

## God's Heart for Israel Part 2

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

**Thesis:** We are a people who feel what God feels and who want what God wants.

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 for May 7 - 28, we want to know the “why” behind our participation.

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.”

Last week in *God's Heart for Israel Part 1*, we talked about what God cares about. This week, we want to talk about what God feels and wants.

**We are a people who feel what God feels and want what God wants.**

1. **We want to feel what God feels about Jerusalem, Israel, and the Jewish people.**
  - a. **Here is the heart of God for Israel; here is what he feels about Jerusalem and the Jewish people** (Zechariah 1:12-14; 8:1-3).
    - i. *Then the angel of the LORD said, “LORD Almighty, how long will you withhold mercy from Jerusalem and from the towns of Judah, which you have been angry with these seventy years?” 13 So the LORD spoke kind and comforting words to the angel who talked with me. 14 Then the angel who was speaking to me said, “Proclaim this word: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion...’ ” (Zechariah 1:12-14).*
      1. *So the angel who spoke with me said to me, “Proclaim, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I am **zealous** for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal!”” (Zechariah 1:14 NKJV).*

- ii. *And the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying, 2 “Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath. 3 Thus says the LORD: I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts, the holy mountain (Zechariah 8:1–3 ESV).*
    - 1. *Again the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying, 2 “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘I am **zealous** for Zion with great **zeal**; With great fervor I am **zealous** for her’” (Zechariah 8:1-2 NKJ).*
  - iii. *This is what the LORD Almighty says: “I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. 8 I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God” (Zechariah 8:7–8).*
  - iv. That word “jealous” can be translated ardor, zeal, jealousy.
- b. **God is zealous, jealous for Jerusalem, the land of Israel, and the Jewish people (Zechariah 1:14).**
- i. God’s jealousy burns like a fire (Deut. 4:24) that not only burns against Israel for her infidelity toward the Lord (Deut. 32:16, 21), but it also enflames and consumes the nations for opposing God’s beloved, Israel (Ezek. 36:3–7; 38:19–23). The Lord’s jealousy also plays an important role in Isaiah (Is. 9:7; 37:32; 42:13; 59:17). Ezekiel’s teaching viewed God’s jealousy prominently, containing one quarter of all references to divine jealousy in the entire Old Testament. Ezekiel pictured the Lord’s jealousy for the faithful love of his people using the metaphor of a husband’s jealousy for his adulterous wife (Ez. 16:38, 42; 23:35). Most frequently, God’s jealousy burned against his people in wrath. Nahum 1:2 presents an exception in which the Lord’s jealousy consumes his foes in defense of Israel. This same jealousy moved the Lord to restore Judah, to comfort her, and to protect her.... Now, the Lord’s jealousy on behalf of Judah compelled him to renew his blessings to her. (George L. Klein, Zechariah, vol. 21B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group, 2008), 104.)
- c. **God is zealous, jealous for his Jewish people (Zechariah 8:2) and will bring them back to live in Israel and Jerusalem (Zechariah 8:7-8).**
- i. Verse 2 states, “*I am very jealous for Zion*” (qinnē’ti lēšyôn qin’āh gēdōlāh), which is an echo of 1:14. To summarize the previous discussion, “jealousy” grows out of the covenant relationship, describing the Lord’s protective love for Israel, his beloved. While the term often portrays God’s desire for

exclusive worship from his children (Exod. 20:5–6; 34:14), the expression also explains God’s burning anger against the nations who oppose Israel (Ezek. 36:3–7; 38:19–23). Jealousy describes God’s strong emotion on Israel’s behalf that shows “an intolerance for rivals,” whether the interloper emerges in the guise of a false god competing with the Lord for the nation’s worship, or represents one of the nations that were challenging Israel’s physical well being.

1. Isaiah 42:13 summarizes many of the themes of divine jealousy from v. 2:
  - a. *The LORD will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal [jealousy]; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies.*
2. Similarly, Isa 59:17 declares:
  - a. *He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal [jealousy] as in a cloak.*
3. In Zech. 8, God’s jealousy moved the Lord to provide for his people’s needs. (George L. Klein, Zechariah, vol. 21B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group, 2008), 232–233.)

**d. If God feels that way for the Jewish people, for Israel, and for Jerusalem, then I want to feel what he feels for them.**

- i. God promised Abraham, “*I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you*” (Genesis 12: 2–3).
- ii. **If this ancient promise is still true, and it is, then no person, no congregation, no nation or people group will ever receive their fullest blessing until they learn to love the Jewish people.** (Finto, Don. *Your People Shall Be My People* (p. 23). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)

**2. We want to catch a vision of how God ties together our longing for awakening, revival, and harvest to reaching the Jewish people.**

- a. We have a heart for world-wide awakening, revival, and harvest.
- b. **According to Romans 9 – 11, awakening, revival, and harvest are tied to reaching the Jewish people.**
- c. One of the keys to unlocking the harvest is when the Jewish people recognize their Jewish Messiah.

- d. From <https://isaiah62fast.com/#why-israel>:
- i. Israel's national repentance (Acts 3:19) and confession that Jesus is Messiah (Mt. 23:39) is deeply connected to Jesus' second coming, the Great Commission, and "life from the dead" for the whole earth (Rom. 11:15).
  - ii. Jesus will not return until the leaders in Jerusalem acknowledge Him as Messiah according to Psalm 118:26.
    1. 37 "O Jerusalem...39 you shall see Me no more [a reference to Jesus' return] till you say, 'Blessed is He [Jesus] who comes in the name of the Lord [thus, acknowledging Him as Messiah—Psalm 118:26]'" (Mt. 23:37-39).
  - iii. Peter proclaimed that the Father would not send Jesus from heaven back to earth until many in the nation of Israel repent and are converted in context to "the times of restoration of all things" spoken by the prophets (Acts 3:19-21).
    1. 19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your [Israel's] sins may be blotted out, so that...20 He may send Jesus Christ...21 whom heaven must receive [keep or retain at the Father's right hand] until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by...all His holy prophets (Acts 3:19-21)
  - iv. Paul taught that the nation of Israel would be "provoked to jealousy" to have a relationship with the God of Israel (Rom. 11:11) that they will see in the lives of many Gentile believers. There have been individuals Jews who have been provoked to jealousy by a Gentile, but this has not yet happened to Israel on a national level.
  - v. It will surely occur in the generation the Lord returns, when "the fullness of the Gentiles" is openly manifest (Rom. 11:25)—when millions of Gentile believers walk in mature love, power, and understanding of God's purposes (including His plans for Israel). This will lead to "all Israel" coming to salvation (Rom. 11:26).
    1. 11 "Through their fall [Israel's], to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles...13 I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 14 if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some...25 [spiritual] blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved..." (Rom. 11:11-14, 25-26).

- vi. When “all Israel” is saved (Rom. 11:26)—it will result in “life from death for the world” (Rom. 11:15). God’s blessing on Israel is connected to the fullness of the Great Commission and His glory covering the earth.
  1. *15 If their [Israel’s] being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead [including the fullness of the Great Commission]? (Rom. 11:15).*
3. **We want revival in Israel because we want Jesus to come back and to establish his kingdom here on earth** (Matthew 6:10; Acts 1:6; Revelation 5:9-10).
  - a. **Signs of his coming.** The return of Jesus comes when the leaders of the Jewish people say: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” (Matthew 23:39).
  - b. [Today,] Israel is back in the Land of her inheritance (1948), and Jerusalem is once again under the rule of the nation of Israel (1967), just as the prophets and Jesus foretold. (Finto, Don. *Your People Shall Be My People* (p. 35). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)
  - c. **When Jesus was predicting the fall of Jerusalem, He wept over the city:** *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.... I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” Matthew 23: 37, 39).* (Finto, Don. *Your People Shall Be My People* (p. 35). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)
    - i. This word was not spoken to the Gentiles. It was spoken to Jesus’ blood family, Israel. He would not return until the Jewish people, perhaps Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, were ready to receive Him. (Finto, Don. *Your People Shall Be My People* (p. 35). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)
    - ii. No generation since the first century has seen such a rapidly increasing body of Jewish believers, both in the Land and in the nations. The “until” Jesus spoke when overlooking Jerusalem that day shortly before His death is drawing nearer. We are seeing Jewish people who are ready to embrace their Messiah— Jewish people who are ready to say, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” (Finto, Don. *Your People Shall Be My People* (pp. 35-36). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)
  - d. **Cycle of Revival.** [After pointing out a significant correlation between what God does in natural Israel and moves of God in the earth, Don Finto writes:] My friend and colleague, Tod McDowell, began calling all of [these moves of God in timing with what God is doing in Israel] “God’s cycle of revival.” Paul tells the Romans, “*If their [Jewish]*

*transgression means riches for the world . . . and their [Jewish] loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches [for the whole world, the nations, everyone], will their fullness bring! . . . If their [Jewish] rejection is the reconciliation of the world [the nations], what will their acceptance be [Jewish people coming to faith], but life from the dead?" (Romans 11: 12, 15). (Finto, Don. *Your People Shall Be My People* (p. 47). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)*

- i. **Phase 1:** Jewish people coming to faith releases "greater riches... life from the dead" to the nations. The Jewish people have come into their destiny of becoming a "light for the Gentiles" (Isaiah 42: 6; 49: 6). But there is more. Paul continues, "Just as you [Gentiles, non-Jews] who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their [Jewish] disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you" (Romans 11: 30– 31).
  - ii. **Phase 2:** When believers from the nations begin showing genuine unconditional mercy and love to the Jewish people, more of them will come to faith in their Messiah, coming into their fullness and becoming a light to the nations.
  - iii. **Phase 3:** When Jewish people come to faith and enter into their destiny, this will release greater riches, life from the dead to the nations and the cycle is complete. (Finto, Don. *Your People Shall Be My People* (pp. 47-48). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)
- e. **We want revival in Israel because we want Jesus to come back and to establish his kingdom here on earth (Matthew 6:10; Acts 1:6; Revelation 5:9-10).**

### Summary:

1. **We are a people who care about what God cares about.**
  - a. **God cares about people.** Relationships matter to God.
  - b. **God cares about keeping the promises which he has made.** Promises matter to God.
  - c. **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).

- d. **God cares about places.** Physical places matter to God. The Lord cares about Israel and about Jerusalem.
2. **We are a people who feel what God feels and who want what God wants.**
  - a. *So the angel who spoke with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I am **zealous** for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal"'" (Zechariah 1:14 NKJV).*
  - b. *Again the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying, 2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I am **zealous** for Zion with great **zeal**; With great fervor I am **zealous** for her'" (Zechariah 8:1-2 NKJ).*
  - c. **God is zealous, jealous for Jerusalem, the land of Israel, and the Jewish people (Zechariah 1:14).**

### Resources for the Isaiah 62 Fast

1. **Isaiah 62 Fast:** <https://isaiah62fast.com/>
2. **Video 1:** [https://youtu.be/Z4GfG\\_i8cpl](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](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](#).**