



*Network for Revival Prepare Issue 37 - May 2022*

## **Pray for Revival amongst the Jewish people**

I have done a lot of thinking about Israel and the Jewish people. I was General Director of the Church of England's Ministry to Jewish People for seven years and lived in the Old City of Jerusalem for half of that time. Obviously, I had a lot to do with Jewish people (but also with Palestinians, but that's another story).

Some Christians believe in Replacement Theology, i.e. that the largely Gentile church totally replaced Israel in God's purposes. That seems to be the case when we read passages like Gal 3:28-29 "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

He writes in Ephesians 2:11-21 that Gentile believers were "separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise." But he adds "now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ ... who has made the two groups one" and "His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two." So Gentile believers "are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets."

However, we need to read everything Paul writes on the subject. He is teaching in the above passages that there is only one people of God, one covenant, one new humanity created through the blood of Christ. But Paul makes it clear elsewhere that there are distinctions within this one body.

### **Paul makes it quite clear that God hasn't finished with the Jewish people**

He writes "Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew ... at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace" (Rom 11:1-2, 5).

"Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring!" (Rom 11:11-12, 15).

"I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in" (Rom 11:25-26).

### **Paul urges Gentiles to respect the continuing Jewish roots of Christianity**

He uses the picture of the single people of God being an olive tree. Jewish believers in Jesus are the natural root and branch and Gentile believers are a wild olive shoot who have been grafted into olive tree. He writes that Gentile believers "share in the nourishing sap from the olive root ... you do not support the root, but the root supports you." Jewish people who refuse to believe in Jesus have been "broken off" from the tree. But "if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!" (Rom 11:17-18, 23-24). So Paul is calling Gentile believers to recognise the Jewish roots of the church and to show respect for it.

### **Paul predicts a massive End Time turning to Christ by the Jewish people**

Paul writes "Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved" (Rom 11:25-26). It is quite clear that "Israel" in this passage means the Jewish people. (It is interesting that Jesus gives a related prophecy about the Jewish people in the End Times. He says "Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled"- Lk 21:24. Jewish

control of Jerusalem was only re-established in the last century). There is also a prophecy about wide scale repentance among the Jewish people when they “look on me, the one they have pierced (Zech 12:10-14; 13:1).

## **The serious effects of antisemitism**

We are well aware of the damage done by antisemitism in harming the Jewish people, including in the Holocaust. But we need to recognise the devil’s purpose in encouraging antisemitism. It is more than racism, violence, injustice – important though they are. His ultimate purpose is to hinder and prevent the Jewish people turning to Christ and so fulfilling Paul’s End Time prophecy. Antisemitism, which is so strong and persistent, doesn’t make sense unless God has some important purpose for the Jewish people. And the most important purpose is for them to turn to their Messiah. The problem is that Christians have long been involved in antisemitism – and some still are. So the Jewish people see antisemitism as a problem amongst Christians (as well as others). This, of course, creates a major hindrance to their turning to Jesus. Only the Lord can overcome this.

## **God is therefore calling us to pray for Revival amongst the Jewish people**

I believe that, unexpectedly (despite my extensive connections with ministry to Jewish people), God has recently said to me that we should not only pray for Revival for the church and worldwide society, but also specifically for Revival amongst the Jewish people. I have written about praying for Revival to transform society (in connection with the war in Ukraine. I have also written about hastening the Return of Christ (“speed its coming” - 2 Peter 2:12). I now also believe God wants us to hasten the time when “all Israel will be saved” by praying for Revival amongst the Jewish people – a massive turning to Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus Christ).

Many Christians who have a love for Israel rejoice in the re-establishment of the State of Israel and in the prospects of fulfilment of End Time prophecy, and perhaps explore the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. Some are concerned to win Jewish people to faith in Jesus. But, in my wide experience, I don't remember coming across people praying for Revival amongst the Jewish people. I think God wants us to begin a new intercessory ministry: prayer for Revival amongst the Jewish people.

I urge you to join me in this.

We need to:

- Learn about and respect our Jewish Roots as Gentile believers,
- Ask God to renew his church honouring its Jewish Roots (*more about this in a later edition*),
- Respect and pray for Messianic Believers,
- Repent of Replacement Theology,
- Pray against antisemitism,
- Pray for the Jewish people to experience revival and to come to faith in preparation for the Return of Jesus.

God bless you,

Tony

## **APPENDIX**

### **THE ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN ISSUE**

If you are concerned about this, you might wish to look at my Prayer for Peace website [www.prayerforpeace.org.uk](http://www.prayerforpeace.org.uk) which seeks:

- to further balanced understanding of and prayer about the Israeli-Palestinian situation
- to further reconciliation which requires justice for the Palestinians as well as the Israelis.

### **THE CHURCH AND HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE**

The Church of England and other churches are currently discussing this. How we need to pray! In the attached file you will find more details about my comments:

- “My attitude to homosexuals” (*It is important that we love our homosexual neighbour, even if we don’t agree with him/her*).

- “Comments on the Church of England report ‘Living in love and faith’”
- “Critique of the Methodist report and homosexual relationships”
- “Critique of Methodist study guide on same sex marriage report”
- “What does the Bible say on homosexual practice?”
- “Homosexuality and the church: a study guide”
- “Are arguments that the Bible accepts homosexual relationships similar to those that it approves women church leaders?”
- “What about gay marriage?”

## **OTHER ARTICLES I HAVE WRITTEN**

You may find these articles helpful. Feel free to circulate them to others. Further details and hyperlinks to the articles are in the attached file. You can also find the articles, and many others at <https://christianteaching.org.uk>

### *APOLOGETICS*

- “The origin of life”
- “How to deal with creationism”
- “Why have atheists started their own church?”

### *DEVOTIONAL*

- “There is no fear of God”
- “What is Celtic Christianity?”
- “What the Bible says about the love of money”
- “A critique of Christian songs”
- “Do we really believe it – A Good Friday message”
- “He is risen” (reasons for believing in the bodily resurrection of Jesus)
- “Jesus is Victor”

### *ESCHATOLOGY*

- “Prepare for the return of Christ – Beware materialism”

In Network for Revival God has called us to “make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” This includes:

- Encouraging people to seek holiness and true biblical discipleship.
- Encouraging people to major on prayer for Revival.
- Encouraging churches to be radically biblical in the power of the Spirit (see [Church Development](#) for information and resources).
- Encouraging people to “Watch!” for the return of Jesus (Mk 13:32-37 – see [Eschatology](#)).