

Today we have an opportunity to hear from a man of God, a brother from Israel that I have gotten the chance to sit in the work he is doing in Tel Aviv. Our Jewish brother Eli and his family have given their lives to serve the King and today we are going to hear what the Lord has put on his heart.

Ezekiel 5:5 NET

[5](#)“This is what the sovereign Lord says: This is Jerusalem; I placed her in the center of the nations with countries all around her.

Jerusalem, Israel is the center of the world.

Zechariah 2:8 — NIV 1984

“for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye”

It is not just the center geographically, it is the central focus of the God of Israel who has also saved us gentiles.

I want to remind us of a story that shapes our attitude toward the people of Israel.

During a time when tragedy struck the house of David, they were fleeing from Absalom, David's son who was trying to run the king out of the city. It was a very difficult and heavy time for the people. Listen to this story:

2 Samuel 15:13-22 ESV

13 And a messenger came to David, saying, “The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom.” **14** Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, “Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword.”

18 And all his servants passed by him, and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the six hundred Gittites who had followed him from Gath, passed on before the king. **19** Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, “Why do you

also go with us? Go back and stay with the king, for you are a foreigner and also an exile from your home. **20** You came only yesterday, and shall I today make you wander about with us, since I go I know not where? Go back and take your brothers with you, and may the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you." **21** But Ittai answered the king, "As the Lord lives, and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king shall be, whether for death or for life, there also will your servant be."

- Ittai would not be deterred from showing sacrificial and loyal friendship to the King of Israel
- He had the opportunity to walk away with a blessing, but that wasn't what he was after
- He called himself a servant and declared whether it was life or death that awaited them, he would follow the King.

We first received this message from our brothers at LCM and it has pierced our hearts as well. We learn these things from Ittai's example.

Three Pillars of the Ittai Doctrine

1. As YHWH lives: It is out of reverence for the Covenantal Name of God that we support the promises of God to Israel. His Name is linked to the promises that He has made.
2. As my lord the king lives: It is out of reverence for Messiah that we support the promises of God to Israel. Jesus is the King of the Jews first and foremost. His Kingship is linked to the destiny of the Jewish people.
3. There also your servant will be: It is out of reverence for YHWH and the Messiah that we are compelled to stand with the people of Israel and the physical land of Israel because they are the apple of His eye and the recipients of the promises.

Have the people stand and pray

Welcome Eli



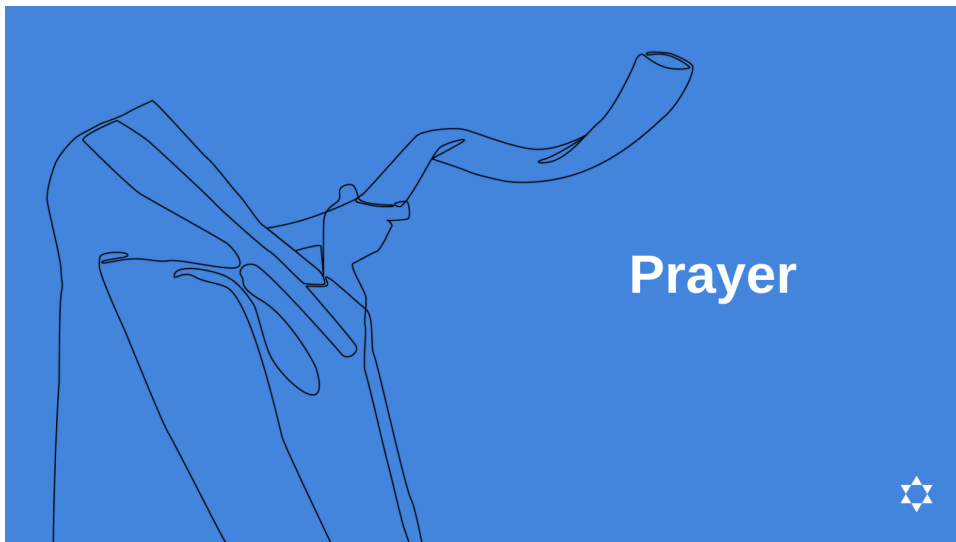
**When I heard these things, I
sat down and wept. For some
days I mourned and fasted and
prayed before the God of
heaven.**

(Nehemiah 1:4)





Mourning



Prayer



Taking Action



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Obadiah 11-15 NET

11 You stood aloof while strangers took his army captive,
and foreigners advanced to his gates.
When they cast lots over Jerusalem,
you behaved as though you were in league with them.

12 You should not have gloated when your relatives suffered calamity.
You should not have rejoiced over the people of Judah when they were
destroyed.
You should not have boasted when they suffered adversity.

13 You should not have entered the city of my people when they experienced
distress.
You should not have joined in gloating over their misfortune when they
suffered distress.
You should not have looted their wealth when they endured distress.

14 You should not have stood at the fork in the road to slaughter those trying to
escape.
You should not have captured their refugees when they suffered adversity.

The Coming Day of the Lord

15 “For the day of the Lord is approaching for all the nations!
Just as you have done, so it will be done to you.

You will get exactly what your deeds deserve.

The Redemptive Plan of God is dependent upon the existence of the people of Israel and their salvation in the Land of Israel.

The Name of God, meaning His reputation, character, and attributes, are bound to the promises made regarding the People, Place, and Plan laid out in the Tanakh and Newer Testament.

The Nation of Israel in the Bible and the Nation of Israel in the world today are the same People, the same Place, and have the same Plan!