

Bless Israel by Praying for Arabs

(The following contains the substance of what I spoke about at the Thornhill Vineyard Christian Fellowship on October 22,2000 - Ron Wilson)

The most significant experience during my first trip to Israel in 1990 happened on a roof-top overlooking the Sea of Galilee. As I was reading a book called *Blood Brothers*, I wept much as I learned of the incredible love that some Israeli Arabs had for Jews. I coveted such a love for myself and was convinced that this love was really the answer for the problems of Israel and for the world.

One effect of this experience was that I started to be concerned about Christians who, in supporting Israel, seem to think of Arabs simply as the enemy and have little concern for their salvation or their welfare. I believe that the situation of Samaritans in the New Testament was much like that of today's Palestinians. Please read Luke 9:51-54 and notice Jesus' words to the disciples who wanted God to destroy the Samaritans for treating them badly. ". . . Ye know not what manner of Spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives but to save them. "(KJV)

When I returned to Israel in 1992, the Lord wonderfully led me to meet some Arabs and Jews in Israel who loved each other. One of these was Tom Herro, an American Arab pastor in Haifa, who pointed out to me that today's Palestinians and Israeli Arabs could fulfil wonderfully the prophecy in Romans 10: 19-20 by making Israel envious. Notice it says "by them that are no people ('nation' - NIV)". Surely no other gentiles are so strategically placed and whose love would have greater effect on Israel.

Consider, also, Romans 11:11-15, where Paul states that a major purpose of his ministry to the Gentiles is to stir up desire in the Jews for the Lord. Should we not pray that the Lord will give us the same zeal as Paul in praying for these Gentiles - Israel's Arabs/Palestinians?

Accomplishing these things will require much effective prayer that many Arabs become so filled with the love of Christ that they will demonstrate His love to each other and to Jews, even if it means laying down their lives. For us to pray for them in faith and in genuine support means that we too must come to that place where we are "conformed to the sufferings of His death" and are willing to take up our cross to follow Him, no matter what the cost. Further, such prayer will also lead us to be totally committed to so express love that we will make Jews jealous, whether in Israel or in our own neighbourhood. Amen?!

Recently, as I asked God the Father to show me how to pray for the Palestinians, I could see myself on Abba's knee, asking Him to show me His heart for these people. I felt drawn right into His heart and there I saw a great throng watching Jesus on the cross. In the crowd were the members of the Hesbolah and Hamas and Yassar Arafat. Jesus declared to them that He was paying the price for **ALL** their sins and then prayed that God would "forgive them for they know not what they do." I am well aware that intercessors must bring down strongholds such as Islam, but should that negate us being in unity with the Father's heart for the individuals?

Could this be the time when Israel will see the One "Whom they have pierced" (Zech. 12:10) revealed in the love of the Arabs and other gentiles (and Messianic Jews), who lifting Him up so fully in their lives will draw men unto Him. (John 12:32)?!

It has been thrilling for me to see a number of Arabs and Jews in Israel receiving new hearts and loving each other and am excited thinking about what might happen if a great number of Christians prayed in earnest for such phenomena to spread throughout Israel.

With the unity in Israel of Jew and Gentile believers, we would see an awesome fulfilment of Paul's vision of the One New Man (Ephesians 2:11-16, 21-22). An emergence of this One New Man in Israel would be the most powerful witness to the world what His love can do. Could this result in the fulfilment of many prophecies in the Old Testament, such as Isaiah 2:3-7? Out from Jerusalem will flow the powerful message of love and peace that will cause the nations to lay down weapons and hatred and accept the Jewish Messiah, Jesus, Could the Arabs be an essential part of such a fulfilment?

Many have seen the video *Transformations* about the transformation of some cities through revival. May the Lord release faith in us for the transformation of Jerusalem to a city that displays the glory of God's peace and love in the lives of Jews and Arabs. Then we could see a transformation of the whole nation of Israel to the One New Man. That could lead to the transformation of the world, for "all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD." (Num. 14:21)

Could our finding God's heart for and praying for the Palestinians and Israeli Arabs be a key factor in world revival???