

God's Heart for Israel Part 1

Preparing for the Isaiah 62 Fast, May 7 – 28, 2023

Thesis: We are a people who care about what God cares about.

I am grateful and excited for how the Lord has connected us with what he is doing in the earth. We are participating in the [Isaiah 62 Fast](#) because God has shared his heart with us. Please listen to the message from April 2 to find out the details on how God has led us to participate in this [Isaiah 62 Fast: The Isaiah 62 Global 21-Days of Prayer and Fasting, May 7-28, 2023](#).

As we get ready to fast and pray for Israel and Jerusalem for 21 days in May, we want to know the “why” behind our participation. **Here is our “why”:**

We are a people who care about what God cares about.

As Mike Bickle said, “I want to be gripped with what grips the heart of God.”

God cares about people. Relationships matter to God. God cares about the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He cares about the family of the Patriarchs, Israel (the Jewish people).

God cares about keeping the promises which he has made. Promises matter to God.

God cares about process. Process matters to God. First the natural, then the spiritual. There is a covenant with Abraham. There is a covenant with Israel. Then, there is a new covenant inaugurated by Jesus. The new covenant fulfills everything in the old covenant and puts them together in Christ (see Jeremiah 31).

God cares about places. Physical places matter to God. The Lord cares about Israel and about Jerusalem. Yes, every place can be sacred and set apart to God. And, in his sovereignty, God picked the land of Israel as the everlasting home of the Jewish people and Jerusalem as the eternal throne on earth of God Most High.

We are a people who care about what God cares about.

1. **God cares about people.**

a. **Relationships matter to God.**

- i. God made promises to the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- ii. God cares about the family of the Patriarchs because relationships matter to God.
- iii. **The fact that relationships matter to God should encourage each of us. We matter to God.**

b. **Here is one of the key themes throughout Scripture.** God says: “I am your God, and you will be my people, and I will dwell with you.”

- i. *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God (Revelation 21:3).*
- ii. *When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. 2 I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” 3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, 4 “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. 5 No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. 6 I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. 7 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. 8 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” (Genesis 17:1-8).*
- iii. *So I will consecrate the Tent of Meeting and the altar and will consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests. 45 Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. 46 They will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God (Exodus 29:44–46).*
- iv. *“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD.*

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more” (Jeremiah 31:33-34).

- v. *“Therefore say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again.’ 18 They will return to it and remove all its vile images and detestable idols. 19 I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. 20 Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God” (Ezekiel 11:17-20).*
- vi. *What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people” (2 Corinthians 6:16).*

c. **God created people to rule and reign with him, according to the testimony of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation.** (See Genesis 1-2; Revelation 5:9-10).

- i. *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, *“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground”* (Genesis 1:26-28).*
- ii. *And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:9-10).*

d. **God cares about people. Relationships matter to God.** God made promises to the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God cares about the family of the Patriarchs because relationships matter to God. The fact that relationships matter to God should encourage each of us. We matter to God.

2. **God cares about keeping his promises.**

a. **Promises matter to God.**

- i. Pastor Steve Meeks has said, “God is a promise maker. Let’s be promise takers.”

- ii. We are a people who take God at his word and live into the promises of God.
 - iii. **God made promises to the Patriarchs, and he will keep his promises.**
 - iv. **The fact that promises matter to God should encourage us, because keeps his word.**
 - 1. *Not one of all the LORD's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled (Joshua 21:45).*
 - 2. *Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished" (Matthew 5:18).*
- b. God remembers his promises and his covenant.**
- i. *Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking my covenant with them. I am the LORD their God. 45 But for their sake I will remember the covenant with their ancestors whom I brought out of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I am the LORD (Leviticus 26:44–45).*
 - ii. **See Jeremiah 30 – 33.**
 - iii. *"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Jeremiah 31:33-34).*
 - iv. *Ezekiel 37:21 ...and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. 22 I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. 23 They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God. 24 "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. 25 They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your fathers lived. They and their children and*

their children's children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever. 26 I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. 27 My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. 28 Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.' " (Ezekiel 37:21–28).

- c. **God cares about keeping his promises. Promises matter to God.**
 - i. God made promises to the Patriarchs, and he will keep his promises.
 - ii. The fact that promises matter to God should encourage us, because keeps his word.
3. **God cares about process.**
 - a. **The process matters to God.** First the natural, then the spiritual (1 Corinthians 15:46).
 - b. **Israel is a sign in the natural of what God is doing in the spiritual.**
 - i. Israel was chosen to be the people of God in the earth who were a light to the nations (Gentiles) (Isaiah 42:6).
 - ii. Israel's calling was not one of privilege but of illustration, promise, and purpose.
 - iii. The Gospel came first to the Jewish people, then to the Gentiles.
 1. *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 (Romans 1:16).*
 - iv. In the end, God will have one new man when he puts Jew and Gentile together.
 1. *Ephesians 2:11 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. 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, 16 and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit (Ephesians 2:11–18).

c. The church, the Bride of Christ, is the spiritual.

- i. **The church is made up of Jewish and Gentile believers in Christ, believers from every tongue, tribe, language, and nation.**
- ii. One day, Jesus ties Israel and the Church together.
- iii. One day, Jesus puts heaven and earth back together.
- iv. *Romans 11:11 Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. 12 But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring! 13 I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my ministry 14 in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. 15 For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? 16 If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches. 17 If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, 18 do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. 19 You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” 20 Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. 22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. 23 And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 24 After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree! (Romans 11:11–24).*

- v. *Jeremiah 31:31 “The time is coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. 33 “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” 35 This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— the LORD Almighty is his name: 36 “Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,” declares the LORD, “will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me” (Jeremiah 31:31-36).*

d. **God cares about process. The process matters to God.**

4. **God cares about places.**

- a. **Places matter to God.** The land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem matter to God and are chosen by God.

- b. The Lord cares about Israel and about Jerusalem. Yes, every place can be sacred and set apart to God. And, in his sovereignty, God picked the land of Israel as the everlasting home of the Jewish people and Jerusalem as the eternal throne on earth of God Most High.

c. **The Lord has great zeal and love for Jerusalem.**

- i. *Again the word of the LORD Almighty came to me. 2 This is what the LORD Almighty says: “I am very jealous for Zion; I am burning with jealousy for her.” 3 This is what the LORD says: “I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain” (Zechariah 8:2-3).*
- ii. *This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: 2 In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2-3).*

- d. **God commands us to pray for the city in which we live and for Jerusalem.**
- i. *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you (Psalm 122:6).*
 - ii. *Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper (Jeremiah 29:7).*
- e. **God promised to raise up intercessors for Jerusalem specifically in the end times.**
- i. He will sovereignly “set,” “appoint,” or “mark” intercessors who will be alive and engaged in reminding the Lord of His promises for Jerusalem when He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth, which is when Jesus returns. Thus, Isaiah 62:6 is an end-time promise that is now escalating across the earth. The Lord has shown a number of people over the years that He would raise up 100 million intercessors for Israel before His return.
 - ii. *On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed [set, KJV] watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. You [intercessors] who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves; 7 And give Him no rest until He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth [at Jesus’ return]. (Isaiah 62:6-7 NAS).*
- f. **God promised to protect those who mourned or prayed for Jerusalem during a season of his judgment on the wickedness of Jerusalem when he sent the Babylonian army in 586 BC to destroy the city.**
- i. *Then He called out...“Let those [angels] who have charge over the city [Jerusalem] draw near... 4 and the Lord said to him [an angel], “Go through...the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it [Jerusalem].” 5 To the others He said...,”Go through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare...” (Ezek. 9:1-5).*
 - ii. *Rejoice with Jerusalem...all you who love her...you who mourn for her... (Isaiah 66:10).*
- g. **The Abrahamic Covenant and the Land.** The Lord “cut” an unconditional covenant with Abraham in which he stated, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates” (Gen. 15:18). The Lord periodically reconfirmed the aspect of the land to Abraham (Gen. 12:7; 13:14–17; 17:8; 24:7). The reason the Lord gave this land to the children of Israel was because he was faithful to his covenant to Abraham (Deut. 9:4–5), his love for Abraham (Deut. 4:37), and his love for Israel (Deut. 7:8). (*Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, Walter A. Elwell.)

- h. **God cares about places. Places matter to God.** The land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem matter to God and are chosen by God.

Summary:

As we get ready to fast and pray for Israel and Jerusalem for 21 days in May, we want to know the “why” behind our participation. **Here is our “why”:**

We are a people who care about what God cares about.

As Mike Bickle said, “I want to be gripped with what grips the heart of God.”

God cares about people. Relationships matter to God. God cares about the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He cares about the family of the Patriarchs, Israel (the Jewish people).

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Resources for the Isaiah 62 Fast

1. **Isaiah 62 Fast:** <https://isaiah62fast.com/>
2. **Video 1:** https://youtu.be/Z4GfG_i8cpl about the Isaiah 62 Fast. (6:14)
3. **Video 2:** <https://youtu.be/K-KyEspxhIU> video about the 100 million intercessors. (4:45)
4. **Video 3:** https://youtu.be/AOjoXj_mmg short vision video. (0:54)
5. **Handout:** <https://isaiah62fast.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/The-Isaiah-62-Global-21-Days-of-Prayer-and-Fasting-May-7-28-2023-1.pdf>
6. **Prayer Guide:** *The Heart of God for Israel: A 21-Day Prayer Guide* for the [21-Day Isaiah 62 Global Fast](#).
7. **Resource book:** *Your People Shall Be My People: How Israel, the Jews and the Christian Church Will Come Together in the Last Days*, Don Finto.
8. **Sermon:** *Isaiah 62 Fast: The Isaiah 62 Global 21-Days of Prayer and Fasting, May 7-28, 2023*, Jeff McGee.
9. **Calvary's website for the [Isaiah 62 Fast](#).**