



Israel, the Church, and the Nations are presently taking predominant places in the purposes of God on the world stage. There's much confusion about current events because of so many competing voices. It's difficult to keep up with the fast pace of change, but it's vital to know and understand that God is moving in the earth. The most obvious change we have witnessed is the astounding diminishment of Iran's ability to foster the death and destruction they have threatened and acted upon since 1979. That's a victory! Then, peace was negotiated between Congo and Rwanda after many decades of horrifying war. Even India and Pakistan have navigated toward peace. Closer to home and in an expression of God's grace, the US Supreme Court ruled in great measures to protect the children. But we cannot rest in these major breakthroughs. Our future outcomes will be determined by the choices of God's people. We can pray, but if we don't intend to change, we are insincere and ineffective. We need to humbly begin to say to the Lord, "Let change begin with me."

***"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*** 2 Chronicles 7:14

## I. GOD AS JUDGE

Joel 3:1–3 *The nations judged because of their treatment of God's people*

<sup>1</sup> "In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine that they might drink."

### A. Principle Of God's Judgment

Romans 2:8–9 <sup>8</sup> *But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.* <sup>9</sup> *There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: **first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.***

Share a time you struggled with doubts or had questions about God's Truth. How did you seek answers and grow in your faith?

### B. The Edge of Forgiveness

Matthew 26:23–25 <sup>23</sup> *Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup> The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."* <sup>25</sup> *Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you."*

Acts 13:49–52 <sup>49</sup> *The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. <sup>50</sup> But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. <sup>51</sup> So **they shook the dust from their feet** in protest against them and went to Iconium. <sup>52</sup> And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 10:14–16 <sup>14</sup> *If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, **shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town.** <sup>15</sup> I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. <sup>16</sup> I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."*

God is just. What does it mean to you to experience God's grace in your life, particularly in relation to forgiveness? How does His grace impact your understanding of forgiveness?

### C. Outbursts Of Hatred—Anti-Semitism & Intolerance of Christians

Matthew 24:9 *"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me."*

How can Christians learn from Israel's disobedience and apply those lessons to their own lives? What areas of disobedience or rebellion do you see in the earth today?

## D. A Chosen People

Deuteronomy 7:6 *For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.*

What are some ways Satan tries to disrupt our lives, relationships, or faith?  
How can you be better aware of his tactics and remain vigilant?

## E. Skeptics, Scoffers & Experts

2 Peter 3:3–5 <sup>3</sup> *First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.* <sup>4</sup> *They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”* <sup>5</sup> *But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water.*

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Discuss the importance of seeking God's wisdom in your daily life.  
How can you encourage others to fear and respect God?

## F. God Keeps His Promises!

2 Peter 3:9–10 <sup>9</sup> *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.* <sup>10</sup> *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.*

How have you seen some of God’s promises fulfilled in your life or in the lives of others?

## II. A JEWISH HOMELAND ... A PROMISE KEPT

Genesis 13:14–15 <sup>14</sup> *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.* <sup>15</sup> *All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.”*

Genesis 17:7–8 <sup>7</sup> *I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.* <sup>8</sup> *The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”*

Psalms 105:8–11 <sup>8</sup> *He remembers his **covenant** forever, the word he **commanded**, for a thousand generations,* <sup>9</sup> *the **covenant** he made with Abraham, the **oath he swore** to Isaac.* <sup>10</sup> *He **confirmed** it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as **an everlasting covenant**:* <sup>11</sup> *“To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit.”*

How can Christ-followers pray for the Jewish people and their homeland, and what role can we play in supporting God's covenant promises?

## Gathered & Transformed

Ezekiel 36:24–28 <sup>24</sup> *“For **I will** take you out of the nations; **I will** gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land.* <sup>25</sup> ***I will** sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; **I will** cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.* <sup>26</sup> ***I will** give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; **I will** remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.* <sup>27</sup> *And **I will** put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.* <sup>28</sup> *You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and **I will** be your God.’ ”*

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I ask for Your wisdom, and I repent of being wise in my own eyes. I choose to submit to Your authority and Your direction. I will no longer be tolerant of ungodliness and evil. Holy Spirit, help me understand the fear and reverence of the Lord. Almighty God has blessed my life, and my future is defined by His promises. I choose His life, and I choose obedience to His truth. Jesus, be Lord of all that I am, all that I have, and all that I'll ever be. I want to honor You. Amen.