

God is Moving

Israel, the Church, & the Nations

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **April 14, 2024**



The evidence is abundant: God is moving in the earth in unprecedented ways—but so is evil. Will we choose to move with the Lord or be swept along with the tide rushing in the opposite direction? It's no longer reasonable to imagine we can continue to straddle the middle of the road. It's time for the Church to prepare so we can flourish and shine in this season.

Our preparation strategically includes being aware of the people of Israel and what is currently happening there. Understanding what God is doing in the land of Israel, and through the Jewish people, will help us make sense of what He is doing in the world around us. Consider this an invitation to walk away from being “medicated” by daily distractions and the hectic activities of our lives. Instead, let's work toward changing our cadence, looking for new ways to engage with the Lord and respond to His leading.

Declaration of the Glory of God—Romans 11:33–36

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

1. **What are some practical ways Christians can overcome distractions so they can keep their eyes on the purposes God has for them? What are some distractions you've recognized in your own life?**

I. ISRAEL & THE CHURCH

A. One Covenant Unites Us

- ❖ Not Two Separate Paths to God
- ❖ The Church Did Not Replace Israel in God's Purposes
- ❖ We Stand Together in God's Unfolding Purposes
- ❖ Jew & Gentile Believers Opposed by the Spirit of Antichrist

B. Differing Places in God's Unfolding Purposes

Romans 9:4–5 ⁴ ... *the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises.* ⁵ *Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.*

Ephesians 2:12–13 ¹² ... *remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.* ¹³ *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.*

2. **How does God's love for you transform the way you see other people, especially those who have different beliefs? Why do you think people are naturally inclined to gravitate toward those who agree with their stances and opinions?**

C. Israel/Jewish People — A Promised Land

Genesis 13:14–15 ¹⁴ *The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, “Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west.* ¹⁵ ***All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.”***

D. The Church — A Land of Promises

2 Peter 1:4 *Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

3. **In what places have you seen our culture more comfortable with the wicked than with the righteous?**

II. ONE COVENANT UNITES US

A. Not Two Separate Paths

Ephesians 2:11–13 ¹¹ *Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (that done in the body by the hands of men) —* ¹² *remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.* ¹³ *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.*

Galatians 3:26–29 ²⁶ *You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,* ²⁷ *for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.* ²⁸ *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* ²⁹ *If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

B. The Church Did Not Replace Israel

Romans 11:1–4 ¹ *I ask then: **Did God reject his people? By no means!** I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin.* ² *God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don’t you know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: ³ “Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me”?* ⁴ *And what was God’s answer to him? “I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”*

Galatians 3:26–29 ²⁶ *You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,* ²⁷ *for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.* ²⁸ *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* ²⁹ ***If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

C. We Stand Together

Ephesians 2:13–15 ¹³ *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.* ¹⁴ ***For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,*** ¹⁵ *by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace.*

- 4. How can one person’s attitude impact the people around them, for better or for worse? Why is it more important to pay attention to our day-to-day attitudes than the daily news or election outcomes?**

III. WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT???

A. He Watches Over Israel

Joel 3:16 *The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.*

Isaiah 44:3 *For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.*

B. A Response to the Nations

Joel 3:1–3 ¹ *“In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, ² I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land. ³ They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine that they might drink.*

Genesis 12:3 *“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

- 5. We must stand with Israel and pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Beginning this week, let’s start by praying for leaders in the nations across the world—that God would work in their hearts so they would honor, fear, revere, and stand for Him and His Word, and that He would remove any evil and destructive leaders from their positions of authority.**

PRAYER

Father, thank You for Your great mercy and wisdom, and for awakening us to know You better. We humbly ask for understanding hearts—eyes to see, and ears to hear—so we can be aware of what You’re doing in the world today. Forgive us for our idolatry, distractions, and lukewarm disinterest. Ignite a passion within us to serve You wholeheartedly.

Lord, in mercy, protect those in Israel, and reveal Yourself to them. Give them joy amid the heaviness and stress. Lift the oppression and send Your Spirit to move among them, beyond anything we’ve ever known. In our nation, may those making wicked and ungodly decisions regarding Israel and the Jewish people be silenced. Cause their plans and schemes to be exposed so they fail to move forward. Let truth be shouted from the housetops, and may Your people have a desire to hear. Thank You for watching over Your people, who are on this planet for a purpose, and for filling us with Your Spirit so we can complete all You’ve created us to do. May we be pleasing in Your sight. In Jesus’ name, amen.