

“Guest Speakers: Avi & Chaya Mizrachi”

Summary

In this powerful message, we're reminded of God's unwavering faithfulness to His promises, particularly concerning Israel. The story of Israel's restoration as a nation in 1948 serves as a testament to God's word in Ezekiel 36, where He promised to gather His people from all nations. This miraculous fulfillment should strengthen our faith in God's ability to keep His word, no matter how impossible it may seem. Avi draws parallels between the formation of Israel and the coming together of Jewish and Gentile believers to form the complete bride of Christ. This unity is not just a theological concept, but a living reality that we're called to embrace. As we reflect on this, let's consider how we can actively participate in God's plan for unity in the body of Christ, breaking down walls of division and embracing our brothers and sisters from all backgrounds.

Main Points – Guest Speakers Avi & Chaya Mizrachi

Title: Israel's Prophetic Role and God's Redemptive Plan

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the historical and prophetic significance of Israel in God's plan for redemption. It traces the journey of the gospel from Jerusalem to the nations and back, highlighting the importance of Jewish-Christian relations, the fulfillment of biblical prophecies, and the current spiritual awakening in Israel. Avi emphasizes the need for unity between Jewish and Gentile believers, the importance of standing with Israel, and the anticipation of Christ's return.

Key Points:

- The gospel's journey from Jerusalem to the nations and back
- The importance of praying for and supporting Israel
- The fulfillment of biblical prophecies regarding Israel's restoration
- The growing unity among Messianic Jewish leaders in Israel
- The current spiritual and physical challenges facing Israel
- The call for Christians to stand with Israel in difficult times
- The anticipation of Christ's return and the completion of the bride.

Scripture References:

- Matthew 28:19-20 (The Great Commission)
- Acts 10 (Peter's vision and ministry to Cornelius)
- Ezekiel 36:19, 24-26 (Prophecy of Israel's restoration)

- Romans 11:1, 11-12 (God's plan for Israel and the Gentiles)
- Zechariah 2:12 (Israel as the apple of God's eye)
- Luke 1 (Promise of Jesus receiving the throne of David)

Stories:

- Avi's personal testimony of coming to faith in Jesus as a Jewish person
- The story of Peter's vision and ministry to Cornelius in Acts 10
- The account of Rabbi Daniel Sion and Metropolitan Stephan's friendship and collaboration to save Bulgarian Jews during World War II
- Personal experiences of Avi and his family during recent conflicts in Israel
- The story of the Avi and Chaya's daughter and grandchildren's experience during a missile attack in Israel

Small Group Study Guide – Guest Speakers Avi & Chaya Mizrachi

Small Group Guide: God's Plan for Israel and the Church

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. God has not forgotten His promises to Israel.
2. The reunification of Jewish and Gentile believers is part of God's plan.
3. Current events in Israel may be prophetically significant.
4. Standing with Israel is important for Christians.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the story of Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10) challenge our assumptions about who God includes in His plan?
2. Avi talked about the "one new man" concept. How does this idea of Jewish and Gentile believers coming together affect our understanding of the Church?
3. What are your thoughts on the connection between current events in Israel and biblical prophecy?
4. Avi shared stories of Christians helping Jews during the Holocaust. What lessons can we draw from these examples for today?
5. How does understanding Israel's role in God's plan affect our own faith and relationship with God?

Practical Applications:

1. Commit to praying regularly for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem.
2. Research and learn more about the Jewish roots of our Christian faith.
3. Look for ways to support Israel.
4. Be prepared to explain to others why supporting Israel is important from a biblical perspective.
5. Reflect on areas where you might have unconscious biases against Jewish people or Israel, and ask God to help you overcome them.

6. Stay informed about current events in Israel and the Middle East, viewing them through a biblical lens.

Closing Prayer

Encourage group members to continue reflecting on these topics throughout the week and to bring any additional thoughts or questions to the next meeting.

Discussion Questions – Guest Speakers Avi & Chaya Mizrachi

How does the story of Peter's vision in Acts 10 challenge our preconceptions about who God accepts, and how might this apply to modern-day prejudices within the church?

In what ways has 'replacement theology' affected the relationship between Christians and Jews, and how can we work to heal any rifts caused by this doctrine?

How does the concept of Israel as 'the apple of God's eye' (Zechariah 2:12) inform our understanding of current events and our role as believers in supporting Israel?

What can we learn from the collaboration between Rabbi Daniel Sion and Metropolitan Stephan about interfaith dialogue and standing together in times of crisis?

How does the Avi's emphasis on the Jewish roots of Christianity challenge or enrich your understanding of your faith?

In light of the prophecies about Israel's restoration, how should believers balance support for the modern state of Israel with the pursuit of justice and peace for all in the region?

How does the concept of the 'one new man' (Ephesians 2:15) as described by Avi inform our understanding of unity between Jewish and Gentile believers?

What lessons can we draw from the story of Bulgaria's protection of its Jewish population during World War II for standing up against injustice and persecution today?

How does the Avi's description of current events in Israel as fulfillment of biblical prophecy shape your view of God's ongoing work in the world?

Scriptures – Guest Speakers Avi & Chaya Mizrachi

Here are the [scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon](#), along with some suggested relevant verses for key themes:

Explicitly Mentioned:

1. Matthew 28:19
2. Acts 2 (general reference)
3. Acts 10 (general reference)
4. Romans 11:1
5. Romans 11:11-12
6. Ezekiel 36:19, 24
7. Ezekiel 36:25-26
8. Isaiah 66:8 (alluded to with "Can a nation be born in a day?")
9. Psalm 122:6
10. Luke 1 (general reference to Jesus receiving the throne of David)
11. Zechariah 2:12

Alluded to or Implied:

1. Acts 1:8 (Great Commission to go from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth)
2. John 14:6 (Jesus as the way, truth, and life)
3. Revelation 19:7-9 (Wedding of the Lamb)
4. Ephesians 5:27 (Church without spot or wrinkle)
5. 2 Corinthians 3:16 (Veil being lifted from eyes)
6. Psalm 121:4 (He who keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps)

Devotional – Guest Speakers Avi & Chaya Mizrachi

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional:

Day 1: God's Faithfulness to Israel and the Church

Reading: Romans 11:1-12

Devotional: God's faithfulness to Israel reminds us of His unwavering love for all His children. Just as He has not abandoned His chosen people, He will never forsake those who put their trust in Him. Reflect on how God has demonstrated His faithfulness in your life, even in challenging times. How can you cultivate a deeper trust in His promises? Consider ways you can stand in solidarity with both Jewish and Gentile believers, recognizing that we are all part of God's family.

Day 2: Unity in Christ

Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

Devotional: The story of Jewish and Gentile believers coming together reminds us of the power of unity in Christ. Jesus breaks down the walls that divide us, creating one new humanity. Think about the barriers that exist in your own life or community. How can you actively work to promote unity and reconciliation? Pray for the courage to reach across divides and build bridges, just as the early church did.

Day 3: Standing Firm in Faith During Trials

Reading: James 1:2-12

Devotional: The resilience of the Israeli people in the face of attacks and the courage of believers throughout history inspire us to stand firm in our faith. Trials can refine our character and deepen our dependence on God. Reflect on a current challenge you're facing. How might God be using this difficulty to strengthen your faith? Ask for His wisdom and endurance as you navigate this season.

Day 4: God's Plan for Redemption

Reading: Isaiah 62:1-12

Devotional: God's promise to restore Israel points to His larger plan of redemption for all humanity. He is working to bring about reconciliation and renewal, even when circumstances seem dire. Meditate on areas in your life or the world that seem hopeless. How can you align your prayers and actions with God's redemptive purposes? Commit to being an instrument of His peace and restoration in your sphere of influence.

Day 5: Preparing for Christ's Return

Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

Devotional: The anticipation of Christ's return should motivate us to live with purpose and urgency. Like the wise virgins in the parable, we must be ready at all times. Consider the state of your spiritual "oil." Are you cultivating a deep relationship with God that will sustain you through uncertain times? Reflect on practical ways you can stay vigilant and prepared,

such as regular prayer, Bible study, and acts of service. How can you share the hope of Christ's return with others?