

Dear Friends,

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with loving-kindness." **Jeremiah 31:3**

There are moments in history when God graciously draws back the veil and allows the nations to glimpse the unfolding of His eternal purposes. Such moments are more than political upheaval or international uncertainty. They are times when the Lord lovingly calls His people to stop, to listen, and to seek His heart.

We believe we are living in such a time.

Once again the eyes of the world are fixed upon Israel. Once again Jerusalem stands at the centre of international attention. Voices are raised on every side. Opinions abound. Fear and uncertainty fill many hearts. Yet above the clamour of our age another voice longs to be heard—the gentle voice of the Good Shepherd.

He is not first asking us what we think about Israel. He is asking whether we know His heart.

This question reaches far beyond the events of our day. Whenever God reveals something of His heart, He invites His people to become more like His Son.

Israel, therefore, can never be understood merely through history, politics or human reasoning. She is first understood through the heart of God.

Long before Israel became a nation, she existed within His eternal purpose. Before Abraham left his homeland in obedience, before Moses led God's people through the Red Sea, before David sang his psalms and before the prophets proclaimed the Word of the Lord, God had already set His love upon a people through whom He would reveal His glory and bring the Redeemer into the world.

Everything begins with God.

Everything begins with His love.

The Lord did not choose Israel because she was great among the nations. Scripture tells us she was small. Nor did He choose her because of her righteousness, for the pages of the Old Testament reveal both her faithfulness and her failure. He chose her because of His sovereign love and because He is faithful to His covenant.

Here we glimpse something precious about the character of our God.

His faithfulness does not depend upon the faithfulness of man.

Were His promises founded upon human perfection, none of us could possess hope. Throughout Israel's history we see repeated failure, wandering and disobedience. Yet never did the Lord abandon His covenant. Again and again He called to His people through the prophets:

"Return to Me."

These words reveal the Father's heart. They were spoken to Israel. They speak also to every generation. They speak to us.

Perhaps this is the message the Holy Spirit desires the Church to hear anew. We live in an age overflowing with knowledge, yet many hearts have grown unfamiliar with the heart of God. We readily discuss world events, yet spend little time waiting quietly before the Lord. We are surrounded by countless opinions, yet too easily neglect the voice of the One who alone speaks eternal truth.

The Church's greatest need today is not greater knowledge. It is deeper fellowship with Jesus.

Only those who know Him will recognise His voice amid the confusion of our age. Only those who abide in His presence will learn to see the world through His eyes.

What Israel Reveals About Our Own Hearts

When our Lord stood overlooking Jerusalem, He did not speak with anger.

He wept.

Those tears reveal the very heart of God. They speak of a love that remains faithful even when it is rejected, of a mercy that continues to call when it is ignored, and of a Shepherd who never ceases to seek His sheep.

As we behold the tears of Jesus, we are confronted with a deeply personal question:

Have we received His heart?

It is possible to understand biblical prophecy and yet lack His compassion. It is possible to defend the truth and yet fail to reflect His gentleness. It is even possible to speak of Israel while remaining untouched by the burden the Lord Himself carries for His people.

But God desires something greater.

He desires that His love should become our love, His compassion our compassion, and His burden our burden. Before He entrusts His people with His work, He first invites them into His presence. Before He sends them into the world, He teaches them to listen to His voice.

For this reason, every true work of God begins with repentance.

Throughout the history of Israel, whenever the Lord visited His people, He first called them back to Himself. Revival did not begin with human plans or outward activity. It began with humbled hearts that allowed the light of God to expose all that stood between them and their Lord.

The same remains true today.

The Lord is still seeking hearts that tremble at His Word. He is still calling His people to return to their first love. Only hearts wholly surrendered to Jesus can truly understand His faithfulness to Israel, discern His purposes in our generation, and stand firm when the opinions of the world shift like the sand.

Israel teaches us another lesson the Church must never forget.

She is not only a testimony to God's covenant faithfulness; she is also a mirror in which we see ourselves.

How often God revealed His power to His people! He opened the Red Sea before them, fed them with manna from heaven, guided them by the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, and brought them safely into the land He had promised. Yet again and again they forgot His goodness. Their hearts wandered, and they trusted in themselves rather than in the living God.

As we read these sacred accounts, we must not judge them.

Instead, we should allow the Holy Spirit to ask us:

"Is your heart any different?"

Have we not also known His forgiveness?

Have we not experienced His provision?

Have we not rejoiced in His faithfulness?

Yet how easily our own hearts can drift. Quietly, almost unnoticed, the love of the world steals our affection for Jesus. Self-reliance replaces childlike trust. Even faithful Christian service can become a substitute for daily communion with the Lord Himself.

The greatest danger facing the Church today is not opposition from the world.

It is the gradual cooling of our love for Jesus.

This was the warning given to the church in Ephesus. Though commended for its labour, perseverance and faithfulness, it heard the searching words of its Lord:

"You have forsaken the love you had at first."

What a solemn warning for every generation.

The Lord still calls His people back to Himself. Whenever we lose our first love, we begin to lose His perspective. We no longer rejoice in what brings Him joy or grieve over what grieves His heart. Instead, our own concerns quietly take His place.

Perhaps this is why the Lord has once again allowed Israel to stand before the eyes of the nations.

Not to awaken curiosity about prophecy.

But to awaken His Church.

The shaking of our generation is an invitation to return to Him—to seek His face, to humble ourselves beneath His mighty hand, and to become a people whose hearts belong wholly to Jesus.

The Church's Calling in This Generation

We are living in an age unlike any before it.

Information travels across the world in moments. Opinions are formed before the truth is known. Fear spreads quickly, and hatred is stirred with alarming ease. Even within the Church there is growing confusion, as many believers allow the spirit of the age to shape their thinking more than the eternal Word of God.

How desperately we need spiritual discernment.

Such discernment is not gained through endless discussion or human wisdom. It is born in the secret place of prayer. It is given to those who wait quietly before the Lord with open Bibles and humble hearts. It is the fruit of abiding in Jesus.

When we kneel before Him, the clamour of the world begins to fade. Our fears lose their power, our opinions are surrendered, and the Holy Spirit teaches us to see with the eyes of Jesus.

Only then can we look upon Israel with humility. Only then can we look upon the nations with compassion. Only then can we pray according to the heart of God.

Our Lord never looked upon people merely as crowds. He saw sheep without a shepherd. He saw weary souls longing for hope. Even when He spoke words of warning, they flowed from a heart filled with love.

Should His Church reflect anything less?

As the world becomes increasingly divided, the people of God must not be overcome by fear, bitterness or anger. Rather, these days should deepen our dependence upon the Lord and strengthen our resolve to walk in His love.

The darkness of this age cannot overcome the light of Jesus.

Indeed, it is often in the darkest hours that His light shines most brightly.

Therefore, let us refuse to allow our hearts to be shaped by the spirit of this age. Instead, let us seek the mind of Christ. For when we know Him, we shall know how to pray. We shall know how to love. We shall know how to stand in humility, truth and compassion.

This is the calling of the Church in every generation.

Not to be carried along by the changing currents of the world, but to stand firmly upon the unchanging Word of God.

Not to react with fear, but to respond with faith.

Not to be overcome by darkness, but to shine with the light of Jesus.

For the Church belongs to her Bridegroom. Her strength has never been found in influence, numbers or human wisdom. Her strength is found in a life hidden with Jesus in God.

When the Church walks in humble obedience, she becomes a light to the nations. She bears witness to the faithfulness of God. She reveals the compassion of Jesus. And she prepares the way for the coming of the King.

Our Hope Is in the Coming King

As we look upon the events of our generation, let us never forget that history is not unfolding by chance.

The God who called Abraham still reigns.

The God who preserved Israel throughout the generations has not forgotten His covenant.

The God who fulfilled His promise by sending His Son into the world will fulfil every promise that yet remains.

Our confidence does not rest in governments.

It does not rest in military power.

It does not rest in the wisdom of men.

Our confidence rests in the unchanging faithfulness of God.

Throughout history, kingdoms have risen and fallen. Empires have flourished and disappeared. Nations that once seemed invincible now belong only to the pages of history.

Yet the God of Israel remains the same.

His Word still stands.

His covenant still endures.

His mercy is new every morning.

What comfort this brings to every child of God.

The One who has remained faithful throughout every generation will also remain faithful to His Church. Our future is not held in the hands of earthly rulers, but in the pierced hands of our risen Lord.

The Bride Awaits Her Bridegroom

As we consider God's everlasting love for Israel, we must never forget that His purpose has always been redemption.

From the call of Abraham to the fulfilment of the covenant in Jesus, the Lord has been revealing His heart to the world. Through the Law, the prophets, the Cross and the empty tomb, one glorious truth shines ever more brightly:

Everything points to Jesus.

He is the fulfilment of every promise.

He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

He is the Good Shepherd who still seeks the lost.

He is the Bridegroom who is preparing His Bride.

And He is the coming King before whom every knee shall bow.

This is the hope of the Church.

Our hope does not rest in changing world events, nor in the decisions of governments or the strength of nations. Neither does it rest in our understanding of prophecy. Our hope rests in Jesus, who reigns today and who will soon return in glory.

The day is drawing nearer when every promise of God will find its perfect fulfilment. The King whom Israel longed for, and whom the Church worships, shall be revealed in all His majesty. Every eye shall behold Him. Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Until that day, what kind of people ought we to be?

Surely we are called to be a people whose hearts belong wholly to Him.

A people who love because they have first been loved.

Who forgive because they have first been forgiven.

Who pray because they have first learned to listen.

Who bless because they themselves have received immeasurable grace.

The Lord is not merely seeking those who understand the signs of the times.

He is seeking those whose hearts are wholly His.

He is preparing a Bride.

A Bride clothed in humility.

A Bride purified through repentance.

A Bride who delights in obedience.

A Bride whose lamp burns brightly through the darkest night.

A Bride who longs above all else for the appearing of her Beloved.

This has always been the calling of the Church.

As Sisters we desire afresh to embrace that calling. We long to remain faithful to the spiritual inheritance entrusted to our Sisterhood—not merely in word, but in life. We desire to be a people of repentance, a people of prayer, a people who cherish the Holy Scriptures, and a people who carry the compassionate heart of Jesus for Israel and for all nations.

May we never become distracted by the clamour of our age.

May we never allow political opinions to replace biblical conviction.

May we never lose the simplicity of our first love for Jesus.

Instead, may the Holy Spirit continually draw us back to the feet of Jesus.

For it is there that pride is broken.

It is there that love is renewed.

It is there that faith is strengthened.

It is there that our hearts are enlarged with the compassion of Jesus.

It is there that we learn to see Israel—not through the eyes of the world, but through the eyes of our Saviour.

And it is there that we discover the deepest longing of God's heart.

He is preparing a Bride for His Son.

May we be found among that waiting Bride—watching, praying, serving, loving, trusting—until that glorious day when faith shall become sight and we shall behold our Lord face to face.

Then every promise shall be fulfilled.

Every prayer answered.

Every tear wiped away.

And together with the redeemed from every tribe and tongue and nation—including God's people, Israel—we shall worship before the throne of the Lamb who was slain and who lives for evermore.

Until that day, may this be the prayer that rises continually from our hearts:

Lord Jesus, teach us to love what You love.

Give us Your heart for Israel.

Give us Your heart for the nations.

Keep us faithful to Your Word, steadfast in prayer, humble beneath Your Cross, and filled with joyful expectation for Your return.

Prepare us, by Your Holy Spirit, to be a Bride without spot or wrinkle, wholly devoted to You.

May our lives bear witness to Your faithfulness until the day we see You face to face.

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20)

A Prayer for Israel and the Heart of God

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with humble and grateful hearts, acknowledging that You alone are the everlasting God, whose purposes stand through every generation. Before the foundations of the earth were laid, You knew the end from the beginning, and in Your infinite wisdom and love You chose a people through whom You would reveal Your glory and bring forth the Redeemer of the world.

We praise You for Your unfailing faithfulness. Though nations rise and fall, though the hearts of men are often unfaithful, Your covenant remains sure. Your promises never fail, for You are the same yesterday, today and forever. We worship You because Your love is steadfast, Your mercy endures, and Your Word stands firm throughout all generations.

Lord Jesus, we thank You that every promise of God finds its fulfilment in You. You are the Messiah promised to Israel, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost, and the Bridegroom who is preparing His Bride for the day of Your glorious appearing.

As we look upon Israel and the events unfolding in our generation, keep us from being led by fear, speculation or the spirit of this age. Instead, grant us hearts that are quiet before You, ears that recognise Your voice, and eyes that see through the light of Your eternal Word.

Search us, O Lord. If our love has grown cold, restore us to our first love.

If pride has found a place within us, humble us beneath Your mighty hand.

If we have become distracted by the opinions of the world, draw us again to the simplicity of wholehearted devotion to You.

Teach us to love what You love.

Teach us to grieve over what grieves Your heart.

Teach us to rejoice in Your faithfulness and to walk in obedience to Your holy will.

Give us Your compassionate heart for Israel. May we never view Your people merely through the lens of history or current events, but through the eyes of our Saviour, who wept over Jerusalem with unfathomable love. Give us grace to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, to bless rather than condemn, and to remain steadfast in the confidence that You are accomplishing every purpose You have spoken.

Yet, Father, enlarge our hearts also for every nation. Let the compassion of Jesus flow through us to a world that is weary, divided and searching for hope. Make us faithful witnesses of the Gospel, shining as lights in the darkness until the knowledge of the glory of the Lord fills the earth.

Holy Spirit, prepare us to be a Bride worthy of our Beloved.

Clothe us with humility. Purify us through repentance, and Strengthen us in holiness.

Fill us anew with love for the Holy Scriptures, delight in prayer, and joyful obedience to Your voice.

May our lamps burn brightly as we wait for the coming of the Bridegroom. Keep us watching, praying and serving with faithful hearts, so that when our Lord appears He will find us ready, rejoicing and wholly His.

May we remain faithful to the calling You have entrusted to us. Preserve within us the spirit of repentance, the love of the Cross, compassion for Israel and the nations, and an unwavering hope in the glorious return of Jesus.

And when the kingdoms of this world have passed away, when every promise has been fulfilled, and when every knee bows before the King of kings, may we join with the redeemed from every tribe, every tongue and every nation—including Your beloved people Israel—in joyful worship before the throne of the Lamb who was slain and who lives forever.

Amen.

Thank you for your prayers, friendship and support.
May God bless each one of you abundantly!

The Evangelical Sisters of Mary

Israel - My Beloved

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Israel
My Beloved

Verse 1

I have loved you with an everlsting love,
Before the mountains kissed the sky.
I called your name, I chose your way,
To lift My light for all mankind.

Though you have wandered far from Me,
Though tears have stained Jerusalem,
Still My covenant shall remain,
For I am faithful to the end.

Chorus

Israel, My beloved,
Written on the palms of My hands.
Israel, My treasured one,
Held forever in My Father's plans.

I will never leave you,
I will never let you go.
For My love is everlasting,
More than you will ever know.

Verse 2

From Abraham I spoke My Word,
Through David sang redemption's song.
The prophets lifted up their voice,
Declaring, "God is ever strong."

Then from your hills My Lamb was led,
The spotless One for sinners slain;
From Zion's hope the Cross arose,
To bless the peoples in His Name.

Chorus

Israel, My beloved,
Written on the palms of My hands.
Israel, My treasured one,
Held forever in My Father's plans.

I will never leave you,
I will never let you go.
For My love is everlasting,
More than you will ever know.

Bridge

Pray for Jerusalem.
Pray for her peace.
Pray for the day
When every heart shall see the King.

Lift up your eyes.
Redemption draws near.
The Bridegroom comes—
Prepare the way.

Verse 3

One day the King shall stand again
Upon the Mount where prophets prayed.
The nations all shall see His glory,
The darkness flee before His face.

Together every tribe shall sing,
Redeemed by grace before His throne.
From Israel's hope salvation came,
And Christ shall reign forevermore.

Final Chorus

Israel, beloved of God,
Your Keeper neither sleeps nor dies.
Faithful through the passing ages,
Still He watches from the skies.

Church of Christ, arise in mercy.
Love what Jesus loves today.
Stand in prayer with hope unshaken—
For the King is on His way.

Ending

Even so...
Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to Zion.

Come to every
waiting heart.

Come, O King
of Israel.

Amen.

"The Bord your God is with you, He is mighty to save."
Zephaniah 3:17