

# GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



## GIG165 – Israel One Nation Filled with the Spirit

Hello, and welcome to the podcast. I am wanting to title this podcast, *Israel, One Nation Filled with the Spirit*. I am recording this at a time when I have been deeply burdened and concerned about the things that we see transpiring in Israel. I know that just recently I put out a special podcast asking for prayer for Israel preceding the time of the Fall celebrations and Feast of Tabernacles; and I know that this podcast will be released sometime after the Feast of Tabernacles, but I am still at a place of real concern. I want to make sure that we have such a deep, biblical foundation for what we do in our intercession towards Israel – how we are seeking the Lord, how we are speaking into the realm of the Spirit that which we see is to take place by virtue of what the Scripture says.

One thing I would like to do is really encourage people to read Ezekiel, especially chapters 35-39, to get a feel for this timeframe that I think is so essential for us to be aware of right now. These chapters, when you read them, are not necessarily going to fall in chronological order; and so, we see kind of a repeat of events from restoration, from warfare against Israel, God revealing Himself, blessing Israel; and then it seems to go back and forth at times. But remember, these are all definite visions and prophecies that God was giving to Ezekiel about the things that would transpire for Israel. We know that the final fulfillment of these is in the end time, which I believe we are in the midst of; therefore, it is important to have the concepts of what God is going to do, both with the nations outside of Israel and with Israel itself, with the warfare that seems to be taking place. I know everybody is concerned, especially when we get into these chapters, about the war of Gog and Magog, that this looks very deadly and devastating; but always remember the end game that God has in mind. God is always working out His purpose and His plan, and the end of that plan is His blessing, His restoration, His meeting with Israel, and His establishing their kingdom back on earth under the Messiah. So, always keep the end in mind, and do not be into the fearmongering that we see taking place so much by people who talk about these events.

We have to get rid of fear and we have to have a focus on the Lord. Christ Himself said, “Look up” when we see these things, because our salvation draws near. And so, we are in great expectation, even though we realize there will be times of tribulation, times of difficulty. Again, the Lord talked about those times Himself, and so we know that that may happen; but we also know the focus is God bringing forth His Kingdom on this earth and establishing His eternal Kingdom here. That is what we must keep in mind, knowing He will rule and reign, and knowing His plan will prevail, and nothing will erase that.

So what I want to try to focus on, especially here in this podcast, is two major points. One is the oneness of Israel as a nation. I am recording this at a time where there are actually those speaking about having a divided state; a state of Israel called New Israel, and a state that would be Judea, or Judah. We have seen that done before in Israel, and I do not believe that is to happen. And we need to understand biblically that it is not to happen, that there is not to be a divided state. There is to be one nation that God is bringing forth for Himself.

I am going to start in Ezekiel the thirty-seventh chapter, verses 15-17. It says,

The word of the Lord came again to me saying, "And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, 'For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.' Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand."

So we see what God is doing here. He is making Ezekiel take these sticks, and He did this with the prophets; they would do something physical, and then the people would watch them, because they knew they were prophets, and say, "Okay, what is it that you are doing? What are you saying to us?" This happened a lot with Jeremiah, and this was happening with Ezekiel. "Take these two sticks and write on them, 'For Judah and the sons of Israel, his companions', and 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim (pronounced E-phrī-yēm or É-phrē-īm), and all the house of Israel.'" So we have these two sticks, and these two sticks are representing what was a result of this divided kingdom; but it is bringing all of Israel together, and binding them in the hand of Ezekiel into one stick, that they would be seen as one people.

Verses 18-21,

"When the sons of your people speak to you saying, 'Will you not declare to us what you mean by these?' say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will put them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.'" The sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes. Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land.'""

This, again, is very prophetic, because we know this concept is so alive about the lost tribes of Israel. And I do not want to get into the weeds on that one, because there are so many ideas and theories and whatever about the tribes and what happened to them in the different phases of Diaspora and their separation into the nations, and what tribes have returned to Israel, and are returning, and which have not, and "will they be all together?" But we have a very simple answer to the question, and that is that in the prophecies of Scripture, it is very clear that God will, in these times, restore and bring from all the nations all the sons of Israel and bring them back into the land, so that what He is going to do concerning Israel will be done with all of Israel. Even Paul spoke of this when he said that "all Israel will be saved." He is pointing to this idea that there will be a return to the land of all of Israel, and the events that happen in the latter days will be something that happens for all of Israel. So God is playing this out right before the eyes of the sons of Israel, to make it very clear to them that there will be one nation that returns.

I am going to go back to verses 21-22 again.

"Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; [you remember, that is why they divided, they divided over who was to be the king; and so He says,] one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms.'""

This is prophetically what is to happen. The reason I want this to be so clear to us as believers right now during this time is because whatever is being talked about of huge divisions in the land of Israel – divisions among the people; many conflicts, whether it be over the judicial reforms or other political issues, or socio-economic issues; whatever the issues be and whatever the seeming division is – we are to proclaim these Words from God that they will no longer be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer be a divided people. Israel will be one people; that is part of what God is doing in these end days, He is making Israel one. The process may look really bumpy from the outside; it may look like anything but oneness is taking place. But it does not matter what our eyes see or what our ears hear; it matters what God says. It matters what God is doing. And the process that He is taking Israel through is His business, and it is what He knows is His plan that needs to be executed in order to bring about this oneness.

He goes on in verses 23-25 to say,

“They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God. My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them. They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons’ sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever.”

This is talking about the eternal Kingdom that is coming into the earth that we believe for. As Christians we talk about the return of Messiah, believing that Messiah has come and He has ascended to the Father, but He is to return. So with the Jewish people, they are waiting for the Messiah; we are waiting for the Messiah; and when the Messiah comes, we know that there will be the establishment of the Kingdom of God under the King Messiah who will rule forever and ever, and that is going to be the completion of God’s plan in the earth.

He goes on in verses 26-28 to say, “I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them.” See, it is not going to go through phases after this, where they are taken into captivity, there is sin, there is failure, there are problems, and then they are removed from the land. Remember, Israel must live in a righteous relationship and a connection with God in order to remain on the land. And that is what we have seen in the past, that because of that relationship breaking down and the covenant breaking down, weak as it was through the flesh, then they were removed from the land. But God has sworn by Himself, by His name, that He will bring them back and He will cleanse them, and make this everlasting covenant with them. “And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.” So, God is always working with the nations. He is always working with all mankind and all of the world; and He is doing it with and through the covenants that He has with His people, and the promises that He has with His people Israel. And through that, He brings all of the nations into a relationship with Him. So we see this is what is taking place.

Now I know from these chapters here, this is chapter 37, we go into chapters 38 and 39, and it almost seems like we are going backwards; because again, we go into this idea of the war of Gog and Magog, and what God does. But remember, this is His purpose and this is His plan in what He is doing. We see that even chronologically, there is a return to the land that is happening now of Israel; at some point

that will include all of Israel. And we know that while Israel is in the land, there are going to be these events of Gog and Magog that take place. So we come into this time of trouble and devastation, but also we have to remember, at the end of chapter 39, we go back and talk about this idea of the restoration, and this idea of the blessings that come to Israel. So I want to pick this up. You can read the earlier verses about the battles that take place; it is very, very detailed in the explanation of what will take place in Israel and what God is going to do in bringing judgment on certain of the nations that have been determined for the destruction of Israel, and determined to see the plan of God thwarted and destroyed. But I am going to jump past that. You can read it yourself. I encourage you to study it very carefully.

I am going to Ezekiel 39, starting with verses 21-23.

“And I will set My glory among the nations; and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed and My hand which I have laid on them [this is right at the end of this war of Gog and Magog]. And the house of Israel will know that I am the Lord their God from that day onward. The nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile for their iniquity because they acted treacherously against Me, and I hid My face from them; so I gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and all of them fell by the sword.”

So we see this explanation that is taking place of the history of Israel and what has transpired with them; and it goes right along with the prophecies that Moses brought to the people, and that Joshua brought to the people, about setting before them a blessing and a curse. This now has all run its course in the history of time, in the history of Israel and God’s plan. Now He has come to the time of conclusion, and He says, “I gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and they fell by the sword.” Verses 24-25, “‘According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I dealt with them, and I hid My face from them.’ Therefore thus says the Lord God, ‘Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name.’”

One thing that this brings to mind for me, personally, is the carefulness that we must have as believers in Christ as Messiah, because there is so much antisemitism that filters through the Church and the doctrines of the Church and the beliefs of Christians – that Israel has rejected the Messiah, has rejected God, all of these things; and now the Church, Christianity, is the replacement for Israel. Not according to these verses. And I will tell you, it does not say here that Israel rejected God or the Messiah. It says, “I, because of their transgression, hid My face from them.” So you go, “Why don’t they see this great plan of God? Why aren’t they open in a different way?” Well, God is in a place of hiding; and that is about to end through these proclamations and during this moment, and it will happen. We are going to see a mass turning to God, according to the way I read these verses and the prophecies, not just in Ezekiel, but in other places. So, this is how He has dealt with them, and He hid His face from them so they could not find Him. They could not see Him, He hid from them.

Verses 25-26, “‘Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name. They will forget their disgrace [they are going to forget their disgrace] and all their treachery which they perpetrated against Me, when they live securely on their own land with no one to make them afraid.’””

Remember, these verses are following this great judgment that comes against the nations that rise up to destroy them. So they are going to know that God miraculously saved Israel in this battle.

Verse 27-29,

“When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the lands of their enemies, then I shall be sanctified through them in the sight of the many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them again to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer. I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,’ declares the Lord God.

Israel will experience a tremendous outpouring. They will be filled with the Spirit of the Lord. And that is what I want us to see mainly in this podcast, to make two very specific points. The first is, that Israel will not be a divided nation. Certainly it will not be two nations, but it will not be a nation filled with division. They will be one. God will make them one. Also, the second point is that God has hid Himself from Israel so that they could not find Him. But He is no longer going to hide Himself, and they will seek Him and find Him, according to the prophecies, and He will restore Israel and sanctify them. They will have one King, Messiah the son of David, and He will rule over them forever. So we see that they will be one nation, and they will be filled with the Spirit of God. And they will know Him, because when He no longer hides His face from them, they will seek His face; and according to the prophecies, when they seek His face, He will be found of them. So Israel will be one. And Israel will have this tremendous experience of sanctification, and they will be filled with the Spirit of God; and they will dwell in peace in the land under one King – not a divided kingdom – one king, the Messiah, the son of David.

Lord, let us behold these days. Let us live through these days as believers in Christ, the ones who will be praying and crying out to You for every Word of these prophecies to be fulfilled over Israel today. We believe for it, and we thank You for this Word, because we know what You have spoken will come to pass, in the name of the Lord.

Amen.