

Session #1 - Prayer

¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

...
⁶ 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,
⁷ and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it a praise in the earth.

...
¹¹ Behold, the Lord has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion,
"Behold, your salvation comes;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him."
¹² And they shall be called The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord;
and you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.
Isaiah 62:1, 6-7, 11-12 ESV

As watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem, we are given a _____ to never be silent just as the Lord has vowed to not be quiet.

We are to put the Lord in remembrance until Jerusalem is established and made a praise in the earth. We see that this is directly linked with her righteousness and _____ burning brightly.

We are given a mandate to say to the daughter of Zion that her salvation comes. We know that the time is coming when the people of Israel will be called The _____ People, The Redeemed of the Lord.

We see this theme repeated clearly in the _____ Testament. The Apostle Paul declares that his heart's desire and _____ to God is for the salvation of Israel.

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.
Romans 10:1 KJV

We get a glimpse of the Apostle Paul's heart for Israel in the previous chapter when he describes the great sorrow and unceasing anguish in his heart.

We can gather that the Apostle Paul prayed _____ prayers for the salvation of Israel because, fully aware of the consequences, he says he could wish that he were accursed and cut off from Christ for their sake.

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—² that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴ They are Israelites...
Romans 9:1-4a ESV

He not only prayed fervently, we also know that he prayed _____.

²⁶ 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";
²⁷ "and this will be my covenant with them
when I take away their sins."
Romans 11:26-27 ESV

We can know that he prayed confidently because he knew that it is God's _____ for Israel to be saved. Here, in Romans 11, the Apostle Paul quotes the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, so he knows what the _____ say concerning Israel (Isaiah 59:20-21; Jeremiah 31:33-34).

We should also pray, and we should do it with confidence because we know it is God's will for all of Israel to be saved.

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.
1 John 5:14-15 ESV

Prayer is not about _____ the mind of God. Prayer is about coming into _____ with the mind of God.

It can be easy to think that if God said something is going to happen then it will _____ and there is no need to pray about it. But for reasons the Bible does not

explain, prayer is a powerful weapon that God gave us so that we can agree with and declare what God has said instead of passively sitting back to watch what He said *just happen*.

We can learn from the lives of Daniel and Elijah that we should seize the opportunity to pray what God has revealed as His will.

Daniel

² In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.

Daniel 9:2 ESV

Daniel understood by the Word of the Lord that the desolation of Jerusalem would last 70 years, and at the time Daniel makes this discovery, it had been right around _____ years.

Daniel does something with his understanding from the scriptures. In verse three we find:

³ Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

Daniel 9:3 ESV

Daniel understood that the desolation of Jerusalem would last 70 years, so when he realized that time was up, he decided to pray, fast, and seek the Lord. He prayed to the Lord because he _____ that it was God's will for the captivity to cease.

²¹ while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. ²² He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. ²³ At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.

Daniel 9:21-23 ESV

We see in these verses that the Lord sent a messenger to deliver the answer to his prayer. Daniel did not passively sit back and wait to see God's Word come to pass, instead understanding God's will provoked Daniel to _____, and he prayed earnestly for the Lord to do what He promised.

Elijah

The prophet Elijah also took God at His _____.

¹ Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.”

1 Kings 17:1 ESV

¹ After many days the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth.”

1 Kings 18:1 ESV

Elijah delivered a message to Ahab, king of Israel, that it would not rain on the earth for about three years. And once that period of time had ended, he delivered a second message that the Lord would send rain on the land. Elijah _____ what God said and he delivered the messages.

But he didn't only believe and obey. He did something else, too, that is revealed to us in the book of James.

¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

James 5:17-18 ESV

The prophet Elijah prayed fervently that it would not rain. He believed, obeyed, and _____.

We see that two of God's prophets, Daniel and Elijah, praying because they understood that it was God's will to accomplish something. They not only prayed, but they prayed fervently.

Us

We do not pray something because we're trying to get God to do our will, rather, we pray something because it is God's will. We can have faith that our prayers will be answered when we pray according to God's will.

We can understand from the Scriptures that it is God's will that the whole house of Israel be _____.

²⁶ 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”;

²⁷ “and this will be my covenant with them
when I take away their sins.”

Romans 11:26-27 ESV

We should pray earnestly for the _____ of Israel. God's Word indicates that it is the will of God, and Paul the apostle himself also prayed:

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.
Romans 10:1 KJV

Let us pray earnestly for the salvation of Israel, because we understand from the Scriptures that all of Israel will be saved.

¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

...
⁶ On your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have set watchmen;
all the day and all the night
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¹² And they shall be called The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord;
and you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.
Isaiah 62:1, 6-7, 11-12 ESV

We pray for the salvation of Israel, and we pray for it until we see the salvation of Israel.

Session #2 – Blessing the Saints of Israel

¹ The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

² “I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 12:1-3 ESV

We know that God blessed Abraham and his descendants (“I will make you into a great nation”), and we can see that those who bless his descendants are blessed and those who curse his descendants are cursed.

We should keep in mind that Abraham’s descendants of _____ were given through his son Isaac and then through Jacob who was renamed Israel (Genesis 17:19-21; Genesis 26:3-5; Genesis 27:28-29; Genesis 28:14-15; Genesis 32:28).

We know without a doubt that God has blessed all the nations of the earth through Abraham, or through Israel. That happened when God sent Jesus as the promised Messiah to restore Israel and the _____ back to Himself.

Now, the Apostle Paul was the apostle who was given a commission, or a mandate, to take the Gospel to the Gentiles (the world). Even though he was commissioned to the Gentiles, he still had a specific act of service for the Jews, or for _____.

⁹ and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. ¹⁰ Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Galatians 2:9-10 ESV

James, Peter, and John released Paul to work with the Gentiles, “only, they asked [them] to remember the poor”. This word _____ indicates a distinction. James, Peter, and John were referring to the poor saints, or believers, of Israel, and we can know that for sure when we examine other verses of Scripture.

Paul gave instructions to the churches of Galatia and Corinth to set aside a weekly offering specifically for the _____ in Israel.

¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ² On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. ³ And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem.

1 Corinthians 16:1-3 ESV

The Apostle Paul collected _____ gifts from Gentile Churches (from the world) for the saints in Jerusalem [for the believers in Israel, the natural and spiritual descendants of Abraham].

Gathering financial gifts for the saints in Israel was a _____ part of the Apostle Paul's ministry. Even though he was the Apostle to the Gentiles, he took seriously blessing the saints in Israel.

In fact, it was such a significant part of his ministry that later in his life he mentions it to Governor Felix when he stood before him as a prisoner in Caesarea.

¹⁷ Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings.
Acts 24:17 ESV

The Apostle Paul sheds more light on giving to the saints when he writes the church in Rome.

²⁵ At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. ²⁷ For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.

Romans 15:25-27 ESV

There are two key points we must realize from Romans 15:

- First, _____ Gentile churches were commissioned by Paul to partake in this grace of giving. Macedonia and Achaia are two regions that would most likely have included the churches of Philippi, Galatia, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth, and possibly others.
- Second, Paul says that the Gentile Christians _____ it to the Jewish believers to contribute the offering. He says that the Gentiles have shared in the Jewish believers' spiritual blessings, so we ought to be of service to them in _____ blessings.

What are the spiritual things that we have received?

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— ² that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵ To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

Romans 9:1-5 ESV

Use this space to write what spiritual blessings we have received from God through Israel:

If we have received all these spiritual things, from God through the hands of the Jewish people, the Apostle Paul says it is our _____ to minister to them with material, or financial, things.

Some believers were so compelled to participate in this “_____ of giving” that they gave out of their own _____ to bless the saints in Israel.

They not only gave but they _____ earnestly for the _____ to give.

¹ We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—
2 Corinthians 8:1-4

There are a lot of efforts that bless Israel, and many of them use these same verses to make the case for blessing Israel. We need to be _____ to take care of the saints, the believers, of Israel in our blessing Israel.

When we look at these verses, we should keep them in their proper context, and in every case, the Scripture is clearly referring to blessing the _____ of Israel, and in many areas it specifically refers to blessing the _____ saints in Israel.

That doesn't mean we neglect to bless those Jewish people who aren't born again, but we should not substitute the command (or _____) to bless the saints of Israel for something else.