



GLC Weekly
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Reasons to Support Israel, Part 2

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As I said in Part 1, it is vital for us to see Israel today as Almighty GOD sees Israel. Scripture and history reveal that Israel is vital to the fulfillment of GOD's plans and purposes here on earth. I encourage you to read the remainder (Reasons 6-10) of the article written by the President of International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (<https://www.icej.org/understand-israel/biblical-teachings/ten-reasons-to-support-israel/>).

Ten Reasons to Support Israel (6-10)

by Dr. Jürgen Bühler, ICEJ President

Reason #6 Our roots are in Israel!

“Romans 11 contains a botanical miracle. Paul refers to a natural or noble, cultivated olive tree and a wild olive tree. Wild olive trees are scrubs that bear inedible fruit. Paul then describes God doing something no farmer would ever do. He cuts off limbs from the natural tree and grafts wild olive branches in their place. Normally, this process is done exactly the other way around: noble branches are grafted onto wild trees to improve their fruit. But Paul relates this strange grafting exercise to Israel and the Gentile nations. The wild Gentiles are grafted into the noble Jewish olive tree by faith in Jesus and are nourished by the rich sap of Messianic hope rising from their prophets, patriarchs, and kings.

“Paul, therefore, tells the Gentile church in Rome to ‘*remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you*’ (Romans 11:18). We always need to keep in mind that our spiritual roots are not in Rome, Geneva or Asuza Street. Our spiritual roots lay in Jerusalem, with Hebrew Prophets, Jewish Apostles, a Jewish Saviour, and a Bible written by Jews (see also Ephesians 2:11-13). So let us honor our spiritual roots, knowing Paul also declares that one day the original natural, noble branches will be grafted back into their own tree.

Reason #7 Now is the right time to do it!

“Psalm 102 is one of the most powerful prophetic passages in the Bible. Whenever I read the first 11 verses of this ‘Psalm of the afflicted’, I see in my mind’s eye the crematories of Auschwitz and the emaciated bodies of Buchenwald. It is a cry of hopelessness, where the Psalmist sees his people withering like grass. But suddenly, the tone of this Psalm dramatically changes and becomes one of restoration, culminating in the Lord ‘building up Zion’ and ‘appearing in His glory’ (Psalm 102:16).

“The key verse is v. 13, where God suddenly takes action: ‘You will arise and have mercy on Zion; For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come’ (Psalm 102:13). The Hebrew word for ‘set time’ is *mo’ed*, which also is used for Israel’s annual holidays. They are the set or appointed times of the Lord. We should see them as eternal entries in God’s appointment diary. And here the Psalmist sees that God has fixed a day or season for the restoration of Israel to arrive.

“You do not need to be a prophecy expert to see this set day has arrived. Already for 100 years, the Lord has been busy restoring Zion. God has arisen to actively show mercy to Zion. Therefore, it is also time for us to arise and join what God is doing!

Reason #8 God has changed His way of dealing with Israel!

“Now this reason might at first sound almost heretical. In the end, we all believe God never changes – right? He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Yet already, centuries before the birth of Christ, the Lord announced that one day He would change the way He deals with Israel. This is best expressed by the prophet Zechariah. “But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,” says the Lord of hosts.... “Just as I determined to punish you when your fathers provoked Me to wrath,” says the Lord of hosts, “And I would not relent, so again in these days I am determined to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah” (Zechariah 8:11–15).

“These verses describe a total reversal of how God relates to Israel. It is a radical shift in gears – from reverse to fast forward. In previous centuries it might have been difficult to see His ongoing faithfulness to Israel. Looking at dispersed and downtrodden people, many theologians were tempted to see their state as an eternal judgment on the Jews. But God never gave up on them. And today, we are without excuse when it is even all over our newspapers that Zion is being restored! And if God has changed His approach to Israel, then He will help you also to arise and bless His people.

Reason #9 The Jews are the family of Jesus!

“This may be the simplest yet most powerful reason: Jesus is a Jew! Paul puts it thusly... ‘of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is overall, the eternally blessed God’ (Romans 9:5).

“I spoke about this years ago in a church in Bavaria. A brother came to me after the service saying: ‘Yes, it is true, Jesus was born to a Jewish mother. But you forgot one thing. When Jesus rose from the dead, he received a glorified body. He stopped being Jewish and now he is the universal brother of all mankind.’ I was truly impressed. Jesus, the universal brother of mankind. It sounded amazing! But in my Bible, I read in Revelation that Jesus in His glorified body is still the ‘Lion of the tribe of Judah’ (Revelation 5:5). And the very last words of Jesus in the Bible, often standing out in red letters, are: ‘*I, Jesus ... am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star*’ (Revelation 22:16). So, even in the very last chapter of the

New Testament, Jesus reminds us that His great, great, great... grandfather is a Jewish king from Jerusalem. By serving the Jewish people, we serve the earthly family of Jesus. And I truly believe He takes notice when we do so.

Reason #10 The Bible commands us to comfort Israel!

“Finally, and most importantly, we need to bless Israel because God commands us to do so. Isaiah delivers this divine imperative, saying “Comfort, yes comfort My people” says your God’ (Isaiah 40:1). This is clearly not a call to the Jewish people, otherwise they would be comforting themselves. Rather, it is a call to a Gentile people who serve God to stand alongside Israel and bless and comfort her. It is a command for a time when Israel’s warfare has ended (verse 2), a set time when God is restoring Zion. And Isaiah 40 also is clearly not a suggestion or discussion point where He invites our opinion. God Himself, the Creator of heaven and earth who calls out the stars by name (Isaiah 40:26), tells us to arise and stand with His people in comfort and love.

“It is precisely for these reasons why the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was established in 1980 to stand with and comfort Israel. And with God’s help, we will continue to do so in the decades ahead. Join us in this divine and prophetic calling!”

Pray again that the Church, comprised of all believers in Jesus Christ worldwide, will understand and support Israel in the light of Scripture and GOD’s everlasting covenant with Israel. Pray that believers will understand the relationship between Israel and the Church, and see as GOD sees. Pray that “replacement theology” will be replaced with true Biblical theology.

For the sacred gift of every human life and remembrance of children unborn,

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*The purpose of the Global Life Campaign is to **call and equip trustworthy disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit**, to be a catalyst of a movement to establish principles and practices in every nation that align with the Word of God and respect for human life.*