

Many Christians strongly believe that modern day Israel is "God's Chosen People," and that Jews en masse will accept



Does modern Israel fulfill Bible prophecy? Should we pray for Israel?

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“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem . . . For the love of the house of Yahweh our God I will pray for your well-being”—Psalm 122:6,9 NJB

There is the Old Testament exhortation above to pray for Jerusalem, which represents the ancient nation of Israel. Yahweh is referred to as **“the God of Israel,” “the Holy One of Israel” (Psalm 41:13; 59:8; 68:8; 78:41; 106:48)**. Today, there are a number of Christians who strongly believe that the modern nation of Israel, which was established in 1948, should be prayed for. Is this what God wants us to do? We are told to:

“Pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them”—1 Timothy 2:1 NLT. Notice that Christians are urged to **“pray for all people,”** that is, *for individuals*, but not any nation. Ancient Israel was still a nation back then when 1 Timothy was written, but there is no encouragement to pray for either that nation, or the Roman Empire, which controlled that part of the world.

“Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority . . .” Why? For what reason?” . . . so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity”—1 Timothy 2:2 NLT. Again, there is no direction for Christians to pray for any particular nation. But there is direction to ‘pray for those who are in authority so that we Christians can live

peacefully and spread the gospel.

“The longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved”—Romans 10:1 NLT. Notice, Paul’s prayer is for the **“people of Israel to be saved,”** but not the *nation* of Israel.

God’s ancient people, **“Israel according to the flesh” (1 Corinthians 10:18 NAB; NJKV),** with its capital Jerusalem, and God’s Temple within it, was literally what **Psalms 122:6,9** was encouraging people to pray for in pre-Christian times. But how about today? How can we apply this today?

For Christians, the New Testament tells us that there are **“two covenants”** that we need to distinguish between. **“The present city of Jerusalem” (Galatians 4:25,26 NIV)** represents **“the old covenant,” “which has been replaced” (2 Corinthians 3:14,11 NLT)** by the **“new covenant”** with **“Christ”** as **“mediator” (Hebrews 9:15).** **“The Jerusalem above,” “the heavenly Jerusalem,” “the new Jerusalem” (Galatians 4:26; Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 21:2)** represents the **“new covenant”** for Christians today, with Jesus as the **“mediator”**. This is the “Jerusalem” that Christians are to pray for today. The Israel that Christians today should pray for is the Christian **“Israel of God,”** where **“neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything” (Galatians 6:15,16 NIV).** *“The Church is the true Israel, the recipient of God’s promises, which goes out to the nations in the power of Christ” (New Jerusalem Bible, Pocket Edition, Introduction to Matthew).*

For more detailed scriptural information about why fleshly, earthly Jerusalem and Israel are not part of Bible prophecy, nor are they do they have any special place in God’s purpose, etc. — see the following articles on this website:

“Does Modern Israel Fulfill Bible Prophecy?”

“Restoration Prophecies — Israel of God”

“Spiritual Use of ‘Israel’ in the Bible”

“Are Restoration Prophecies About Israel Literal — or Symbolic?”