EXPLORE GOD'S HEART FOR



A 21-day Bible study and prayer guide to see Jews return to Israel

Dean Bye and Gaylyn R. Williams

Explore God's heart

for Ciliyah

A 21-day Bible study and prayer guide to see Jews return to Israel

Dean Bye Gaylyn R. Williams



Explore God's heart for Aliyah

© 2023 Relationship Resources. All Rights Reserved. Published by Relationship Resources, Inc.

This eBook was excerpted and adapted from *Explore God's heart for Israel: Discover Israel's Importance for the End Times* written by Gaylyn Williams, © 2023 Relationship Resources. You can learn more on the link above.

This uses many different Bible translations. Their copyright information are listed at the back of the eBook. It becomes part of this copyright page.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior written permission of the author.

Contact us:

Gaylyn Williams with Relationship Resources

www.GodsHeartForIsrael.com

Email: resources@godsheartforisrael.com

Dean Bye with Return Ministries

www.Return.co.il

info@return.co.il

www.RelationshipResources.org/Gods-Heart has extra resources to help you in this study.

Table of Contents

Introduction	6
How to Use This EBook	
Day 1: What is Aliyah and why does it matter?	
Day 2: God is calling us to be watchmen for Israel and for Aliyah	
Day 3: Pray in alignment with God's heart and soul	
Day 4: God wants us to know His heart	
Day 5: Pray for fishermen	
Day 6: God is fulfilling prophecy	
Day 7: The amazing prophetic significance in God's plan	
Day 8: What must happen before Christ returns?	
Day 9: The final Aliyah	
Day 10: Who are the Anousim and why do they matter?	
Day 11: What will bring about the greatest harvest of souls?	
Day 12: Aliyah is the key to the Messiah's return	
Day 13: God raised up Gentiles to do our part in His story	
Day 14: How to read the Bible as a script	
Day 15: God is unfolding His mystery	
Day 16: The end-times revival	
Day 17: God keeps His promises	
Day 18: Has God rejected the Jews?	
Day 19: Have Gentiles replaced Jews?	
Day 20: The prophetic significance of the valley of dry bones	
Day 21: Be as a Jew to Jews and a Gentile to Gentiles	
Appendix	

Acknowledgments

Thank you to Trevor Bye for creating a beautiful cover!

We are deeply indebted to many people who made this eBook possible. Thank you to Joy Carroll, Sherri Hartman, Tom Darr, Patti Shearston, Linda Harris, and Debbie Meyer who proofread and edited this manuscript, as well as the book this was excerpted and adapted from, *Explore God's Heart for Israel*. They each gave their helpful insights. Rubin Paxton not only proofed, but worked on a myriad of other details on the book.

Thank you to each of you who shared your thoughts and stories for this eBook: Dean Bye, Debbie Kellogg, Benjamin Berger, Joy Irwin Schtakleff, Eric Morey, Marty Shoub, Peg Byars and Carolyn Hyde. You each helped us better understand God's heart.



Introduction

God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 1 Corinthians 2:10–11 NKJV

Welcome to this study and prayer guide for the twenty-one-day Isaiah 62 corporate fast for Israel, which you can also use later. We believe God has much for each of us in the coming days as He reveals His innermost heart and His deepest mysteries. This guide will prepare you to receive all He has for you.

God wants us to know His heart, so He gave us His Holy Spirit living inside us as our guide to His heart. It's through the Holy Spirit that we can know the thoughts, emotions and will of the Father.

In John 16:13 (CSB), Jesus says, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come."

Take time to meditate on 1 Corinthians 2:10–11 and John 16:13.

Exploring the heart of God through His Spirit is meant to be normal for believers, not unattainable. God created us to know Him—God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit.

In English, when we talk about someone's heart, we are often referring to their emotions. In the Old and the New Testaments, the word "heart" refers to the innermost part of a person or being, not merely the emotions. The Hebrew word for heart is *lev* and has many meanings, including the mind, understanding and wisdom. It is used for feelings, the will, the intellect and the center

of anything. The Greek word for heart is *kardia* and includes thoughts, feelings, understanding, desires and the mind.

Scripture reveals many things about God's heart; at least one may surprise you! We will study a few of the main topics on God's heart based on how often God talks about the subjects in Scripture. Two of the main topics on God's heart are Israel and the Jewish people. We need to understand what God has said, how He sees His people and land, what His plans are for them and how Gentiles fit into the picture.

God longs for a relationship with us. When you have a personal relationship with someone, you want to know the other person. You want to know his or her heart—what is important to them, what makes them happy, what makes them sad, what their desires are and what they think about.

Most of us long for a deeper relationship with God. We want to know His heart, yet sometimes we don't know where to start. The study and prayer guides you will receive daily will help you go deeper in your relationship with God as you better understand His heart.

How the next 21 days will be unique

The purpose of this twenty-one-day journey we are on together is not just to give you a biblical devotional study with some good information and daily prayer points. Instead, we want to help you engage in the spirit of this fast, meditating on and praying the Word. We will look at both of these topics below.

Each day will include the following:

- Scripture to meditate on, study and pray through.
- Teaching on the topic by people involved in ministry.
- A prayer to pray.
- Prayer points.
- An action to take.

Importance of meditating.

Meditation has gotten a bad reputation with many Christians because of how New Agers and other religions use it. However, the Bible has much to say about meditation, and I encourage you to meditate on the Scriptures we study. Consider what each of the following verses says about meditating on God and His Word:

- Joshua 1:8 (NKJV): "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."
- Psalm 48:9 (NIV): "Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love."
- Psalm 77:12 (ESV): "I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds." The New Living Translation says, "They are constantly in my thoughts. I cannot stop thinking

about your mighty works."

- Psalm 119:27 (NLT): "Help me understand the meaning of your commandments, and I will meditate on your wonderful deeds."
- Psalm 145:5 (NKJV): "I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works."
- Philippians 4:8 (ESV): "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Synonyms for meditate include: consider, think about, study, contemplate, ponder, deliberate and mull over. Biblical meditation is reflecting on Scripture, mulling it over and asking God to reveal His heart through it.

Some ways you can meditate include:

- Reading one or more verses and then thinking about the truths in them, asking God what they mean and how they might change your life. Continue to mull over the truths throughout the day.
- You can also read one verse, but then take time to contemplate every word in the verse, asking God to reveal His truths to you. You could spend a few minutes to a few hours to many days meditating on one verse!

We encourage you to take the time to meditate on and consider the truths each day. Ask the Lord to reveal His truth as you meditate on His Word.

In your daily study and prayer guides, we will study prophetic Scriptures. As you do, ask God to give you His view of those verses. Ask yourself:

- What did God say and mean to the original audience?
- How is that Scripture being fulfilled today? Or, how has it or will it be fulfilled?
- How does this Scripture, or should it, impact my life today? What can I apply from it?

As we meditate on the Scriptures in the coming days, they will transform our lives.

Praying the Word.

As you study each Scripture in the next twenty-one days, after you meditate on them and answer questions about them, then turn them into a prayer. You can change the verses, often slightly, so they become a prayer. For example:

Genesis 12:2–3 (TLV): The Lord said to Abram, "My heart's desire is to make you into a great nation, to bless you, to make your name great so that you may be a blessing. My desire is to bless those who bless you, but whoever curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

You can pray something like: Lord, You said that Your heart's desire to make Abram (who later became Abraham) into a great nation. You promised him that You would bless him and make his name great so he would be a blessing. You also said that You would bless everyone who blessed Abraham and curse all who cursed him and through him all families on the earth will be blessed. I can see how You have blessed Abraham's family and used them to bless the whole world. Thank You for the blessings I have received from Your promises to Abraham. Forgive me for the times I have cursed Abraham's descendants in any way.

Many of the guided prayers are praying the Scripture we studied.

Ways to prepare for your fast

- You might want to find one or more people to study and pray with each day during the twenty-one-day fast. You can encourage and challenge each other in your fast and in praying.
- Ask God how He wants you to fast. It could be a complete water fast, a Daniel fast (eating like the prophet Daniel did), fasting from one or more foods, or even fasting from social media. God will reveal to you what He wants you to do. Commit to whatever He reveals; however, if you fail on your commitment in any way, show yourself grace, as God does, and then get back to your commitment.
- Find a prayer group you can join to pray daily (or as often as possible). Contact us for a Zoom link you can join. If you can't join a prayer group, consider committing to praying for Israel an hour a day during this fast.
- Before you begin each day, prepare your heart to hear God's heart. Ask God what you must do to prepare each day; it could be confessing any sin, praising and worshipping God or anything else He reveals.
- If you haven't already gotten it, get your copy of the <u>Prepare Your Heart</u> devotional study.¹ Before we begin to pray and fast, it is important to have our hearts aligned with God's heart. This eBook gives a practical study that will empower you in your fast as you study Scripture, pray and apply the truths to your life.

I pray that as you study, meditate on and pray the Scriptures in the coming days, you will be abundantly blessed as God reveals more of His mystery to you.

Blessings and shalom, Gaylyn Williams and Dean Bye

¹ You can get it at <u>www.GodsHeartForIsrael.com</u>. Explore God's Heart for Aliyah. © 2023 Relationship Resources.

How to Use This eBook

This eBook will help you dig deeper into God's Word to discover more for yourself and grow in your relationship with God. It will help you get to know God's heart in more significant ways.

Throughout this study, longer passages won't be written out. You can study them in any translation you want.

Quotes from people

I am so grateful to all the people I interviewed who gave their insights for this series. If I don't have copyright information on a quote, it is because it came from a personal interview. You will find contact information for those who want it included, so you can reach out to them. I will only use a first name for people who chose to remain anonymous.

More Resources

You can find many extra resources that add to your study on our web: <u>www.RelationshipResources.org/Gods-Heart</u>.

Bible Translations

This eBook uses different translations of the Bible, which show variations and nuances of the verses. Only part of some verses are used, because that is what is being emphasized. The copyright information for the Bible translations is on the copyright page at the end of this eBook. The abbreviations used are:

AMP—Amplified Bible CJB—Complete Jewish Bible CSB—Christian Standard Bible ESV—English Standard Version KJV—King James Version NASB1995—New American Standard Bible 1995 NET—New English Translation NIV—New International Version NKJV—New King James Version NLT—New Living Translation TLV—Tree of Life Version



Day 1: What is Aliyah and why does it matter?

I will bring Judah and Israel back from captivity and will rebuild them as they were before. I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me. Then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for it. Jeremiah 33:7–9 NIV

What is Aliyah? Do you know? It is one topic that is very much on God's heart because of all the times He talks about it in the Bible. The word Aliyah is not used in the Bible, but the concept is used at least sixty-four times. Some say it occurs over seven hundred times in the Old Testament.

In the coming days, we will look at the significance of Aliyah, how it impacts all our lives, (whether we are Jews or Gentiles) and how you can be involved.

Ask God to open your heart and mind to understand and know His heart and mind in greater ways today.

Eric Morey, founder of Aliyah Action Counsel, shares:

Aliyah is the Hebrew word for "ascent," coming from the same Hebrew root as the word "la-alot" ("to ascend") or "ma-alot," as in the "Psalms of Ascent" (Psalm 120–134), which the pilgrims recited on their way up to Jerusalem each year for the great feasts.

Today, in Modern Hebrew, Aliyah refers to Jewish people returning home to their Promised Land in Israel from the nations where they have been scattered. They are going "up to Zion," fulfilling the many prophecies in God's Word. Aliyah means the physical return of

the Jews to their Land, the restoration of that Land and the rebuilding of the Jewish nation in the Land of Israel (Aretz Israel). When God repeats Himself and says something more than once, we want to take note because it is something of particular importance to Him. God, in His Word, declared His intention to bring His people home from all the nations where they were scattered sixty-four times!!!

Meditate on and study Jeremiah 33:7–9.

- What does God promise Judah and Israel?
- Notice each "I will" in this passage, showing what God will do. What is God saying through each promise?
- Together Judah and Israel represent all of the Israelite Kingdom.
- According to verse 8, what will be the result for the city?
- What will be the result for all the nations on the earth? This is talking about Gentiles.
- What God is doing in these verses is Aliyah, bringing His people back to the land He promised them through Abraham in Genesis 12.

A Prayer to Pray

Father, thank You that You are bringing Your people back to Israel and forgiving their sins. I want to see Jerusalem become a praise in all the earth, beginning in my nation. Would You show me how to partner with You to bring Your people home to Israel and see all the good You want to do for Your land and Your people? Would You forgive their sins and bring them back into the relationship with Yourself that You desire?

Prayer points for today

- Pray God will reveal His truth to more and more Jews, especially in North America, so they will hear His voice and return to the land of Israel that He promised them.
- Ask God to open the eyes of Gentiles and Messianic believers to see what God is doing in Israel as He is bringing His people back from the ends of the earth.
- Ask God to open the doors for more Jewish believers to make Aliyah.

An action to take

Reach out to a Jew you know and share about Aliyah, asking if he or she has thought about moving to Israel. You might need to explain what Aliyah is. You could share the PDF on the prophetic significance of Aliyah, available for instant download.²

² Written by Eric Morey. Used by permission.



Day 2: God is calling us to be watchmen for Israel and for Aliyah

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. Isaiah 62:6–7 ESV

In the next twenty-one days, we will focus on God's heart for Israel and for Aliyah, studying Scriptures, learning from people doing ministries to Israel and Aliyah, and praying for both Israel and Aliyah. I encourage you to study with an open heart, meditating on each truth. Each day will have prayers you can pray, prayer points and action points.

Watchmen on the wall are people who are looking for any enemies that may try to attack. These verses talk about watchmen who are praying for Israel. They are usually watching in the Spirit for what God reveals that they need to pray. There are prayer houses in Israel who are in the land praying, but we can also be watchmen wherever we are.

- Watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem that pray day and night have a unique role. How do we accomplish that role or fulfill it?
- What do you think it means to put the Lord in remembrance?
- What are we to remind Him of? Could it be all of His promises for Israel and Jerusalem?

Lou Engle, with Lou Engle Ministries, shares:³

We are in the day of the global harvest. A massive prayer movement is going to explode for the harvest. Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 9:37–38, "The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few. So pray to the Lord of the harvest to force out and thrust laborers into His harvest."

Jesus' heart was broken because the people were like sheep without a shepherd. I believe He was overwhelmed with the limitations of His incarnation. He realized He needed millions like himself to bring in the harvest. I wonder if He saw the millions of Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus and secular Western people. I believe He was torn to pieces, so He challenged His disciples, "Pray the Lord of the harvest."

This verse has a different word for prayer than the one commonly used. It means to beg and it is a command He gave His disciples. It can be translated, I command you to beg me. If we understood this, it would revolutionize the whole earth. The Lord of the Harvest commands us to pray for workers in the harvest. Have we treated His command as a mere suggestion when in reality, it is the prescription for the great challenge?

The word for send in Greek is Ekballo, meaning to eject, cast out, expel, thrust out and send out.

Andrew Murray (1828–1917), a missionary from Scotland to South Africa said, "The number of missionaries on the field depends entirely on the number of people praying them there." If that is true, this prayer should be on the lips of believers day after day. He says that it depends entirely on people praying. This verse is the key to the end-times billion soul harvest.

I've started praying this all day, at night and in my dreams. The Lord told me, "I want you to call a million believers to pray this prayer daily." If we are disciples, we'll obey His command; but have we trivialized the command?

What is God saying to you through what Lou Engle shared?

Meditate on Matthew 9:37–38 (CSB): Jesus "said to his disciples, 'The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest."

- Remember, according to the Greek, the last sentence could be translated as "Beg the Lord of the Harvest to thrust out workers into His harvest."
- Write down everything God reveals to you from these verses.

³ From Lou Engle's talk at the Billion Soul Harvest at Every Home for Christ in February 2022. Learn more about Lou and his ministry at www.LouEngle.com.

- What might you need to do differently?
- Study Matthew 9:35–36. What was Jesus doing? Note each of His actions. Which of them stand out to you?
 - How did Jesus react to the crowds and why?
 - Do you react to people who don't yet know your Savior in similar ways? If not, how do you react to them?

When we pray for God to send workers into the harvest as it relates to Israel, praying for Aliyah is critical because Ezekiel 36:22–28 says that when the Jews are in Israel, then they will know the Lord. We will study these verses later.

A prayer to pray

Lord of the Harvest, I know You long for everyone to know You, Jews and Gentiles. Would You give me Your heart to pray for workers in the harvest and workers who will help Jews make Aliyah? I want to be a watchman on the walls for Israel and Jews. Please teach me how to do that. Help me consistently pray for Israel, Jews and Aliyah in the next twenty-one days and beyond. What a privilege it is to join with hundreds of thousands of other believers worldwide praying for Your people and Your land.

Prayer points for today

- Pray for workers in the harvest, as we studied in Matthew 9:37–38.
- Pray also that God will send workers into the Aliyah harvest.
- Pray earnestly for the Jewish people's salvation and for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6; Isaiah 62:1–7; Romans. 9:1–5; 10:1).

An action to take

As Lou Engle challenged us, make a commitment to pray Matthew 9:38 daily, begging God to thrust out workers into His harvest. This includes the harvest of souls, but also the Aliyah harvest, bringing the Jews back to Israel, so they can come to know Him.

Consider: Are you willing to be part of the answer to this prayer and go into the harvest? Why or why not? If so, ask God how He wants you to be a part of it.



Day 3: Pray in alignment with God's heart and soul

I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul. Jeremiah 32:41 NKJV

This verse is powerful, yet one if you are like me, you didn't even know it was in Scripture. Ask God to open your heart and soul to understand His heart and soul for Aliyah—for returning the Jews to Israel.

Dean Bye shares about knowing God's heart:

I was excited to be in Israel for the first time and to spend my first night near the Sea of Galilee. That first morning, I woke at 4 a.m., probably because of jet lag. I went to the end of the dock, worshipping and waiting for the sun to come up over the Sea of Galilee. I was quite excited to be there and then I heard that still, small voice inside me say, "Do you want to know how I feel?" I just assumed that He shared my excitement.

I had no concept of what was about to happen and all I could say is it was one of the few times in my life when God let me feel what He felt. I randomly answered, "Why sure," assuming I already knew how He felt. How arrogant. I instantly felt pain so deep that I began to wail, tears flowing freely. It was too horrific. I felt the Father's pain in the innermost part of my being.

He let me feel His heart. I didn't know that God could have that kind of pain. I asked Him to take it away, and He did. By that time, the sun came up. I thought I had encountered God but wondered, *what was that all about?* And that still small voice came again, telling me that the pain was related to His waiting for the fullness of the Gentiles to come in.

His pain goes further than that. He's waiting for His people, the Jews, to know Him. He's the one that created the cosmos, the order in the universe. He put us Gentiles in the middle of it and says, "This isn't going to happen until you guys do your part in My story, My love story." It is the greatest love story that could ever be told.

I had to encounter the Father's pain, and from that day forward, I feel like I'm carrying this pain. I live each day and each moment to help the church better understand His heart for His people, His land and the city in which He places His name, Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 6:6). He's called those of us from the nations to be a part of His plan to restore His people, to plant them back in the land and to use our strength connected to His heart and His soul.

You would be hard-pressed to find another verse in the entire Bible that shares not only the heart of God but also His soul. It has everything to do with planting His people in the land and helping them return to Israel, the land He promised them.

Reread Jeremiah 32:41.

- What are the two things God says He will do?
- How does He do the two things? Is He doing them grudgingly?
- This is the only thing in the Bible that God says He will do with His whole heart and soul. What do you think about that?
- Read Jeremiah 32:37–41. It talks about the Israelites, who God had scattered because of their disobedience. What does God say to you through those verses?
- If God rejoices to do His people good, how should we respond to them?
- Many Christians have rejected Jews because they rejected our Savior. How do you respond to Jews or how have you responded in the past?
- What do you think it means that God will plant them in the land? What might that look like?
- Why do you think God said He would do this with *all* His heart and *all* His soul?
- What is your response to this verse?

A Prayer to Pray

God Almighty, thank You for showing us what is on Your heart, especially what You are doing with Your whole heart and soul. Forgive me for not recognizing how important Your people and land are to You. I confess that I thought You had abandoned Your nation and people because of their sins, but I now realize that isn't true. Would You teach me more and more about Your heart for Your people and Your land? Show me how I can partner with You to fulfill Your heart's desires, Lord.

Prayer points for today

Here are some ways you can partner with God in prayer for what He wants to do with His whole heart and soul:

- Pray for any Jews you may know. If you don't know any, research your city or state to see how many Jews live there. Then pray that God will touch their hearts to want to make Aliyah.
- Pray that God will raise up people to help bring His people home. If you are bold, ask God if He might want to use you in some way to answer that prayer.
- Pray that God will plant many Jews from your home country into the land of Israel.
- Pray for God's protection over Israel, from all their enemies, within and without.

Actions to take

- Ask God how you can partner with Him in doing good to His people. Then do what He reveals.
- Consider financially supporting a ministry that is helping Jews return to Israel. Here are two ministries. You can learn more on their websites.

Return Ministries. www.Return.co.il

Cyrus Foundation. www.CyrusFoundation.org.



Day 4: God wants us to know His heart

Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely. They shall be My people, and I will be their God; then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul. Jeremiah 32:37–41 NKJV

Yesterday, we studied Jeremiah 32:41. Today we will look at the context of it.

Dean Bye, founder of Return Ministries, shares:

The first time Jeremiah 32:41 had an impact on me was in the 90s. I asked God, "Why aren't you doing this with all your strength too?" We are called to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. As I waited, there was a pregnant pause. I sensed God saying, I could do it with all My strength, but I have raised up another people, who once were not My people, to do it (Romans 9:25). They will use their strength to bring My people home. He's raised us Gentiles to bring His people home.

There aren't a lot of Jews making Aliyah from North America. Sometimes God seems to answer our prayers quickly, and other times it seems like He will never answer them. Aliyah appears to be taking too long. Could God be waiting for more Gentiles to use our strength to accomplish His desires?

Study Jeremiah 32:37–41

- God had promised Abraham that he and his descendants would have the land of Israel forever. However, God drove His people out of the land of Israel because of their sins. The land, especially Jerusalem, was holy, but the people weren't living holy lives.
- Today, the Jews are scattered to over one hundred nations that we know of; there could be many more. God gave many promises to the people if they obeyed His commands. But He also told them they would be cursed, if they didn't obey His commands. See Deuteronomy 28 and 29.
- Even though they sinned, what did God promise them in verses 37–39?
- Why do you think God says "I will" so many times in this passage? Could it be that they didn't believe Him because it seemed like He had abandoned them?
- Which of the "I will's" stand out most? Which would encourage you the most?
- What does it mean to you that God did all of the above for the Jews even though they sinned against him and didn't keep His covenant? How does that encourage you for how God will treat you?
- What does God promise in verse 40 and why?

Read Jeremiah 32:28–36 to see why God abandoned them for a time. What do you learn from these verses?

Meditate on verse 41 again, asking God to reveal more of His heart to you.

What is God saying to you through the Scriptures today?

A prayer to pray

Thank You, Lord that You are a covenant-making, covenant-keeping God. While You blinded Your beloved Israel due to their sin and poured out mercy on Your 'other sheep,' Your word promises that You will open your people's eyes and cause them to know You are Lord. Teach us to extend mercy and love to Your people as we partner with You to help them make their Aliyah. Lord, I want to have Your heart for Your people and I want to partner with You.

Prayer points for today

- Ask God to soften His people's hearts so they will repent and return to Him.
- Ask God how He wants you to pray and partner with Him to see His people brought back to Israel.
- Ask God for a fresh understanding of His heart for His people, so you can feel what He feels.

An action to take

Sign up for a weekly email from Return Ministries with numerous current prayer points for Israel and Aliyah. Email <u>rev.joe.campbell@rogers.com</u> to request to be on the list.



Day 5: Pray for fishermen

"As Adonai lives, who brought the people of Isra'el out of the land to the north and out of all the countries where he drove them"; for I will bring them back to their own land, which I gave to their ancestors. "Look,' says Adonai, 'I will send for many fishermen, and they will fish for them. Afterwards, I will send for many hunters; and they will hunt them from every mountain and hill and out of caves in the rocks.'" Jeremiah 16:15–16 CJB

Here are three main ways that Jews will return to Israel from the nations:

- 1. God will plant the desire in their hearts to live there
- 2. Gentiles, as well as Jewish believers, will encourage them to get their citizenship in Israel. These are called fishermen.
- 3. Persecution in the nations, anti-Semitism, will drive them to move to Israel, like we see in Russia, Ukraine and other countries. Verse 16 makes it clear that if they do not respond to the fisherman, God says, "I will send for many hunters." This is how zealous God is for His children to come home.

Today we will look at the second two ways.

Debbie Kellogg with CyrusFoundation.org shares:

When God is ready to bring His people back to Israel from a specific area of the world, He begins to raise up people, which the Bible speaks of as "fishermen," to go to the Jewish community with His call for them to return home. We, along with many others, sense the time for this to happen in North America in an increasing way has come. Although there has

been approximately 80,000 Jews who have made Aliyah to Israel from America in past years, over 5,600,000 still remain. Canada has 360,000 remaining. We must add to this number many who do not know they have Jewish blood but are beginning to find this out. When the Jewish people start to leave America, this will surely be the largest exodus back to Israel than from any other area.

Now is the time to be a fisherman and help the Jews make Aliyah while they still can easily. A time is coming when they will be hunted down and killed or tortured. Hunters in Jeremiah 16:16 are like Hitler and others who have persecuted the Jews and hunted them down to kill them. We need to be aware that the hunters are coming again for those Jews who haven't yet returned to Israel.

In the 1990s, Bart and Debbie Kellogg helped to bring persecuted Jews out of Ukraine and the former Soviet Union on ships. They rented a camp or a hotel where the people stayed until the ships left. Christian teams would go with them on the ships to help loading and unloading luggage, carrying babies, pets, etc. The Jews ate in the cafeteria with linen tablecloths, being treated like royalty. They came from impoverished areas and had never experienced anything like this before. Then they had a huge celebration on the last night on the ship.

Meditate on and study Jeremiah 16:14-16.

- When God is ready to bring His people back to Israel from a certain area of the world, He begins to raise up people, the Bible speaks of them as fishermen, to go to the Jewish community with His call for them to return home. Anti-Semitism is waking Jews up like the Holocaust did. God wants them to return to Israel. This is an opportunity for fishermen.
- Notice that God says He will bring the people back in two ways. What do you think is the difference between a fisherman and a hunter in this context?
- What might a fisherman look like? What do you think they would do?
- If Jews don't return to Israel with the fishermen, what does this say will happen?
- What might it be like for the Jews when the hunters come for them? Imagine what it would be like for you if hunters were after you. How would you feel?
- What would it be like to have someone help you to flee from them?
- What is God saying to you through these verses?

Benjamin Berger, a Messianic pastor in Jerusalem shares:

I see an enormous rise in anti-Semitism. It's a warning that Jews must take seriously because it will only worsen. Jews have a long history of persecution. God wants to use it to get His people back to their land. Jews are returning from many nations; however, North Americans are deeply rooted. Right now, it is easier for Jews to stay in the United States and Canada than return to Israel. Transition is not easy; many don't want to be uprooted. As anti-Semitism strengthens, more will realize they need to be serious about this.

Jesus told His disciples that they would be fishers of men (Matthew 4:19). Ask God how He wants you involved in this.

What did God reveal to you today through your study?

A prayer to pray

Adonai, thank You for Your great love for Your people, the Jews. Thank You that You are bringing them back from everywhere they have been scattered. Show me how You want me to be involved in partnering with You as a fisherman. Would You give me Your heart to help bring Your people back from the lands where You scattered them? Help me to love them with Your love and see them as You see them. I know the deep cry of Your heart is for the restoration of Your people to Yourself and to the land of Israel.

Prayer points for today

- Ask God to give you a greater love for His people.
- Ask Him how He wants you to be involved in bringing His people to Israel. It could be praying, giving, serving with a ministry like Return Ministries or something else.
- Pray God will help His people want to make Aliyah while they can, before hunters begin to hunt them (through anti-Semitism).

Actions to take

- Research one or more ministries who are helping Jews to return to Israel. Ask God if He wants you involved in any of them. You can find a list in the Appendix.
- You can learn more about fishermen and hunters on <u>our web</u>.



Day 6: God is fulfilling prophecy

I will gather together the remnant of my flock from the countries where I have driven them. I will bring them back to their own sheepfold, and they will be fruitful and increase in number. Then I will appoint responsible shepherds who will care for them, and they will never be afraid again. Not a single one will be lost or missing. I, the LORD, have spoken! "For the time is coming," says the LORD, "when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. And this will be his name: 'The LORD Is Our Righteousness.' In that day Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety." Jeremiah 23:3-6 NLT

Today as you begin your study, ask God to reveal whatever He wants you to see through His Word and the teaching.

Dean Bye shares:

We are living in a unique time when God is fulfilling His Word to Israel in the sight of the whole earth. The Lord is bringing the Jewish people back to Israel. Over one million Jews have immigrated to Israel in the past fifteen years. It's time for the Body of Christ to wake up and realize this is no coincidence. They were scattered among the nations and exiled from the land of Israel in 70 A.D. because of their idol worship and defilement of the land. But, it was not permanent. The Lord indicated through the prophets that He would bring them back in the "latter days" and make them "more prosperous than their ancestors" had been. They had been scattered for nearly 2000 years—until May 14, 1948.

The most significant prophetic sign of the last days is, without question, the return of the Jews to the land of Israel! There hasn't been a single time period since the days of Jesus that has seen more biblical prophecies come to pass than the one we live in now. For instance, in 1948, according to God's promises, Israel became a nation.

Meditate on and study Jeremiah 23:3-6.

The verses are above, but you can also study them in other translations.

- List all of God's promises in these verses. Each one uses the word, "will," revealing that it is something God will definitely do.
- Notice that God is declaring He will bring His people back from all the places where He banished them; afterwards He will bring the Messiah. The Jews would know that these verses are referring to the Messiah.
- God promised that the Messiah would come from David's line and reign over Israel. Jesus fulfilled these prophecies. What name will the Messiah be called, according to this passage?
- What will happen when the Messiah is revealed?
- Ask God to reveal His truth to you. Ask Him to show you whatever you need to know from these verses.
- What stood out to you today from your study? Explain.

A prayer to pray

Lord, Our Righteousness, thank You that You kept Your word to Your people, even though they sinned against You and You had to drive them out of their land. Because You kept Your word to them, I know I can trust You to also keep Your other promises in the Word. That is an amazing promise that You made that not one of them will be missing. Wow! And thank You that when Your people come back, then Christ, the Messiah, a descendant from King David, will return. Lord Jesus, thank You that You are my Righteousness, because You died to pay the price for my sins.

Prayer points for today

- Pray that Jews will begin to see that Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ, is their Messiah. They are waiting for the Messiah to come to earth, but most don't yet realize that He already came and fulfilled many prophecies, and He is coming again.
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and all of Israel. They continually have enemies coming at them from all sides and from within—the countries around them and from some of the Arabs living in the land. Psalm 122:6 (ESV): "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they be secure who love you!"

An action to take

Befriend a Jew.

Make sure you have no hidden agenda. A key is to build a relationship that develops trust. Here are a few ways to do that and <u>you can find more ways on our web</u>.

• **Be humble.** Before you meet with a Jewish person, pray, "Lord, what do You want me to learn from them? What is my purpose in spending time with them?"

- Be a friend first. Show them that you are interested in them, not trying to change them. We worship the same God—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. If they are open to discussion, inquire if you can ask them some questions. Know that they won't push Judaism on you and they don't want you to push Christianity on them. Let the Holy Spirit lead you.
- **Be interested in learning from their knowledge of Scripture** Many Jewish people have deep understanding of the Old Testament, the Tanakh. Whatever they share, don't argue, just have friendly discussions and watch what God will do! Arguing will *never* help them to find the truth.



Day 7: The amazing prophetic significance in God's plan

"I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them," says the LORD your God. Amos 9:14–15 ESV

As a reminder, God bringing His people back to the land He promised them is called Aliyah. Today, in Modern Hebrew, Aliyah refers to Jewish persons returning home to their Promised Land in Israel from the nations where they have been scattered. Aliyah means to "go up." He or she is going up to Zion.

Eric Morey, founder of Aliyah Action Counsel, shares:⁴

If we look at the history of the last 2,000 years from a Biblical perspective, clearly, the event of the greatest historic and prophetic significance was the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The second most significant event was surely what took place on the Day of Pentecost (Shavuot) when the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples and the church was born. We believe the third most significant event has been the return of the Jewish people to their Land—Aliyah—foretold in God's Word sixty-four times.

The modern movement of Aliyah began in 1881 and accelerated with the First Zionist Congress in 1897 and the Balfour Declaration of 1917. It began to realize its full potential

28

⁴ Much of the outline and teaching in this study is from Eric Morey, from the paper he wrote, "The Astounding Prophetic Significance of Aliyah." You can get a copy on <u>our web</u>.

Explore God's Heart for Aliyah. © 2023 Relationship Resources.

when the nation of Israel was reborn in 1948 and Jerusalem was reunited under Jewish control in 1967. Today, over one-third of all the world's Jews live in Israel, more than any other country in the world. In spite of incredible opposition, challenges and difficulties, Israel is today a strong and prosperous country. Aliyah continues to this day. The sixty-four prophecies are being fulfilled before our very eyes.

But much more is involved in Aliyah than the physical return of the Jews, including the restoration of the land and the rebirth of the nation. In the sixty-four passages of Scripture proclaiming God's intention to bring His people home, seven other amazing things are described, which happen in conjunction with Aliyah.

God reveals seven amazing things He is doing in returning His people to Israel. Here is an outline of the prophetic significance of the return of God's people to Israel. As you study each of them in the coming days, ask God to reveal His heart to you through them.

- 1. Spiritual restoration of the Jewish people
- 2. Pouring out of God's Spirit on Israel and on the nations
- 3. Worldwide spiritual awakening
- 4. Return of Jesus Christ to earth
- 5. Role of the Gentiles
- 6. God is bringing back people from both the tribe of Israel and the tribe of Judah.
- 7. The valley of dry bones

Meditate on and study Amos 9:14–15 (NLT): The Lord says, "I will bring my exiled people of Israel back from distant lands, and they will rebuild their ruined cities and live in them again. They will plant vineyards and gardens; they will eat their crops and drink their wine. I will firmly plant them there in their own land. They will never again be uprooted from the land I have given them."

- What are God's promises in these verses about what will happen in the end times? List each thing God says He will do.
- What will the people of Israel do?
- What will be the result of what God does?
- Notice what God says He will do to His people in verse 15.

A prayer to pray

Lord, I can see how much You care about the people of Israel. Even though You had to expel them from the land of Israel, You are bringing them back. You promised them so much in these two verses, which have so much to do with the land of Israel. They were uprooted, but You are firmly planting them in their land. They are rebuilding their cities, planting vineyards and

gardens and eating their crops and drinking their wine. We are seeing this happen today in Israel. You are fulfilling Your Word to Your people. Glory!

Prayer points for today

- Pray that God will give Israelis knowledge and understanding in how and what to plant so the land will be fruitful.
- Ask God how you can come alongside Jews who are moving to or living in Israel, helping them become firmly planted in the land.

An action to take

Tommy Waller and his family are Gentiles who are planting vineyards and gardens in Samaria. Learn more about what they are doing <u>here</u> and consider going over to help them when they harvest the grapes! They need lots of volunteers.

You could also learn more and volunteer with Faithful Galileans.

Or, ask God how else you could volunteer to serve His people.



Day 8: What must happen before Christ returns?

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. Revelation 1:7 ESV

Today we will look at some of what needs to happen before Yeshua returns. Many believers are expecting Christ to return any day, but the Scriptures reveal that He cannot return before certain things take place. One of the things that must happen is for the Jews to return to their land, where they will be saved. Study today with an open mind.

God is linking His whole end-time plan to the return of the Jews to Israel, called *Aliyah*. Aliyah is a key to the heart of the Lord. There are over sixty Scriptures on this topic, which reveals its importance to God. You can study this more in *God's Heart for Israel*.

Meditate on and study Ezekiel 37:21–28 in your favorite Bible translation.

- What does God promise to do in verses 21–22?
- How does this passage reveal that this is the time when Christ will return?
- What kind of covenant will God make with them?
- What will be the result, according to verse 28?
- What else do you learn from these verses?

Revelation 1:7 (ESV): "Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen."

- What does this verse say to you?
- How does Zechariah 12:10 relate to Revelation 1:7?
- Christ will return to Israel, to the Mount of Olives. How do you think every eye will see Him? Back when the Bible was written, that would not have been possible, but today it is.

Ezekiel 39:28 (ESV): "They shall know that I am the Lord their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore."

- What did God do and how will He do it?
- What will be the result?
- Notice the last sentence in this verse. What do you think God means by that?
- What does this verse say to you?

Debbie Kellogg with CyrusFoundation.org shares:

God is preparing the way for the return of the Lord. The truth is—He is not going to return no matter how bad it gets in the world until the Jews return to Israel. He says He's not going to leave one behind (Ezekiel 39:28). When they return to Israel, they're returning to the Lord, they're coming out of bondage into freedom and they're coming to receive their inheritance in the land. He's eventually going to reveal who their Messiah is. But first they have to return to the land; that's where they will meet their Messiah.

A prayer to pray

Lord, thank You that You are coming back on the clouds. What an encouragement and a hope to know that this world is not all there is. Thank You that You are accomplishing what must happen before You can return, in bringing Your people back to their land. Show me how You want me to pray and partner with You in this. I confess that I haven't understood how important the return of Your people to Your land is for Your return as the coming King. Please teach me more about this.

Prayer points for today

- Pray that the eyes of the Jews will be opened to recognize who their Messiah is.
- Ask God to bring His children back to the land, because that is where many will come to know Him.
- Pray Ezekiel 39:28. Here is one way: Thank you that Your people will know that You are the Lord their God when You bring them back into their own land. You say You will leave none of them remaining among the nations. Please show me more of what this means.

An action to take

Look seriously at ways you can be part of the return and restoration of the Jews from your nation to Israel.

Check out Return Ministries' Project Return <u>Sponsorship Program</u> and step into the role God calls the nations to take—Isaiah 49:22

You can find more resources on our web.



Day 9: The final Aliyah

... In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. Ezekiel 38:8 NKJV

So many people are saying that Christ may return any day; however, according to Scripture, there is still much to be done before He returns, including His people returning to their homeland. We can speed His return by praying for them to return and asking God how He wants each of us to be involved.

Carolyn Hyde, a Messianic worship leader in Israel, shares (HeartOfG-d.org):

Aliyah means to ascend. It ends with Yah which means God, so Aliyah is going up to meet God. The final Aliyah is when we meet the Lord in the air. The Jews returning to Israel is a physical picture, taking physical people to a physical land. The real picture is in the spirit when the final shofar is blown. When you pray for or help with Aliyah, you are praying for and speeding the Lord's return.

We studied Jeremiah 23:3-6 earlier that speaks about this topic. Today, we will look at other verses.

Meditate on and study one or more of the following verses:

Ezekiel 38:8.

- When the Bible mentions the latter years or last days, it is referring to the end times.
- What is the comparison between what the land was and what it will be?

• Ask God to reveal whatever He wants to show you through this verse.

Ezekiel 37:21-28.

- What does God promise to do in verses 21–22?
- How does this passage reveal that this is the time when Christ will return?
- What kind of covenant will God make with them?
- What else do you learn from these verses?
- What will be the result, according to verse 28?

Read Joel 3:7, 14, 16.

- God is speaking to Israel's enemies who have mistreated them. What does He say to them?
- God is bringing His people back to the land of Israel. Notice what God does from Zion and Jerusalem.
- What will He do for His people?
- What else do you learn from these verses? Ask God to reveal His heart to you in greater ways.

Read Micah 2:12–13.

- What do these verses promise?
- Jacob and Israel are two names for the same person.
- What do you think God is saying through these verses?

Read Micah 4:6–7.

- What day is this referring to? Verse 1 says, "in the latter days."
- Notice in the last part of verse 7 where the Lord will reign.
- What will God do before the Lord reigns over them in Mount Zion? (Verses 6 and 7a.)

A prayer to pray

God Almighty, You are a trustworthy God who does what You say You will do. Thank You that we can see we are in the latter days (at least at the beginning of them), because You are gathering your people from the nations, bringing them back to their land and restoring Israel. What an encouragement to know that events are falling into place, all in preparation for Your return. Show me how You want me to participate with You in preparing for Your return.

Prayer points for today

• Pray that the church will begin to understand what must happen before Christ can return.

- Pray for the Jews who are still scattered around the world and need to come to their homeland. Ask God to give them that desire to make Aliyah and live in Israel.
- Pray for protection for Israel and Jews, both inside and outside of Israel.

An action to take

Find a good news service where you can learn what is really going on in Israel and around the world, not tainted by the world's media. Here are two recommended sources:

- A WhatsApp group where daily current events are posted related to Israel (including the surrounding nations). This is an international prayer group led from Jerusalem. If you would like to join, contact estherswalk@gmail.com.
- "Worthy Brief" has daily devotions, along with news in the following categories: Around the World, Israel-Palestinian Conflict, Inside the United States and Christian News. Each category has a few stories with two to three lines of information and a link you can click for more information. It is written by George Whitten. You can learn more at www.worthyministries.com.



Day 10: Who are the Anousim and why do they matter?

The captives of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad (Spain) shall possess the cities of the South (Negev). Obadiah 1:20 NKJV

God is bringing Jews back to Israel from many places in the world. In Obadiah, God wrote about the importance of one particular area, which we will study today.

Debbie Kellogg shares

Anousim are Jews of Spanish descent. The word, Anousim, means forced ones or raped ones. They are also called Sephardic,⁵ which is from a Hebrew word meaning of Spanish descent. They are from Spain, North Africa, the Middle East and the Iberian Peninsula. Another name for them is Crypto because they had to hide their Jewishness to save their lives. They practiced their faith secretly because they were persecuted by Catholics, who forced them to renounce their faith and become Catholic. As a result of having to destroy all the evidence that they were Jews, it is very difficult for them to make Aliyah.

The book of Obadiah unveils an important purpose God has for these people. I encourage you to read the whole book; it is only one chapter! The Anousim are opposed on every side because they are a key, as we will see!

Meditate on and study the following verses:

Obadiah 1:19–20 (ESV): "Those of the Negeb shall possess Mount Esau, and those of the Shephelah shall possess the land of the Philistines; they shall possess the land of Ephraim and the

⁵ Other Jews are called Ashkenazi; they are from Germany and Eastern Europe and are called Ashkenazi because the rabbis call Germany Ashkenaz.

Explore God's Heart for Aliyah.

^{© 2023} Relationship Resources.

land of Samaria, and Benjamin shall possess Gilead. The exiles of this host of the people of Israel shall possess the land of the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, and the exiles of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad shall possess the cities of the Negeb."

- This tells who they are and where they came from.
- Sepharad and Shephelah are Spain and the Negeb or Negev is in southern Israel. •
- This is where the name Sephardic comes from. These are people of Hispanic descent who fled to Spain because of persecution. However, in Spain the Catholics persecuted them, so they had to pretend like they weren't Jewish, otherwise they could be killed.
- When the Jewish descendants of those expelled from Spain come back, they will settle in ٠ the Negev (Southern Israel) and "possess the cities of the South (Negev)."

Obadiah 1:21 (NKJV): states that when these people return and settle in the cities of the Negev, "Then saviors (deliverers) shall come to Mount Zion (Jerusalem) to judge the mountains of Esau, and the Kingdom shall be the LORD's."

- They will be used by God to judge the mountains of Esau and its influence in Israel for evil. • The mountains of Esau are part of Edom, which is south of the Dead Sea in Israel.
- When the Sephardic people make Aliyah, saviors will come to Jerusalem and deliver Israel • from all evil influence. Then they will be free to follow God and experience Him in a new way. Who might these saviors be?
- Consider how the return of the Anousim will impact all of Israel.

Read all of Obadiah to learn more. What did God show you about the Anousim?

A prayer to pray

Lord God, thank You that You are bringing all Your people back to Israel, regardless of whether they have paperwork showing they are Jewish. I ask that You would open the way for them, even if it isn't in traditional ways. I confess and ask forgiveness on behalf of people who persecuted the Jews in the name of Christ. No wonder they don't trust Christians. Would You give believers in Yeshua the opportunities to show Jews that we are different and are willing to repent on behalf of those who have persecuted them?

Prayer points for today

- Pray that the Anousim, the Sephardic Jews, those from Hispanic descent who were persecuted in Spain and other places, will be allowed to get their citizenship in Israel. Most, if not all, of them have nothing that reveals their Jewish identity, because they had to destroy all of it to keep from being persecuted.
- Pray also that the doors will open for Jews who already believe in their Messiah to get their • citizenship. Believers in the Messiah are the most discriminated against by those who make the decisions in the Israeli government. If those in power find out that someone believes in Yeshua, they are automatically denied citizenship.

Pray that the leaders in the government who are over Aliyah will be changed, so any and all Explore God's Heart for Aliyah. © 2023 Relationship Resources.

Jews will be allowed to get their citizenship, including the Anousim and believers in Yeshua.

An action to take

Here are more ways you can befriend Jews. We looked at a few ways earlier.

Actions speak louder than words. When we show kindness, or offer to help them in some way, this speaks more than many words and it builds trust. When you do speak to them, speak from your heart; they will pick up on the genuineness and this will open their hearts.

Be sensitive to how they may see Christians. The term Christian and the cross to many Jews, brings the thought of death and destruction, not life. Don't be offended by this. Throughout history Jews have been killed by those who called themselves Christians and were wearing or carrying crosses. They were slaughtered by those who said they were doing it in obedience to God. The Jews have many times been pegged "Christ killers" and because of this, they are considered to no longer be God's people. Thus the church justified its violence and belief that Jews and Israel have been replaced by the church. The Crusades, the Inquisition in Spain, persecutions and anti-Semitic attacks throughout church history were carried out in the name of Jesus. Hitler himself quoted from Martin Luther, one of the founding fathers of the Protestant reformation, to justify the "final solution," the annihilation of the Jewish race during World War II.

If this subject happens to come up, make it clear you do not believe like this and that this is totally against what the Bible teaches. You might state your thankfulness to them for giving us the Bible and the Messiah and for what you can learn from them about God. You might want to ask forgiveness for the way the church has treated their people in the past and even sometimes today. Tell them that you are committed to stand with them and to be a true friend.

You can find more resources on our web.



Day 11: What will bring about the greatest harvest of souls?

Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 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." Romans 11:25–26 ESV

Today we are going to look at the connection between Jews returning to their land, their salvation and the great end-time harvest of souls. I encourage you to study with an open mind. As we saw earlier, God's desire is that no one should perish. As we will see today, He has a very unusual way He is going to accomplish this.

Dean Bye shares:

Paul says, "I don't want you to be ignorant of this mystery." What mystery? The fact that we Gentiles have been chosen to make His people jealous; we've been chosen to take the mercy He has given us to give back to His people; the fact that He hasn't rejected His people any longer. He still has a plan for them. Paul doesn't want us to be ignorant of this mystery, so that we don't become conceited.

Blindness in part has happened to Israel, until the fullness of Gentiles. I believe God is speaking about a people that come into a relationship with Him to the point of knowing His heart. If they will know His heart then they will know His will, and if they know His will, they will seek to have the courage to participate in fulfilling His will on earth as it is in Heaven. These demand discipline, choices and intimacy with a holy God.

There's a time for everything under the sun. Paul says in Romans 11:8 (ESV): "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day." What if you were a Jewish person and you knew that God had blinded you, given

you ears that couldn't hear and a spirit of stupor? How would you feel? I'm thankful that's the case because that has made it possible for us to come into a relationship with God as those of the nations. But then, He goes on to say in the same chapter, we've received mercy to give back to His people.

Romans 11:11 (ESV) says, "Did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous." This verse changed my life and exposed God's heart to me. This tells me why I'm saved—to make them jealous. How do you make another people jealous? When I realized that God has a jealous love for His people, it meant I could either connect with a love that was more than just that He saved me. I needed to connect with this love that He would actually go to the extent of blinding His Jewish people from coming into greater intimacy of knowing Him and His Son, because He wanted you and me to be part of His family.

Wow! What is God saying to you through what you just read?

What do the following verses say about Israel and Jews being saved?

Romans 11:8, 11 (ESV): "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day. ... Did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous."

- What does God say about the Jews through the Apostle Paul in this passage?
- What does He say about Gentiles?
- Ask God to reveal more of His heart to you through these verses. We will study them more on another day.

Romans 11:25–26, above.

- That is a very powerful statement. ALL Israel will be saved. What do you think about that?
- Has God given up on Israel, as many Christians believe?
- If God wants all Israel to be saved, how can we partner with Him in this? One way is praying for their salvation. What will you do to partner with the Lord to see His people saved?
- Ask the Lord to reveal His truth to you in this verse.
- What do you think this partial hardening on Israel is?
- That is a powerful statement that "all Israel will be saved." What do you think that means? If they are going to be saved, does that show that God hasn't rejected them and still has a plan for them?
- Where is the Deliverer coming from? Zion is another name for Jerusalem or Israel.

A prayer to pray

Father, thank You that You don't want us to be unaware of Your mysteries. I confess that in the past, I didn't understand Your mystery of Your relationship with Jews and Gentiles. I thought You had abandoned the Jews because they killed their Messiah. Thank You that You put a partial hardening on Israel's hearts to give Gentiles the opportunity to come into Your family. Thank You for the amazing truth that all Israel will be saved. I acknowledge that Yeshua, our Deliverer, will come from Zion, not from the United States, Canada or anywhere else. I want to be part of Your great end-time harvest, seeing both Jews and Gentiles come to know You.

Prayer points for today

- Pray that all Israel to be saved. Pray for their salvation, that they will receive a revelation of who Yeshua is and accept Him as their Messiah.
- Ask God to show you how you can partner with Him in bringing salvation to the Jews.
- Ask God to open your heart and mind to understand His Word in greater ways, especially in those areas where you have not understood or maybe you misinterpreted the Scriptures.

An action to take

Consider how you can partner with God to bring the truth of their Messiah to the Jews. Write down whatever He shows you and then pick one thing to begin doing today.

You can find some ideas you could implement on our web.



Day 12: Aliyah is the key to the Messiah's return

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." Romans 11:26–27 ESV

Peg Byars, with Return Ministries, shares:

Aliyah is the key to the Messiah's return. Ezekiel 36 says that when God returns them to their land, He will cause them to understand that He is Lord. World evangelism depends on the Jews hallowing God's name. They are being called to come back. The mercy we were given, now we need to show to them so they can be God's light to the nations. Ezekiel 36 is key to the whole story. Aliyah is God's dream, but it is also evidence of His faithfulness to keep His covenant. Romans 11:26–27 summarizes Ezekiel 36.

Romans 11:26–27 (ESV): "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."

- Yesterday we studied Romans 11:25–26. What does verse 27 say to you, "This will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins."
- "The Deliverer will come from Zion" is a quote from Isaiah 59:20 (NKJV): "The Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," says the Lord.
- Ask God what He wants to say to you through this passage today.

Debbie Kellogg with CyrusFoundation.org shares:

The Jews returning to Israel is really important; it's the salvation of Israel. It's in our hands because He's calling the church to be a part of that at this time to help them to return, to encourage them, to comfort them and to walk alongside them as they are being restored and return to meet their Messiah.

The term "Zionism" is the acknowledgment that the land of Israel belongs to and is the covenant home of the Jewish people (Genesis 15:18, 17:8). This has, in history, been the motive for many Jews to settle there and to build up the nation. Christians have come alongside to help with this. However, the ultimate purpose the Lord has for this restoration is not just for them to move to Israel but that all Israel would be saved (Romans 11:25–26) and the Messiah would come to establish His Kingdom on earth.

Read Ezekiel 36:22-38.

- Read this whole passage before you begin your study. What was your first overall impression? What stood out to you?
- Read through it again, noticing every time it says what God "will" do. How many things did you find? Which ones stood out to you and why?
- Why will God bring them back to the land He promised them?
- The word "profane" in Hebrew has many meanings, including to wound, to prostitute and defile.
- Imagine how God must have felt when He chose the Israelites, and made covenants with them, yet they chose to disobey their part. Then when He sent them out of their land into the nations, they harmed His holy name by how they acted so wickedly.
- Three times in this passage, it says that people will know that He is the Lord. Who is He saying will know Him and why?
- How do you see God bringing His people back and restoring them as part of His worldwide spiritual awakening?

A prayer to pray

Covenant-keeping God, You promised that all Israel will be saved, and that the Deliverer will come from Zion. I confess that I don't understand how You will do this, but I choose to trust that what You say is true. Thank You that when You come as a Deliverer, You will banish ungodliness from Jacob. I also need You to cleanse me from all ungodliness so I can live in greater intimacy with You. Thank You for the incredible covenant You will make with Your people, taking away their sins. Thank You for grafting me into Israel so I also will receive Your redemption.

Prayer points for today

- Ask God to bring His people back to their land, so they can be saved.
- Pray that God will raise up people who can and will share their faith with Jews in ways they can understand and accept. Pray God will give them great wisdom to know what to say and

what not to say, so they know exactly what each person needs to hear. Pray that you will be one of those people.

• Pray for protection over Israel and the Jews wherever they are in the world.

An action to take

Consider starting a prayer group for Israel, even if it is just with one other person. This could be in person, by phone or a video call. Or commit to pray on your own for a specified amount of time each day. Ask God how much time He wants you to pray for Israel and who you can invite to partner with you.



Day 13: God raised up Gentiles to do our part in His story

Now says the Lord, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the Lord, And My God is My strength), He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Isaiah 49:5–6 NASB1995

God is inviting us into His story, giving us a very important part, but we have a choice whether we will accept our part or not. As you study today, ask God to open your heart to what He wants you to know.

Dean Bye, Founding director of Return Ministries, shares:

Imagine you are a parent and one of your children is lost in the woods; you are grieving and longing that the rescuers will restore him to you. If you've been chosen to be a rescuer of God's children, then you've been formed in the womb to bring Jacob back to the Father. Wow! We were created to bring God's children back to himself.

God says to you: "_____ (insert your name), is it too small a thing to be my servant? To restore the tribes of Jacob? And bring back my children to their land?" How do you answer that today?

Then He says, "I will also make you a light for the Gentiles that you might bring my salvation to the ends of the earth." How does God do that? He raises up another people who once were not His people (Romans 9:26). Through His precious blood He sanctifies us to be

part of His purpose. When we get hold of His heart, we can say, I want to bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

But we've missed the stage. To the Jew first to bring Jacob back, to restore the tribes. That's why we read in Matthew 24:14 (CSB): "This good news of the Kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Much needs to happen before the gospel goes to the ends of the earth. In His mercy, we are seeing lots of great things happening around the world.

Consider the following questions:

- Can you imagine what will happen when the church gets hold of God's heart for His children lost in the woods and brings them back home?
- What will that do for the gospel when we take it to the ends of the earth?
- You cannot remove the return of Jewish people from the revival of those in the nations with the heart of God. Many people are longing to see revival, but don't understand that Jews need to return to their land before that will fully happen.

Study Isaiah 49:5–6

- As we saw earlier, Jacob is another name for Israel.
- What does this say about you and what you are to do? These verses have at least three things.
- What do you think God means when He says to us, "It is too small a thing that you should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel?" (NASB1995.) Ask God to show you what He wants to say to you through it.
- Verse 6 says, "I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth." How can we be a light to the nations?
- How can you be a light right where you are? What might you need to do to become more of a light, so that people will be drawn to Christ?

A prayer to pray

Dear Father, thank You for the privilege to partner with You in bringing Your people back to the land You promised them. Show me how to do that, whether it is praying, doing something practical or giving financially to help those who are doing this ministry. I want to be part of Your story. Forgive me for the times (maybe my whole life to this point) that I haven't participated in Your story, because I thought You had permanently abandoned the Jews and that we Gentiles have replaced them. Teach me more of Your truth, Lord. I want to know Your heart.

Prayer points for today

- Repent for any ways that you might have felt that serving Israel and Jews is beneath you or maybe you thought that they don't deserve to be served, because they killed your Savior.
- Ask God to send more people to help bring His people to Israel.
- Ask God how He might want to use you to raise up the tribes of Jacob and restore them.

An action to take

Consider the question God asked in Isaiah 49:6 (NET): "Is it too insignificant a task for you to be my servant, to reestablish the tribes of Jacob, and restore the remnant of Israel?" Do you consider the task of helping God restore His people in His land too insignificant for you to do? Explain. If you think that task is below you or not worthy of your time, you might need to confess that and ask God to change your heart.



Day 14: How to read the Bible as a script

Listen to Me, O islands, and pay attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called Me from the womb; From the body of My mother He named Me. The Sovereign LORD says: "See, I will give a signal to the godless nations. They will carry your little sons back to you in their arms; they will bring your daughters on their shoulders." Isaiah 49:1, 22 NASB1995

Dean Bye shares:

I encourage you to read the Bible as if it is a script and you are an actor in that script. You need to know who the actors are and what your part is in the story. When a person finds that God has written a part for each of us in His story unfolding now, there is a sense of honor and privilege. A sense of wow! I'm a somebody. God has given me a part in His great story and I want to know my part.

As one who was in acting in the past, when you've been given a script to read, you want to learn your lines. First, you take your script, underline or highlight your words and actions and then practice to gain your timing. You have to be careful not to do someone else's part. Once you learn your part, you learn to interact with others with their parts. There is a process in that as well. This is God's story and we get to be part of it. Before you know, it will be a dress rehearsal and then the performance. I believe we are getting close to the endtime performance.

So many are trying to figure out what their purpose is. God has already written it for us. It's important for those of us who name the name of God, who call on God's name, who consider ourselves blood-bought by the blood of Jesus, to realize we have more than just the ability to go to heaven, to have a salvation experience. God has given us a part in this story while we are still on earth. His instructions are found in the Bible. That's why the gospel

needs to be built on the foundation of not just the apostles, but also the prophets, with the chief cornerstone being Jesus. (See Ephesians 2:20.)

How to understand prophecy—our part in the story.

Remember, as we read the Scriptures, it is essential to understand who God or the prophet was addressing. Who were they speaking to? For example, Isaiah 49:1 (NIV) says, "Listen to me you islands.... distant nations." Sometimes He is speaking to Israel. Sometimes to nations. Sometimes to islands. Sometimes to those far off. Sometimes to Gentiles. It's important to understand who is being spoken to in order to know if we have a role in this part of the story.

When we read Isaiah 49, first, we identify who He is speaking to. It is about the Spirit living in someone from the nations through whom He wants to gain glory. This is the hope that our Father has on His heart.

Meditate on and Study Isaiah 49:1, 22–23 (ESV): "Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar.... The Lord God says, 'Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples; and they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders. Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. ... Then you will know that I am the Lord; those who wait for me shall not be put to shame."

- Who is God talking to in these verses? It is important to understand who is playing what part.
- What does this say our part is? God is using Gentiles today to carry His sons and daughters back to the land He promised them. Ask God how you can fulfill your part.
- When does this say they will know the Lord? Is it before or after the nations help to bring them back to Israel?

A prayer to pray

Lord God, thank You that You have given Gentiles a part to play in Your amazing story. Show me what my part is and what You want me doing. I want to see people come to know You and these verses reveal that when Jews get back to the land, then they will know You.

Prayer points for today

- Pray that Jews will get to Israel, so then they will come to know the Lord.
- Ask God to reveal to you and other Gentiles how you can play your part in God's script in the Bible.
- Ask God to raise up more Gentiles who are willing to bring the sons in their arms, and the daughters on their shoulders.

An action to take

Research what some ministries are doing now to help bring the Jews to Israel. Here are a few to give you a start. As you study them, ask God if He has something He wants you to do with that ministry.

Cyrus Foundation. <u>www.CyrusFoundation.org</u>

Return Ministries. <u>www.Return.co.il</u>

Operation Exodus: <u>www.OperationExodus.org</u>

The Aliyah Return Center. www.AliyahReturnCenter.com



Day 15: God is unfolding His mystery

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith Romans 16:25–26 ESV

Marty Shoub, author of Return to Me, shares:

Isaiah 49:5–6 explains the two reasons the Messiah came to earth: to restore the tribes of Jacob and to be a light to the Gentiles so God's salvation would go to the ends of the earth. Jesus did both—not just the second, but also that the tribes would be gathered. There is a spiritual component, not just geographical. Often people emphasize the last half of verse 6, but we need to take both verses together. Many of us haven't connected to this other dimension of why Jesus came to earth. Paul said he didn't want us to be ignorant about the mystery of Israel (Romans 11:25). Unfortunately, most of us are ignorant.

In these days, God is preparing us for the return of the Lord and we can no longer be ignorant of this mystery. These two purposes are not separate, but they are convergent and integrated. If you are all about God's salvation to the ends of the earth, you must also understand about bringing Jacob back to him. The two go hand in hand. It's a hopeful message. Salvation is connected. God's purposes are connected to Israel's restoration. They are not distinct and separate.

Meditate on and study Romans 16:25–26 (ESV): "Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic

writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith."

- What does this say about the revelation of the mystery?
- What is the mystery?
- Romans 11:25 (AMP): gives insight into what this mystery is: "Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in."
- We studied Romans 11:25 earlier, but take time to meditate on it, asking God what He wants you to see in it today.
- According to Romans 16, how was the mystery disclosed?
- What was the purpose of the mystery being revealed?
- What is God saying to you through these verses?

What stood out to you from your study today?

A prayer to pray

Eternal God, You are the one who reveals mysteries, as You did with Daniel (Daniel 2:22). Thank You that You are revealing Your mysteries that have been kept hidden for long ages and I can understand them because of the prophetic writings. I confess that many times I have ignored part or all of the Old Testament, because I thought that because it was old that it was not for today. I'm so grateful that due to the partial hardening of hearts of Your people, You had mercy on us Gentiles, giving us an opportunity to know You and become part of Your family. I recognize that I have so much more to learn. Please teach me, Lord.

Prayer points for today

- Pray for the partial hardening to be lifted so they can understand the truth about their Messiah. Ask God to begin to open their eyes and hearts more and more.
- God is bringing many Jews to their Messiah. I heard recently that over one million Jews have accepted Christ. Pray for more of His precious children to come to Him.
- Pray for Gentiles who don't yet have a revelation of God's heart for Israel, that they will be open and begin to pray for Israel.

An action to take

Share what you are learning about God's heart for Jews and Israel with Gentiles who may not yet understand.

If you would like to learn more about God's heart for Israel, get a copy of <u>Explore God's</u> <u>Heart for Israel</u>: Discover Israel's Importance for the End Times. It is available in paperback or Kindle on Amazon.



Day 16: The end-times revival

It shall come about after this that I shall pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28–29 AMP

Dean Bye shares:

I believe true revival will break out in both Israel and elsewhere as we continue to believe and pray for the wellbeing of Israel. God didn't command us to understand all that is happening in Israel but to simply continue to bless the nation. This will change the trajectory of the entire nation and lift up the name of Jesus, our Messiah! Don't stop praying and believing for this holy nation. Once the church fully grasps God's heart for Israel, whom He calls 'the apple of His eye' (Zechariah 2:8), we will see a revival like never before.

Read Joel 2:28-29.

- What will God do according to these verses?
- Who will God pour His Spirit on? Notice how inclusive this is.
- What will be the result?
- What is God saying to you through these verses?

Acts 2:17–18 (NKJV): "It shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy."

- Joel 2:28–29 is quoted in Acts 2:17–18.
- Notice how verse 17 reveals the time frame. "*In the last days* (italics added) it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh."
- How will God's Spirit being poured out be demonstrated?
- How have you seen the results of God's Spirit in your life, family or community? If you haven't seen it, ask God why and what you may need to do so you can see the Holy Spirit at work in your lives. The first thing to do is to ask God for the gift of His Spirit.

Zechariah 12:10 (ESV): "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."

- What will God do and to whom?
- What will be the result?
- What does it say about the end-times revival?
- This will happen when the Jews are back in Israel and Christ returns. The Jews need to be in Israel to be able to look on the one they pierced when He returns. Read the whole chapter for context.

A prayer to pray

Father God, thank You that You are pouring out Your Spirit on all mankind and I know we will see this even more in the coming days and years. People are prophesying more, dreaming dreams and seeing visions. Lord, I want to experience each of those. I need a fresh outpouring of Your Spirit on my life and my family so we can experience these. Show me what I may need to do so that You can pour more of Your Spirit on me and my family, as well as on all mankind.

Prayer points for today

- Pray that both Jews and Gentiles will be open to allow God to pour His Spirit on them, being open to prophesying, dreaming and seeing visions.
- Pray for the political situation in Israel, that God will raise up godly leaders and, if needed, remove any who don't have His values.
- Children in Israel and around the world are being aborted and abused. Pray for their protection.

An action to take

Pick one of the verses today to pray, as we shared in the introduction before the twenty-one-day fast and prayer began. For example you could pray:

Lord, thank You that in these last days You are pouring out Your Spirit on all mankind. I want to see my sons and daughters prophecy, as well as all of Your sons and daughters, both Jews and

Gentiles. I'm believing You are giving more dreams and visions and a greater measure of Your Spirit in these last days.



Day 17: God keeps His promises

The Lord said to Abram, "'My heart's desire is to make you into a great nation, to bless you, to make your name great so that you may be a blessing. My desire is to bless those who bless you, but whoever curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed. … I will give this land to your seed.' So there he built an altar to ADONAI, who had appeared to him." Genesis 12:2–3, 7 TLV

Richard and Carolyn Hyde share:

God said that all the nations of the earth will be blessed through Abraham and his offspring. Jews are only about one-fifth of one percent of the world's population, exiled from their homeland and despised by most of the world. Yet, against all odds, this promise has come to pass. Jews' contributions to science, medicine, technology, and numerous other fields have saved millions of lives and improved billions. Look at some of those blessings we can see through some of the Jewish people's contributions:⁶

- Jonas Salk, a Jew, created the polio vaccine, saving millions worldwide from paralysis and death.
- Jews have won twenty percent of all Nobel Prizes. Statistically, that is a hundred times more than they should have won based on their size.
- In medicine, they developed the pacemaker, several life-saving vaccines and antibiotics (including penicillin and the first cure for tuberculosis), local anesthesia, the technology used in MRIs, chemotherapy, the defibrillator, aspirin and more.
- In technology, they developed instant messaging, Google, key technology used in radios, TVs, wireless telecommunications and GPS, the development of the cell phone

⁶ You can see a beautifully done booklet with this information and much more at <u>https://heartofg-d.org/supernatural-or-just-remarkable/</u>. Used by permission.

Explore God's Heart for Aliyah. © 2023 Relationship Resources.

and solar power, color photography, remote controls and virtual reality.

- In science, they have made significant Nobel Prize-winning discoveries in DNA research, atomic structure, quantum mechanics and more.
- Other practical inventions include Jeans, sewing machines, microphones, ballpoint pens, stainless steel and traffic lights.

What do you think about all of the above?

Meditate on and study the following verses:

Genesis 12:2–3, 7.

- What was God's heart's desire for Abram?
- Abram means the father is exalted. God later changed it to Abraham, meaning father of a multitude (Genesis 17). What did God promise him?
- God's covenant included the land and Abraham's offspring. The land is very important to God. He also promised Abraham a global restoration (in you, all the families of the earth shall be blessed). Ask God to reveal how your family has been blessed because of this covenant.

Genesis 15:5–18 (NKJV): God told Abram, "'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. … On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: 'To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates…'"

- What did God promise Abram?
- How many descendants did God promise Abram?
- What did God say about Abram's faith?
- The word "covenant" means cutting. Here God had Abram cut each animal he brought, other than the birds. The blood of the cut animals was necessary for ratifying the covenant. Read all of Genesis 15 to see the whole story. See also Genesis 17:7–8.

A prayer to pray

Adonai, thank You that I can trust You to keep Your promises to me, because You have kept and will keep all Your promises in the Bible. I can see You fulfilling Your promises to Abram (Abraham) in blessing Israel and making it into a great nation, despite the Jews being scattered for so many years. Thank You that You bless us when we bless Your people. Show me how to bless them right now. Show me any times I may have cursed Your people in any way, putting them down or speaking negatively against them. I confess those times and only want to bless Your people from now on.

Prayer points for today

- Ask God how you can bless Israel and Israelites.
- Confess times you or your family may have cursed Israel and Jews, even inadvertently.
- Ask God to continue to bless Israel with incredible ideas that bless the whole world.
- Pray for Israel's safety from any attacks of the enemy, spiritual or physical, coming from within or from outside the country.

An action to take

Read the eBook mentioned in the footnote on the previous page and thank God for all He has done to bless Israel. Share some of those blessings with someone (or more than one person) who may not yet understand God's heart for Israel.



Day 18: Has God rejected the Jews?

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. Romans 11:1 ESV

Some of today is adapted from an interview with Joy Irwin Schtakleff.

Many people believe that God rejected Israel because they rejected Christ. Then He chose the church as His covenant people in place of Israel because they received Christ. They believe that as God's sole covenant people, the church is now the sole possessor of the covenant promises that God transferred over from Israel. This is called Replacement Theology, meaning that the church superseded or replaced Israel as God's covenant people.⁷

Many Jews are blinded to knowing who their Messiah is and that He came to earth and died, although it is exciting to see how many Jews are coming to believe in Yeshua. I heard recently that about a million Jews have come to Christ. Many Gentiles are also blinded to the truth that Jews are still God's covenant people, His chosen people. God has not changed His mind about His promises to them. Yes, God loves each of us, but He has a special place in His heart for the Jews and Israel.

A pastor told a Jewish friend of mine when she spoke at his church, "I'm so glad you found our Jesus." She replied, "I'm so glad the Father let you in on the covenant." Many Christians don't understand that we are the ones who have been invited into God's covenant with Israel. We want them to find their Messiah, but He is not "our Jesus." Jesus is the Jewish Messiah spoken of throughout the Old Testament and came initially to the Jews.

⁷ Some of this day is adapted from an interview with Joy Irwin Schtakleff. *Explore God's Heart for Aliyah*.

^{© 2023} Relationship Resources.

Many Gentiles don't understand these truths and think Jews need to become Christians. We often don't recognize that we are joined to Israel, not the other way around. We have been grafted into God's family. When we understand these truths, it changes our whole biblical perspective.

The Apostle Paul responded four times to the question of whether God has rejected Israel by declaring emphatically, "May it never be!"

Two of the problems of believing that Christians have replaced the Jews are:

- It misrepresents God, making us believe that He breaks His promises. If God broke His promises to the Jews in the Old Testament, then what can we believe in Scripture?
- Instead of provoking Israel to jealousy like the church is meant to do (see Romans 11:11), anti-Semitism has resulted and instead, we have provoked Jews to be repulsed at the thought of Jesus being their Messiah.

Meditate on and study the following verses:

- As you read each one, ask yourself if God has rejected Israel.
- Write down what God is saying to you through each verse.

Romans 11:1a (TLV): "I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be!"

Romans 11:11–15 (TLV): "I say then, they [the Jews] did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be! ... If their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?"

- What does God say about the Jews through the Apostle Paul in this passage?
- What does He say about Gentiles?
- How can our coming to salvation make the Jews jealous?
- The Jews' rejection of their Messiah, Yeshua, cleared the way for the Church Age, during which God is bringing Gentiles into His family.
- I am so grateful that God allowed Gentiles to become part of His family, to know we have salvation and hope for the future. How about you?

A prayer to pray

God, thank You that You have not rejected Your people, the Jews, even though it has appeared so to some. Yes, they sinned and You had to send them away from the land You promised them for a time, but You have not rejected them forever. I'm so grateful that because of their sins, Gentiles have an opportunity to be saved. If their sins brought so much blessing to Gentiles, their acceptance of You, Yeshua, will be just like life from the dead! Thank You for making a way for me to have a relationship with You forever.

Prayer points for today

- Ask God how you can provoke Jews to jealousy. Romans 11:11 (ESV): "So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous."
- Ask God to bring Jews into your life, whether they already know their Messiah or not.
- Pray for any Jewish people you know or any that are in your city or state.

An action to take

Share with a Jewish friend that you know that God chose the Jews to be His people. You might apologize for how Christians have treated them in the past. Tell them you know that God loves them and that you love and honor them.



Day 19: Have Gentiles replaced Jews?

Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace. Ephesians 2:13–15 ESV

Debbie Kellogg with CyrusFoundation.org shares:

God is challenging His church to discover if they have any replacement theology,⁸ a type of anti-Semitism, in their lives or family lines. Most of the time, we don't even recognize it might be there because we have grown up believing and living with it. Anti-Semitism goes along with the curse in Genesis 12 that we studied on Day 3. Treating Jews lightly, despising or disregarding them, can be anti-Semitism. If we treat God's covenant people that way, He says He will bitterly curse us. Ask God to reveal if you have any anti-Semitism in your life or your family of origin. Even if you don't see any, I encourage you to repent if there is something that you don't know about because it can affect your life. God is preparing His bride to be spotless, and it can't have any spot of anti-Semitism. We can stand in the gap and repent for our family lines, as well as for ourselves.

I encourage you to pray the following prayer from your heart, asking God to reveal anything else you may need to add.

Lord, I ask you to forgive me and my family line for any replacement theology, anti-Semitism, and making fun of the people you call your covenant people or treating them like they aren't important. I confess any times we have said or thought that the church has replaced them. Lord, I repent and ask your forgiveness for myself and my family line. I ask you to forgive us and release us from any curse and its effects on us. I break any curse from

⁸ Replacement theology is the belief that Christians and the church have replaced Jews and Israel. Explore God's Heart for Aliyah.

^{© 2023} Relationship Resources.

over us and cleanse us from its impact. Thank you for your cleansing, forgiveness and freedom that you give us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Meditate on and study the following verses:

Ephesians 2:11–15 (ESV): "Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh... were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace."

- What do you learn about Israel and Jews?
- What do you learn about Gentiles?
- What did Christ Jesus do that changed everything? List each thing.
- Jesus did away with the 'enmity caused by the Torah,' not the Torah itself.
- How did He create one new man?
- You who were once far off are Gentiles. What does this say? Have we replaced the Jews or become one with them?
- Even in the early church there was hostility between Jews and Gentile Christians. The first church was originally exclusively Jewish, as we saw earlier.
- Consider what brought us near. Jesus paid a high price to break down the wall between Jews and Gentiles. How do you think He must feel when Gentiles think they have taken the Jews' place instead of accepting what He did to make us one with them, bringing shalom, peace?

Genesis 12:3 (CJB): "I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

- We looked at this verse earlier, but let's look at it again. I always thought the words for curse in this verse were the same until I talked with an Israeli friend who showed me the meanings. We often think of cursing someone as either using curse words against them or openly saying mean things to them.
- The first Hebrew word for "curse" in this verse means to bitterly curse. This is a very strong curse. The second Hebrew word for "curse" means to take lightly, despise or disregard. This means that those who disregard, despise or just don't care about Abraham's family will be bitterly cursed by God. Wow. What do you think about this verse in light of the Hebrew meaning?
- How have you treated Jews? Most modern-day Christians would not openly curse Jews, but have you ever disregarded or despised them? Have you ever put them down?
- I don't want God to bitterly curse me because of how I've treated His children. If you have

ever taken Jews lightly, despised or disregarded them, I encourage you to confess that to God and then choose to change how you treat them. If you aren't sure if you have cursed them in any of those ways, ask God to show you.

A prayer to pray

Father, open the eyes of the Jews who remain in exile to the growth of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel hatred and then urge them to return to Israel as soon as possible (Jeremiah 16:16). Show Jews in exile that now may be the last moment when they can still return with their wealth (Isaiah 60:9). Do not allow the increase of anti-Semitism throughout the West to be hidden or ignored by Your people still living there among the Gentile nations (Jeremiah 16:16). Abba, when Jews, including Messianic, say "Next year in Jerusalem" at the end of the Passover, speak to their hearts and challenge them to do that which they have just declared (Matthew 5:37). *Cause Jewish children to ask them why they say this and do not do it (Matthew 11:25; 21:16).* Send a wave of homesickness on the many Israelis who are living outside of Israel (Jeremiah $51:6-10).^{9}$

Prayer points for today

- Ask God to reveal if you or your family line may have any anti-Semitism. If so, confess it and repent.
- Ask God to expose anti-Semitism and replacement theology in the church. Many may not know they have it. Replacement theology is when Gentiles believe they and the church have replaced Jews.
- Pray God brings a unity between Christians and Jews, beginning with the believers being grateful they have been brought into God's family, rather than replacing them.

An action to take

Share what you are learning (or already knew) about anti-Semitism and replacement theology with friends and family, but do it in a loving, gentle way. Share how God spoke to you about the topics. You might share the meanings of the words "curse" that we looked at today.

⁹ This prayer was written by Rev. Joe Campbell with Return Ministries. This is from a prayer update that he sends weekly. You can receive this weekly prayer update by sending your request to rev.joe.campbell@rogers.com. Explore God's Heart for Alivah.



Day 20: The prophetic significance of the valley of dry bones

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. Ezekiel 37:1 ESV

Eric Morey with the Aliyah Action Counsel shares:

In Ezekiel 37:1–14, the Lord takes the prophet into "the valley of dry bones" and has him pray over the dead bones. They are at first physically resurrected; then, they are spiritually resurrected. We can't help being reminded of the physical restoration of the people of Israel to their Promised Land, which is to be followed by a spiritual restoration. In verse 12 (KJV), He says: "Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel." This is repeated again in verse 21. In fact, the whole chapter of Ezekiel 37 is clearly about Aliyah!

This picture of Aliyah takes place in "*The* valley"—a specific valley. Could it be the Jordan Valley? Historically, many of the building blocks of the nation of Israel began in the Jordan Valley, including the kibbutz, the Histadrut (the labor organization which represented 85% of the workers and owned 25% of the industry), the first health fund, the first department store, the largest bank, the largest construction company and much, much, more. Also, many Biblical events took place in the Jordan Valley, including Moses' looking into the Promised Land; the entry of Joshua and the children of Israel into the Land; the immersion of Jesus (Yeshua) and the start of His ministry; the center of Jesus' ministry and much more.

So much happened here in Biblical times, and in a very real sense, the modern physical restoration of the people and nation of Israel began here. Is it possible that the spiritual

restoration—the great Jewish revival when "All Israel will be saved"—will also begin here? (Note: Eric lives in the Jordan valley area.)

Meditate on and study the following verses:

Read Ezekiel 37:1–3.

- What is the setting?
- How did Ezekiel get there?
- What did God ask him and how did he answer?

Read Ezekiel 37:4–10.

- There is so much in these verses. I encourage you to read them in at least two translations before you begin studying them. As you read them, ask God to open your understanding of what He is saying through the verses. I have heard many interpretations on these. Rather than looking at what people say, let's just study what the Scriptures say.
- In verses 1–3, we see God taking Ezekiel in the Spirit to a valley full of very dry bones. What did God ask him and how did he respond in verse 3?
- What did God tell Ezekiel to do in verses 4–6?
- What were the results in verses 7–8?
- What did God tell him to do and what were the results in verses 9–10?

Read Ezekiel 37:11–14.

- Verse 11 interprets for us who those dry bones represent. What does that tell you?
- Who is God speaking about? Does it say the church? I believe we can also apply the Scriptures to ourselves, but they were written to the house of Israel.
- Why do you think they felt like they were dry bones and their hope was lost when they were scattered in the nations?
- What do verses 12–14 tell Ezekiel to prophesy next? List each thing God tells them that He "will" do.
- Three times in this passage, God tells them that they will know that He is the Lord. This is important to God, and it is something He is going to do when the people come back to their land. What does that say to you?
- Notice the progression in verse 14. Write down each thing God says He will do or what will happen once He does His part.
- What did God show you through these passages?

A prayer to pray

Abba, thank You that You will resurrect the dry bones in Israel. Raise up an exceedingly great army as You breathe Your life into them. Please bring hope to Your people who are scattered around the world. Reveal Yourself to them and let them see that You have so much more for them than they have yet experienced. Would You use me to bring hope to Your people, wherever they are?

Prayer points for today

- Ask God to bring hope back to His people and an understanding that He has great plans for them when they return to the land He gave them through Abraham.
- Pray for the protection of Israel and the Jews, both in the land and wherever they are around the world.

An action to take

Reach out to one or more Jews to share what you learned from Ezekiel 37. Don't immediately try to convince them that Jesus is their Messiah. Instead begin a conversation using the Scriptures in Ezekiel 37, or wherever God leads you to begin in the Tanakh (the Old Testament).



Day 21: Be as a Jew to Jews and a Gentile to Gentiles

Though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 1 Corinthians 9:19–21 ESV

Dean Bye has a challenge for us:

1 Corinthians 9:19–21 talks about being as a Jew with a Jew, but as a Greek with a Greek (any Gentile). The reality is we must almost have to use two different languages, depending on who we are talking with. One language is with the church and Christians— Christianese—using terms that Christians know. The other language is with Jews, using language they understand, like Torah, Hashem (which means The Name), Zion, etc.

We will get in trouble when we use Christianese in front of Jews, and vice versa if we start using Jewish or Hebrew terms with many Christians. We must be sensitive to where people are so we don't turn them off to the truth. As Yeshua is an offense to the Jews in many ways, Israel is an offense to the body of Christ. This is true until we connect the two.

Some people, when they have gotten the revelation of Israel, have turned their pastors and others off to the truth by pushing them to do things that Jews do, like blow the shofar before starting a meeting or meet on Saturday rather than Sunday or challenging them every time they use replacement theology. This can put them on guard. We need wisdom to know what to say, when to say it and how to say it.

It's important that in our zeal and excitement over what we've learned, we don't destroy relationships with our pastors, churches, families, or friends. This can take a lot of patience for many people who are excited about Israel and want to honor the people and the land. If we have a servant's heart of humility, God will show us what to do and say if we ask Him.

Some people will get excited about the new truths they learned, but they realize that their pastor doesn't get as excited about them, so suddenly, they begin to hate the church. Remember, God loves His church, His Ecclesia, and so in our love for Israel, let's not diminish His love for the church so the pendulum swings the other way. Let's thank God for the revelation He has given us, but don't get upset with our pastors, parents or others that they didn't teach us these truths. They probably were not trying to hide it from us; they just didn't know. Instead, our attitude should be thanksgiving—thanking God that He has opened our eyes to this, rather than being condescending to others.

We don't want to be arrogant. If we think we can carry this revelation of God's heart for Israel without the character of Jesus, it isn't going to happen. The bottom line is we need the character of Jesus to carry the revelation of God's heart.

Yeshua is the center of the gospel, a truth we don't give up when we gain revelation about His heart for Israel. Pastors appreciate when I highlight the centrality of Christ in this message. I speak in a lot of churches and conferences, and often pastors say, "I think I can talk to you about this, but I have people in my congregation who are creating division." This message is not intended to bring division, insensitivity or condemnation; it's meant to enhance the gospel. It should unite us if we are functioning with the heart of God.

I challenge you to check your heart and ask God to show you any ways you may have caused division or turned your pastor or others off to these truths you've learned. If He shows you anything, confess it to God first, then to the person you offended. Go to them with a spirit of humility, not with an attitude to try to change them. That won't work and will probably push them farther away. If you ask God, He will show you what to say and when to speak.

After reading what Dean Bye just shared, consider the following:

- What is God saying to you through what he shared?
- Is there anyone you may have hurt or offended by your sharing what you've learned in this study? If so, ask God what you may need to do.
- Seek God about how to talk to family, friends and your pastor about what you've learned.

Let's examine 1 Corinthians 9:19–21 (NLT): "Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ."

• What does it mean we are free?

- How can you make yourself a servant of all? In what ways have you done that?
- How might you need to make yourself a servant in order to win others to know God's heart?
- How could you become like a Jew when you are with them? What might that look like?
- How might becoming like a Jew, help you win them to Christ? I believe part of that is befriending them first, rather than trying to convince them that Jesus is the Messiah.
- What do you think it means to be like a Gentile to other Gentiles? How can you do that?
- How might becoming like a Gentile with your Gentile friends, family and pastor help you to win them to the truth of God's heart for Israel and Jews?

A prayer to pray

Lord God, would You show me how You want me to live like a Jew with Jews and like a Gentile with Gentiles? I need Your wisdom with each person I encounter. Help me to love them with Your love and not make them feel like they are being bashed over the head with Scripture. Forgive me for any arrogance I have had, thinking that I know and understand You and Your Scriptures more than others. I repent for that and want to act in love and humility.

Prayer points for today

- Pray for wisdom to know how to talk to other believers about what you have learned in these studies and how to effectively connect with Jews who don't yet know their Messiah.
- Pray that God will lay on Jewish people's hearts to want to live in Israel.
- Pray God raises up more people to help Jews make Aliyah. Ask God if He wants you to be part of that answer.

An action to take

Make a list of Jewish people you know and begin to pray for new opportunities to open up dialog with them.

Appendix

You can find many extra resources on these webs: www.RelationshipResources.org/Gods-Heart

www.GodsHeartForIsrael.com

A few of those resources include:

- Extra chapters taken out of these books. See the next page, to learn what is available.
- A leader's guide for small groups
- How to share your faith
- How to help, bless and pray for Jews and Israel
- PDF with 64 Aliyah Scriptures
- Aliyah timeline and Aliyah stories
- Discovering a Personal Relationship with God
- and more.

These devotions are excerpted and adapted from <u>Explore God's Heart for Israel</u>

By Gaylyn R. Williams

This life-changing book will leave you challenged and empowered to encounter the Father heart of God. –Dean Bye, Founding Director of Return Ministries

This book is timely and significant as we are invited into one of the greatest movements of God in history. –Debbie Kellogg, Founder and Director of Cyrus Foundation

What if your prayers for Israel could hasten the Lord's return?

Do you know what is on God's heart?

When we are in love, we long to know the heart of our beloved. Similarly, to grow in our relationship with God, we must understand what is on His heart. What does He care about most? What makes Him happy or sad?

God's Heart for Israel is a collection of three

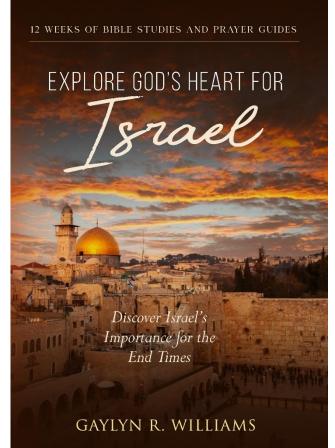
books, all of which examine what God is most passionate about, with a focus on his passion for Israel:

- Explore God's Heart for Relationships
- Explore God's Heart for The Return of Christ
- Explore God's Heart for Keeping His Word

Bible studies and prayer guides invite you to share in God's great passion for Israel—and learn how you can play a part in His plans for the end times.

For example, did you know that Aliyah—Jewish people returning to live in Israel—is a precursor to Christ's return? This movement is already underway—but there's much more to happen, and God has a part for you to play.

Get a free eBook with eight chapters removed from this book.



Ministries helping with Aliyah

Here are a few ministries mentioned in this eBook who are helping Jews make Aliyah and/or helping them once they arrive in Israel. You can learn more about each from their websites (or email), including what they do, how you might be able to help them and how you can give financially to support them.

Cyrus Foundation. <u>www.CyrusFoundation.org</u>.

Debbie Kellogg is the Founder and Director of Cyrus Foundation

The Aliyah Return Center. www.AliyahReturnCenter.com.

Chaim Malespin is Co-founder and chairman of the board of directors and founder of <u>www.FaithfulGalileans.com</u>

Return Ministries. <u>www.Return.co.il</u>.

Dean Bye is the Founding Director.

Marty Shoub, author of *Return to Me*, and director with Return Ministries. Contact him at MartyShoub@tikkuninternational.org

Operation Exodus: www.OperationExodus.org.

Shirley Laurenson, Aliyah Director.

Adrianne Prosser, Outreach Development Director

Aliyah Action Counsel. Contact Eric Morey by email, emorey43@yahoo.com or you can donate through PayPal at the same email. After you donate, email him to let him know that you are giving toward Aliyah.

About Gaylyn Williams

Gaylyn Williams, President of Relationship Resources, is an inspirational speaker and author of over forty books. In her writing and speaking, Gaylyn uses practical, biblical principles to inspire people to be all God created them to be.

Life as a Missionary

After receiving her degree from Dallas Bible College, Gaylyn spent sixteen years as a missionary with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Using her degree in Bible, linguistics and Greek, she conducted linguistic analyses on five different Mayan dialects, developing a written language for each. She then helped train the native speakers to translate the New Testament into their languages. Following her years as a missionary in Guatemala, she trained potential missionaries in basic linguistic and literacy skills, preparing them to go to the mission field. Gaylyn also developed the *Wycliffe International Cookbook*, one of Wycliffe Bible Translators' top selling books for over twenty-five years. She later joined The Navigators as a full-time missionary, leading a single-parent family ministry.

Inspirational and Motivational Speaking

Gaylyn's personal story reflects the power of God's sustaining grace. She offers encouragement to her listeners and readers by sharing her experiences of heartbreak, abandonment, loss and betrayal. Her speaking is transparent and engaging, allowing her to create an intimate, safe environment while building rapport with her audience.

As a single mother, Gaylyn saw an opportunity for interpersonal skills training with other singleparent families. Using the same principles and tools Relationship Resources used for missionaries, Gaylyn created a series of classes for single parents. She taught on interpersonal skills within the family and how to manage stress. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Over the years, Gaylyn has partnered with hundreds of organizations to reach people across the globe. She has been featured on both radio and television programs, sharing her story and the good news about Jesus. Gaylyn is passionate about knowing God and empowering others in their relationships with God, others and themselves.

Where She Is Today

Mother of two adult sons and one grandson, Gaylyn currently divides her time between serving in Israel and Colorado Springs, Colorado. She enjoys hiking, walking, reading and spending time with the Lord, her friends and family.

What Gaylyn's Listeners and Readers Are Saying:

"Is it really possible to live in joy when your life has been riddled with unthinkable pain? I am awed by a person who has mastered the task. Gaylyn shares a litany of life events that would have sent Goliath spiraling. Much like David the shepherd boy, she faced off with her giant and moved from defeat to victory! Her story held me captive—the unabridged truth came with force and clarity. It was clear she had spent time in the soul's abyss and came out a shining star. She is amazingly authentic."

-Kimberly Faye, Author and Speaker

"Gaylyn Williams and her incredible life story and spirit inspire all those who are fortunate enough to hear her speak or read her story. Gaylyn's humble, but powerful, style is laced with humor, grace, heartache, and joy, while her story embodies adventure, courage, triumph, and tragedy. By creatively sharing the lessons she learned along the way, Gaylyn helps the rest of us see how we too can apply those lessons to ease our own burdens."

-Kris Harty, Author, Speaker and Stickabilities Specialist. www.StrongSpiritUnlimited.com

www.RelationshipResources.org

resources@godsheartforisrael.com.

www.GodsHeartForIsrael.com

About Dean Bye

Founder and International Director of Return Ministries Inc.

As a result of a dynamic encounter with God in 1990, Canadian-born Dean Bye became a passionate follower of Jesus with a calling to awaken the Body of Christ to be reconciled to the Father's heart and purpose for the land and people of Israel. For over thirty years, Dean has been a catalyst in imparting the mystery of Christ (Romans 16:25-27) to the Christian community. He teaches globally and lives a lifestyle active in prayer and action as it relates to the return and restoration of the Kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:8; 3:21).

Dean is a bridge-builder between Christian and Jewish communities. He teaches, lives, and demonstrates Yeshua's unconditional love without imposing his beliefs on anyone, Jew or Gentile. He desires that people experience what God is doing in Israel and the nations today, as Scriptures come alive and relevant for the purpose of encouraging Christians to fulfill their Biblical destiny. He founded Project Return in 2004 to call Christians to step into their Isaiah 49:22 calling as they sponsor/carry returning North American Jews as they make Aliyah (immigrate) to Israel.

In 2020, Dean received a word from the Lord, that God was bringing an alteration to the 'altar of prayer' - for Aliyah. The Lord gathered others and, before long, AOP at <u>www.altarofprayer.com</u> was birthed. Today, hundreds of faithful intercessors from nearly 100 nations, watch and pray for Israel day and night on 56 weekly three-hour prayer watches. This is a virtual, global network facilitating 24/7 intercession for Israel while mobilizing nations to walk in their prophetic role in Israel's return and restoration.

In 2022 Dean and his wife Patricia moved to Kansas City, MO to establish Return Ministries USA. They are working closely with Mike Bickle and the IHOPKC team to see God's call for 100 Million Intercessors to be raised up to pray for Israel, initially through the Isaiah 62 Fast and the networks of Israel-focused prayer watches all over the world.

The Byes have raised five children, now all married, to be involved in what began as a small travelling family ministry in 1991. Currently, they are blessed with 13 grandchildren and take joy in discipling them. Dean and Patti testify that focused prayer, blessing and loving God's children of Israel has kept their family strong and united in Jesus. With great thanksgiving, they share that their Israeli son-in-law Chaim Malespin, married to daughter Deanna, oversees Return Ministries' Aliyah Return Center in the Galilee; son-in-law Tim Heikoop, married to daughter Lannette, oversees Return Ministries Canada and the Ontario base; and son Trevor Bye, with wife Melinda, is now helping dad establish the Return USA base and community in Missouri. Thus, this family is walking in the blessing of God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 "*I will bless those who bless you . . .and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.* " They are anointed and compelled to work with church families world-wide to experience how to practically cooperate with our Father's will to unite Israel and the nations, Jews and Gentiles, as Biblical Zionists. To God be the glory!



http://www.return.co.il

www.AliyahReturnCenter.com

www.altarofprayer.com

info@return.co.il

About The Publisher

Relationship Resources, Inc. (RRI) is a nonprofit (501c3) organization dedicated to improving people's relationships with God and others through biblically-based books and workshops. For over forty years, Relationship Resources has continued to impact thousands of lives across the globe.

Relationship Resources uses practical applications and biblical principles to facilitate growth in all relationships. Through the ministry's books, trainings and workshops, people feel empowered when they learn how to rediscover God's joy, manage stress, and develop healthy relationships.

Relationship Resources began informally when its co-founder, Ken Williams, Ph.D., finished his doctorate in Human Behavior. He saw an incredible need for interpersonal skills training for missionaries and began doing workshops for them. Before gaining nonprofit status in 1999, Ken partnered with his daughter Gaylyn Williams. Relationship Resources expanded to include training and workshops for churches and ministries. The ministry also teaches others to become facilitators for their own organizations. Ken has now gone to be with the Lord.

Relationship Resources has published numerous books designed to give people the tools they need to be all they can be. They focus on bettering relationships with God and others personally, organizationally and spiritually.

Find out more information about Relationship Resources' books and trainings, or contact us to learn how to transform your own life and relationships.

Email Gaylyn at <u>resources@godsheartforisrael.com</u> to discover how she can empower you and your group to have greater intimacy with God and others.

Other Books by Gaylyn

Learn more about these books and see how they are impacting others at www.RelationshipResources.org and Amazon.

Get a free devotional, *Prepare Your Heart*, to help you grow in your relationship with the Lord.

www.GodsHeartforIsrael.com.

These studies and prayer guides are excerpted and adapted from <u>Explore God's</u> <u>Heart for Israel</u>, which is a compilation of three books:

Book 1: <u>Explore God's Heart for Relationships</u>: A Bible study to enrich your relationships with God and others

Book 2: <u>Explore God's Heart for the Return of Christ</u>: A Bible study to prepare for revival, awakening and harvest

Book 3: Explore God's Heart for Keeping His Word: A Bible study to go deeper into His hear.

Devotionals by Gaylyn

Hidden from Harm: Powerful Promises Found in Psalm 91

The Surprising Joy of Exploring God's Heart: A Daily Adventure with 365 of His Names (also available as a journal)

The Surprising Joy of Discovering How God Sees You: A Daily Adventure with Your Identity in Christ (also available as a journal)

The Surprising Joy of Embracing God's Promises: 365 Reminders of His Faithfulness

Overflowing Hope: 31 Devotional Studies to Bring Hope and Encourage Anyone

Overflowing Hope for Singles: 31 Devotional Studies Empower Single Adults in their Journey to Find Hope

HaTikvah: 18 Devotional Studies to Encourage and Bring Hope to Messianic Believers, both Jews and Gentiles

Some of Gaylyn's other books

Battlefield Strategies for Every Believer: A Biblical Guide to Spiritual Warfare

2031 Names of God: Transform Your Life as You Get to Know God in New Ways (available in alphabetical order and Scriptural order) Explore God's Heart for Aliyah. © 2023 Relationship Resources.

These books are co-authored by Ken Williams, PhD, Gaylyn's father.

All Stressed Up and Everywhere to Go! Solutions to De-Stressing Your Life and Recovering Your Sanity

Keys to Joy: How to Unlock God's Gifts of Lasting Happiness

God's Design for Community: Strategies for Building Better Relationships

Reconcilable Differences: Strategies for your Journey through Conflict

The Toolbox for Effective Ministries. A series inspired by Ken Williams, PhD

Boost Your Relationship IQ: Discover 7 Keys to Build Healthier Relationships Never Fear Conflict Again: Learn How To Leverage Conflict into Intimacy

Never Do Fundraising Again: Discover How You Can Transform Donors into Lifelong Ministry Partners

Stress Busters: Access Tools to Balance Your Life and Reclaim Your Peace.

Scripture Translations Used

This page form part of the copyright page.

Scripture quotations marked AMP are from The Amplified Bible, Copyright © 2015 by The Lockman Foundation, La Habra, CA 90631. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked CJB are from the Complete Jewish Bible, Copyright © 1998 by David H. Stern. All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission of the publisher.

Scripture quotations marked CSB are from the Christian Standard Bible ®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible ® and CSB ® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Scripture quotations marked ESV are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked KJV are from the King James Version. Public Domain.

Scripture quotations marked NASB1995 are from the New American Standard Bible®. Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NET are from the New English Translation NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2017 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. http://netbible.com All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.TM Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are from the New King James Version ®, Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by Permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188.

Scripture quotations marked TLV are from the Tree of Life Translation of the Bible. Copyright © 2015 by the Messianic Jewish Family Bible Society. Used by permission of the Messianic Jewish Family Bible Society.