Why Stand With Israel Today?

A Sermon Guide for Pastors

A Biblical Call to Conviction, Prayer, and Peacemaking



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Key Texts

Genesis 12:3; Psalm 122:6; Romans 9:4-5; Romans 11:17-27; Luke 19:13

MAIN IDEA

Main Idea

Christians stand with Israel today because Scripture ties our faith to God's covenant purposes, the Jewish roots of redemption, the land God uniquely calls His, and the biblical command to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. This stand must be expressed with humility, truth, prayer, compassion, and neighbor love.

PASTORAL NOTE

Pastoral Note

This guide is designed to help pastors preach with biblical conviction and pastoral wisdom. Standing with Israel should never be preached as hostility toward Arabs, Palestinians, Muslims, or any other people. The biblical position must be joined to compassion for all who suffer, dignity for every person made in the image of God, and prayer for peace in the entire region.

Where appropriate, pastors are encouraged to include a brief personal or local story that helps the congregation see Jewish people not only as a people of biblical history or current events, but as neighbors, families, students, colleagues, worshipers, and friends.

INTRODUCTION: PREACHER SETUP

We are living in a sobering moment in history. The Church cannot afford to be confused about Israel, silent about antisemitism, or passive about the biblical command to pray for Jerusalem. This is not first a political issue. It is a biblical issue. It touches covenant, Scripture, redemption, prayer, history, prophecy, and the mission of the Church. The question before us is not merely, What is happening in the headlines? The deeper question is, What has God said in His Word? And if God has spoken, then the people of God must respond with conviction, humility, love, and courage.

Story Note for Pastors

This is a strong place to briefly share a personal connection to Israel, Jerusalem, a Jewish friend, a local rabbi, a synagogue, a Jewish student, or a Jewish family. Keep the story human and pastoral. The goal is to remind the church that Jewish people are not an abstract theological category. They are people God loves, people we are called to honor, and people who may be carrying real concern in this moment.

SERMON DIRECTION

The content of this sermon can be preached as an eight-reason biblical framework. Each reason can stand alone as a full point, or pastors may combine reasons into a shorter three or four point message.

REASON 1: WE STAND WITH ISRAEL BECAUSE GOD CHOSE TO BLESS THE WORLD THROUGH THE JEWISH PEOPLE

> **Genesis 12:3**
>
> "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

> **Romans 9:4-5**
>
> Paul names Israel's gifts: adoption, glory, covenants, law, worship, promises, the patriarchs, and the Messiah according to the flesh.

The Bible begins the redemptive story of the nations with God's covenant call to Abraham. Through Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and the people of Israel, God revealed Himself, gave His Word, established covenant promises, and brought the Messiah into the world.

- The Jewish people are not peripheral to the story of redemption. They are central to the way God chose to reveal His covenant purposes.
- Through Israel came the covenants, the law, the promises, the prophets, the Scriptures, and ultimately Jesus the Messiah.
- Gratitude for the Jewish people is not political flattery. It is biblical humility.

Teaching Emphasis

- Every believer should carry thanksgiving for God's work through the Jewish people.
- We do not honor Israel because Israel is perfect. We honor God's covenant purposes because God is faithful.
- Christian faith is not rootless. It grew from the soil of God's covenant with Israel.

REASON 2: WE STAND WITH ISRAEL BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS GRAFTED INTO ISRAEL'S STORY

Romans 11:17-18

Paul warns Gentile believers not to boast against the branches, because the root supports them.

Romans 9 through 11 gives the Church one of the clearest biblical frameworks for understanding Israel, the Jewish people, and the mercy of God toward the nations. Paul does not teach the Church to become arrogant over Israel. He teaches the Church to fear God, honor the root, and marvel at mercy.

- Gentile believers are described as wild olive branches grafted into the covenant root.
- The Church does not replace Israel. The Church receives mercy through the Jewish Messiah and is grafted into a story God began long before us.
- A haughty Church toward the Jewish people is a Church that has forgotten the root that supports it.

Preaching Line

We do not carry the root. The root carries us.

REASON 3: WE STAND WITH ISRAEL BECAUSE GOD HAS SPOKEN UNIQUELY ABOUT THE LAND

> **Leviticus 25:23**
>
> "The land is Mine."

Scripture repeatedly points to the uniqueness of the land of Israel. Israel is a land about which God speaks in covenantal, prophetic, and redemptive terms. This should be handled with reverence, not arrogance, and with humility, not hostility.

- God identifies the land as His land and assigns covenant meaning to it.
- God commits promises to Abraham and his offspring through Isaac.
- The prophets speak of scattering, restoration, judgment, mercy, and God's future purposes concerning the land and the people.

KEY REFERENCES FOR STUDY

- Leviticus 25:23: The land belongs to the Lord.
- Genesis 17:7-8: God establishes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants.
- Psalm 85:1-2: God shows favor to His land and mercy to His people.
- Ezekiel 37:1-28: God speaks of restoration, covenant, and His presence among His people.
- Joel 3:2: The Lord speaks of the nations, His people, and His land.
- Zechariah 9:16: The Lord saves His people and lifts them like jewels over His land.

Pastoral Guardrail

Preach the land carefully. The point is not triumphalism. The point is reverence for what God has said. A biblical view of Israel should produce humility, prayer, and obedience, not contempt toward anyone else.

REASON 4: WE STAND WITH ISRAEL BECAUSE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED AS RACISM OR EXPANSIONISM

This message argues that Israel's present conflict should not be framed as a Jewish initiative of racism or expansionism. In a sermon setting, this point should be preached carefully, without reducing a complex regional conflict to slogans, but with clarity that the Jewish people have a legitimate right to live securely in their ancestral homeland.

- Do not allow biblical conviction to be replaced by simplistic narratives.
- Do not allow criticism of a policy to become denial of a people's right to exist.
- Do not allow compassion for one group to become hostility toward another group.

Preaching Emphasis

A Christian can pray for peace, grieve suffering, reject hatred, and still affirm the Jewish people's right to live securely in the land connected to God's covenant story.

REASON 5: WE STAND WITH ISRAEL WITHOUT BECOMING LOVELESS TOWARD OTHERS

Standing with Israel is not the same as opposing Arab peoples, ignoring Palestinian suffering, or withholding compassion from Muslim neighbors. The biblical posture must be clear: God has no disposition against any human being, and standing with Israel does not require an anti-Arab or anti-Muslim spirit.

- Biblical conviction must never become ethnic hatred.
- Support for Israel must be joined to a clear affirmation of the dignity of all people made in God's image.
- The Church can stand with Israel and still pray for peace, mercy, salvation, protection, and justice for every person in the region.

Pastoral Note

This point is essential. Say it clearly. A pro-Israel sermon should never give room for bigotry. It should call the church to moral clarity, compassion, and Christian love.

REASON 6: WE STAND WITH ISRAEL BECAUSE ANTISEMITISM IS SPIRITUAL, NOT MERELY POLITICAL

> **Ephesians 6:12**
>
> Our struggle is not merely against flesh and blood, but against spiritual powers.

The hatred of the Jewish people cannot be reduced to politics. Across history, antisemitism has carried a demonic persistence. It adapts to every age, every ideology, and every culture. The Church must be spiritually awake enough to recognize that hatred of the Jewish people is not just social tension. It is spiritual darkness.

- Some opposition to Israel is political. Some is historical. Some is ideological. But antisemitism is also spiritual.
- The Church must resist hatred in prayer, preaching, discipleship, and public witness.
- Intercession matters because spiritual powers are not defeated by slogans. They are resisted through truth, prayer, humility, and obedience.

Human Story Prompt

Consider sharing a brief example of a Jewish student hiding a Star of David necklace, a Jewish parent worried about a child on campus, a synagogue increasing security, or a Jewish neighbor wondering whether Christian friends will speak up. Use a real local story with permission whenever possible.

REASON 7: WE STAND WITH ISRAEL BECAUSE THE SPIRIT THAT HATES THE JEWISH PEOPLE ALSO OPPOSES THE CHURCH

The same spiritual hostility aimed at Jews is also aimed at Christians. The issue beneath the issue is hostility toward the God of Scripture, the God who reveals Himself as Creator, Judge, Redeemer, and moral Lawgiver.

- God as Creator calls for worship.
- God as Judge calls for accountability.
- God as Redeemer has revealed Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ.
- God as moral Lawgiver calls all humanity to righteousness.

When the world rejects the God of Scripture, it will often resent the witnesses connected to His revelation. The Jewish people and the Christian Church have both borne witness to the reality of the living God.

> **Preaching Line**
>
> A world that hates the root will eventually hate the branches too.

REASON 8: WE STAND WITH ISRAEL BECAUSE GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO INTERCESSION UNTIL CHRIST COMES

> **Psalm 122:6**
>
> "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you."

> **Luke 19:13**
>
> Jesus teaches His servants to do business until He comes.

The Church is not called to speculate passively about the end of the age. We are called to be faithful. We pray with expectancy. We minister with urgency. We stand with moral and biblical conviction. We bless what God blesses and refuse to be silent where Scripture calls us to speak.

- This is a time for intercession, not indifference.
- This is a time for biblical conviction, not confusion.
- This is a time for peacemaking, not passivity.
- This is a time for the Church to stand with humility, courage, and love.

> **Preaching Line**
>
> We do not pray for Jerusalem because the headlines are clear. We pray because the Word of God is clear.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO STAND WITH ISRAEL

1. Equip yourself with reliable information. Avoid bigotry, blind spots, careless reposting, and simplistic narratives. Learn the basics of biblical history, Jewish history, and the modern history of the Middle East.

2. Pray faithfully for the peace of Jerusalem. Make Psalm 122:6 part of your church's prayer life, leadership meetings, small groups, and personal intercession.

3. Pray for national leaders to govern with wisdom. Ask God to give leaders courage, restraint, justice, mercy, and moral clarity.

4. Show friendship toward Jewish neighbors and community leaders. Reach out to a Jewish friend, rabbi, colleague, student, or local synagogue with humility and kindness.

5. Reject antisemitism clearly. Teach your church to recognize, name, and resist hatred toward Jewish people in speech, online spaces, schools, workplaces, and communities.

6. Be gracious to all people. While naming terrorism and evil honestly, refuse bigotry toward Arabs, Palestinians, Muslims, or any other people group.

7. Consider visiting Israel as a point of prayer, learning, solidarity, and practical support when possible.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I understand the Jewish roots of my Christian faith?
- Have I allowed headlines to shape my view more than Scripture?
- Do I pray regularly for the peace of Jerusalem?
- Who are the Jewish people in my city, school, workplace, or neighborhood?
- Have I reached out to a Jewish neighbor or leader with humility and friendship?
- Do my words about Israel and Jewish people reflect truth, compassion, and spiritual maturity?
- Can I stand with Israel while still praying for peace and mercy for every person in the region?

ALTAR / RESPONSE MOMENT (OPTIONAL)

Pastors may close the message with prayer rather than political commentary. Lead the congregation to respond spiritually, pastorally, and biblically.

- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- Pray for the Jewish people and for protection against antisemitism.
- Pray for Israel's leaders, citizens, soldiers, families, and communities.
- Pray for Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, Christians, and all who are suffering in the region.
- Pray for local Jewish neighbors, synagogues, students, and families.
- Pray for the Church to walk in truth, humility, courage, and love.

PASTORAL RESOLUTION FOR A CALL TO PRAYER

Resolution

Understanding that we are children of Abraham by faith, the wild olive branch grafted into the root of God's covenant, we recognize the biblical mandate to seek the good and peace of Jerusalem. We affirm that God's love and intended blessing are for all nations and peoples. We pray for Jerusalem, for Israel, for the Jewish people, and for peace throughout the entire region.

Suggested use: This resolution may be read by the pastor, adapted for a prayer gathering, or used as language for a church-wide call to prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

Closing Prayer

Father, we come before You with humility and reverence. Teach us to love what You love, honor what You have spoken, and pray according to Your Word. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We pray for the Jewish people. We pray for Israel. We pray for every person suffering in the region. We ask You to protect the innocent, comfort the grieving, expose hatred, restrain evil, and give wisdom to leaders. Make Your Church faithful, courageous, compassionate, and clear. Help us stand with biblical conviction and Christlike love. In Jesus' name, Amen.