

God's Purposes: *Jew & Gentile*

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **November 12, 2023**



God is all powerful and almighty. He can do anything. There is nothing too hard for Him. He created everything we know, and He holds it together “by the authority of His Word” (Hebrews 1:3). There is simply nothing beyond God’s power, and that’s an important fact to remember as we witness what is happening in our world today. A war has broken out in the Middle East, and there is significant pressure to expand it to be far more than a conflict between a terrorist organization and the people of Israel. We need to understand what is happening from a biblical perspective—from Almighty God’s perspective. In this session, we’ll look at God’s purposes in our generation—for both the Jews and the Gentiles (the non-Jews).

Exodus 32:13 *“Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.”*

Psalms 121:4 *Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

I. REVELATION OF GOD’S INTENT

Romans 1:16 *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.*

A. God Chose the Jewish People for a Unique Purpose

John 4:22 *“You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.”*

Exodus 19:5-6 ⁵ *“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”* These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

1 Kings 8:52-53 ⁵² *“May your eyes be open to your servant’s plea and to the plea of your people Israel, and may you listen to them whenever they cry out to you. ⁵³ For you singled them out from all the nations of the world to be your own inheritance, just as you declared through your servant Moses when you, O Sovereign LORD, brought our fathers out of Egypt.”*

1. **What preconceived notions have you held about the Jewish people in the past?**

2. **How would you describe the relationship between Gentiles and Jews?**

B. A Promise & A Plan — Blessings/Discipline

C. Changing Seasons

Luke 21:24 *“They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”*

Romans 11:25 *I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.*

D. Gathering & Cleansing

Ezekiel 36:24-25 (NASB) ²⁴ *“For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.”*

E. Challenges Remain

Zechariah 14:1-3 ¹ *A day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided among you. ² I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. ³ Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle.*

3. **We are witnessing acts of hatred toward the nation of Israel. What should our response be individually and as the Church?**

II. FIRST FOR THE JEW, THEN FOR THE GENTILE

1 Peter 2:9-10 ⁹ *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.* ¹⁰ *Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

A. Gathering & Cleansing

Matthew 9:36-38 ³⁶ *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.* ³⁷ *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.* ³⁸ *Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

Ephesians 5:25-27 ²⁵ *... just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her* ²⁶ *to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,* ²⁷ *and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

Titus 2:11-12 ¹¹ *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.* ¹² *It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age...*

Romans 13:12-14 ¹² *The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.* ¹³ *Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.* ¹⁴ *Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

B. The Application

1 John 1:6-7 (NASB®) ⁶ *If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;* ⁷ *but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

4. **As Christ-followers, part of our assignment is to tell people about how God brought us out of the darkness into the light. Share a time when God changed your heart or your perspective on something, bringing it into alignment with His Truth.**

III. ANTI-SEMITISM/ANTI-CHRISTIAN

Matthew 24:8-9 ⁸ *All these are the beginning of birth pains.* ⁹ *"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me."*

Matthew 10:22 *All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.*

5. **Where have you encountered antisemitic/anti-Christian attitudes, and what has it looked like? In what subtle and not-so-subtle ways has it shown up at work, at school, in conversations, or on social media?**

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I repent of my sin. Forgive me for my stubborn refusal to cooperate fully with You. I turn away from all ungodliness. Search me and help me to know my heart, that I may be pleasing in Your sight. I want to serve You with all my heart, mind, soul, and body. I choose to forgive everyone of everything. I release them today from the bondage of my unforgiveness and anger. I am owed nothing. Through the blood of Jesus, I have been set free from all sin. Amen.