

## How can I benefit from praying for the peace of Jerusalem?

1. In Genesis 12:3, the Lord says in the covenant He makes with Abraham: *"I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*
  - This relates not only to a people (the Jews), but it also relates to a land (Israel).
  - God will judge nations and deal with them for their decisions, just as He does individuals.
  - **Therefore, as you bless Israel by praying for Jerusalem's peace, God says he will bless you. Historically, every nation who blessed Israel was blessed and prospered by God, and every nation that opposed Israel has been disciplined or destroyed by God.**
2. **God inspired the writers of Scripture to make a timeless charge to all who follow Him: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: may they prosper who love you." Psalm 122:6**
  - **Again - God always builds reward into obedience to Him & His Word.**
3. **Our place in God's present order inextricably links us with the Jews as a people and thereby the land of Israel according to the Word.**

*When we put our faith in the Redeemer who came through the Jews, we enter into a line of those who have trusted God according to His revealed grace and redemptive purpose.*

  - **Scripture declares that, spiritually speaking, when you receive the Lord, you become a Jew (Romans 2:28-29; Galatians 3:26-29).**
  - **If you are a believer, you cannot be consistent with the whole of Scripture and take a position that is passive toward the Jews and Israel.**
4. **The same spirit driving these animosities is equally opposed to Christians as to Jews and in time will eventually bring persecution to both.**

*The forces opposed to Israel are not simply those of people who don't like Jews. We are caught in the stream of spiritual forces greater than humanity, forces that cannot be overthrown politically or by the power of persuasion. These forces can only be broken by intercessory prayer where principalities and powers are cast down.*

  - *Just as Scripture states there are two witnesses that will be put to death in Jerusalem at the very end of time (Revelation 11); there have been two witnesses that have stood for God throughout history – the Jews and the Christians.*
  - **The hostilities and animosities are just as leveled at believers as they are at Israel, because there is a spirit in the world that is against all that is called God and everything about Him.**

**5. The history of the Church is a history of anti-Semitism and violence against the Jews. As part of the present day Church, we must rectify this by taking responsibility for the wrong doing of our past generations, by not only repenting of those sins in prayer, *but also, by intercession for Jewish people and actively reflecting to them the true love & character of Jesus Christ.***

- **The Bible shows that righteous men like Daniel, Moses, and others "stood in the gap" and repented for the sins of the nation and the people that they represented. Even Jesus "numbered himself with the transgressors."**
- ***Part of our responsibility as disciples of Jesus Christ is to clearly reflect Him to the world. We must now clearly reflect Him to Israel and the Jewish people, to whom Christian persecution was done in the name of Christ, but NOT the Character of Christ.***