



Dear Precious Friend,

February, 2018

Why Do We Bless Israel?

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed. *Genesis 12:2-3*

Why do we bless Israel?

We bless Israel so that she can be a blessing. Blessing is God empowering something or somebody to do that which they are designed to do. We bless Israel in order to empower her to be all she was purposed to be in God. In response to our blessing Israel, God blesses/empowers us to become all we were designed to be. When the nations bless Israel, their own national purpose and calling unfolds and they receive the empowerment to fulfill that calling. God's blessing order causes us to be reciprocal and relational.

Through blessing, the creatures were empowered by God to fill the earth and multiply. God released His power to man to multiply and subdue the earth and take dominion over it. God imbued the Sabbath with his power to be all it was designed to be – a holy day of rest, connected to God.

And he said, blessed be the LORD God of Shem. *Genesis 9:26*

God had already revealed that He was the source of all blessing when He identified Himself as the God of Shem (*Name/heb*). From then on the blessing would flow from Him through the line of Shem.

Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, on this wise you shall bless the children of Israel, saying to them, The LORD bless you, and keep you:

The LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you:

The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

And they shall put my name (*Shem*) upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them. *Numbers 6:23-27*

God puts His name on Israel so that His blessedness will flow to him and he in turn will bless all the families of the earth. With God's name and blessing on him, He is commissioning him to be the source of blessing to the world. When we bless Israel, we empower him to carry out his office to bless God and to bless the world.

And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he went not, as at other times, to seek for enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness. And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him. How goodly are your tents, O Jacob, and your tabernacles, O Israel! *Numbers 24:1-5*

We bless Israel because it pleases the Lord that we do so. When our eyes are opened, we see Israel as God sees him and we bless him.

He has said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open: I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him,

but not near: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. *Numbers 24:16-17*

Ultimately, when we bless Israel, we declare the coming of His Son Yeshua who will destroy His enemies and bless the world.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kill the prophets, and stone them which are sent to you, how often I would have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, but you would not! Behold, your house is left to you desolate. For I say to you, you shall not see me henceforth, till you shall say, blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. *Mathew 23:37-39*

When Jews say, “blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”, they are bowing the knee and declaring that He is Lord. They are saying that Yeshua is the source of all blessing because He is God. When the Jews say this, it is a key to His coming. Already there are 20,000 Messianic Jews in Israel alone and about 350,000 throughout the world. We bless Israel so that many more will receive Yeshua as their Messiah and will bless Him. In this way, they will be calling for His return to Jerusalem to rule and reign in righteousness over all the earth.

Good News:

As my friend Claudia and I were walking out of our favorite cafe in Thessaloniki recently, the manager followed us and we began sharing about the Lord. He was so touched that his eyes filled up with tears. He gave his life to the Lord right there on the spot!

As we shared the Lord with a woman begging on the promenade, she said she felt the Holy Spirit all over her body. She gave her life to the Lord. She told us that she had received a flyer from an evangelical church a few days before and now would go there.

When a young waiter began to tell me the story about his Turkish father leaving him and his Greek mother 17 years ago, I could feel his broken heart. He told us that he has been seeking to meet God. I brought him a bible and his eyes filled up with tears. He said, "I'll never forget you." I prayed for him and will go back to follow up.

We went up north to the hot springs on the border between Greece and Skopje. Right there in the pool, we met a woman who bathes there every week for debilitating rheumatism. When we found out that her husband left her for another woman 20 years ago, I asked if she had forgiven him and she said, no. I told her that forgiving would bring healing to her soul and body. Right there she accepted the Lord and also forgave her former husband. Her pain left. I believe she got healed.

We shared Yeshua with the chef and owner of a taverna in the north. He was overwhelmed with emotion and received the Lord. He began to worship with us unashamedly. When we asked him if he knew of an inexpensive place to spend the night, he told us he had a guesthouse! So God not only provided a place for us, but saved the owner!

I continue to disciple a hungry woman who received the Lord a few months ago.

Our monthly Israel-Greece Bridge Prayer Meeting continues from church to church. We see God answering our prayers so powerfully as we pray in unity.

I am presently in Israel visiting friends and leaders and seeking the Lord. I will be participating in an evangelistic outreach next week for 4 days with a few hundred Israeli believers. This is the first time so many Israeli believers are taking to the streets of Israel together to proclaim the gospel. Please pray. This is historic!

I am so grateful for you! Thank you for your love and faithfulness to the Lord and also to me. Lord, bless my dear intercessors and donors with all they need to fulfill the purpose and calling in their lives, in Yeshua's name."

Shalom and Agape,

Greta

View recent photos below...!

