James" in English translations] allowed the Gentiles to act freely, yielding us up to the Spirit of God. But they themselves, while knowing the same God, continued in the ancient observances...Thus did the Apostles, whom the Lord made witnesses of every action and of every doctrine...scrupulously act according to the dispensation of the Mosaic law..."^[1]

Being Watchmen on the Walls

God is calling us at this critical time, more than ever, to labor together with him in prayer as watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem for the salvation of Israel.

"On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take

no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.” (Isa 62:6-7)

To be continued...

[i] Ante-Nicene Christian Library, Vol.5/1, trans. by A. Roberts and J. Donaldson, T & T Clark, Edinburgh, 1867, Pp.313-314

Please Join Us in Prayer for the Following Prayer Points:

- **Pray that God will set more watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem renewing their call to pray now for Israel!**

“On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.” (Isa 62:6-7)

- **Pray that God will raise up a Torah-faithful, Messianic Jewish community in Israel operating in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs and wonders!**

“You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law.” (Ac 21:20)

- **Pray that more Jews in the nations will heed God’s call to make Aliyah back to Israel!**

“Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when it shall no longer be said, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ but ‘As the Lord lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had