

# Flags of Fellowship

## Featuring Yael Eckstein

World Outreach Church  
Sermon Discussion Guide  
Sunday Sermon: **October 06, 2024**



This is a sober time for us as we commemorate the horrifying terrorist attacks last October 7<sup>th</sup> against Israel and the Jewish people. This was the worst single atrocity and loss of Jewish life since the Holocaust during World War II. These barbarous acts of murder and the world's response to them represent beyond-alarming displays of antisemitism—the hatred of the Jewish people. In horror, we watch as universities and influential people in our nation support this hate and terrorism. We declare we firmly stand with God's truth, Israel, the Jewish people, and our Judeo-Christian values. This is a spiritual battle, and the forces behind it extend far beyond governments.

It was a great to honor to spend this service partnering with *Trinity Broadcasting Network* and *The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews* to commemorate the lives lost and those who remain in captivity. *The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews* is the largest philanthropic organization in Israel, representing the Christian voice of love and support for Israel and the Jewish people. When the organization decides how to distribute the aid, they look at the scriptures, which commend us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the poor.

As we stand together with Israel and the Jewish people, we need to remember Paul's words to the Roman Church:

*"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. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew."* Romans 11: 1-2

1. Yael reminded us that over six million Jews were murdered in the holocaust, which was the result of antisemitic rhetoric, lies, and extremist ideologies. The world vowed it would never happen again but hate against the Jewish community has been on the rise for years.

So, what's different now? Jews are being attacked from the far left, the far right, and Radical Islam. In the US alone, there has been a 337% increase in antisemitic incidents nationwide. Nearly 73% of American Jewish college students experienced or witnessed antisemitism, and only 46% say they feel safe on their campuses in Europe. Over a third of Jews have considered immigrating, fearing for their safety.

**\*What is your understanding of the rise of antisemitism in our world? How can Christians help defuse the hate for the Jewish community?**

2. Pastor Allen said there is a tremendous gulf of understanding between the Christian and the Jewish communities. He reminded us that without the Jewish people, we have no Scripture, no prophets, no covenants, no story, and no Lord.

**\*How can Christians model a different way of valuing the Jewish people? What are some things Christians can learn from Jews?**

3. Yael said she always thinks about how God told us to, "Love your neighbor like yourself." She said that's the ultimate way to sanctify God's name and to bring His glory and blessings into the world. She then referenced Genesis 12:3, which says, *"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

**\*What are some practical ways you can love your neighbor better—especially those who are different than you?**

4. Pastor Allen asked Yael, “The Flags of Fellowship campaign is an attempt to acknowledge the anniversary of the October 7<sup>th</sup> tragedy. We're a year later, so what is the perspective in Israel today?”

Yael responded, “On one hand we're like Jacob, that he couldn't be consoled until Joseph came home. He lost his prophecy. Joseph was sold as a slave. He was told that he was killed. He couldn't be consoled not until Joseph came back. We're a nation in Israel of *Jacobs*, and we're mourning until every single one of our hostages are home. We will not stop. We will not forget, and we will not be okay. On the other hand, we are one resilient nation. We know our place. We know that what we're doing is protecting every single one of you. And it's our honor. The prayers and support of God's people gives us hope and strength to know we are not fighting this war alone.”

**\*These are two differing perspectives from the midst of conflict. How does this encourage you to be a bold, brave, and unapologetic voice for the Lord, even during conflict?**

5. Pastor Allen said, “I can tell you this, if we're not as determined to stand for our faith and our beliefs and protect them in the public square—as Israel is determined to stand and protect their sovereign nation—we will lose our freedoms and liberties. We have hidden behind hymnals on Sundays for too long. And we better understand that we have a right to the public square, and a right to public education, and a right to the university settings. They need to reflect our values and our worldview.”

**\*In what areas do you feel you have hidden and not been determined to stand for your faith?**

**\*Commit to praying for the hostages each day.**

## **PRAYER**

Lord, we pause to pray for the Jewish people and the people in the land of Israel as they face the great threats, intimidation, and darkness arrayed against them. We come—not in our strength, wisdom, or resources—but in the mighty name of a Living God to ask You to deliver them from those who plan and plot their destruction. May those who scheme against them have their wicked plans turned back on themselves. Across the earth, raise up the voices of men and women with compassion, courage, boldness, and generosity to stand on their behalf. Awaken Your Church to our assignment in this most unique season. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem today. May those who live in Israel know that Your angels stand watch around them. Protect those young men and women who stand on the front lines of Israel. Give them wisdom beyond themselves. May they have courage that comes from You. We thank You for the great victories we see happening on their behalf. May they be multiplied. May their enemies be confounded. May those who have resisted them be silenced. Through it all, may Your name be praised. In Jesus' name, amen.