

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 754

October 25, 2023

“Are you on the guest list to be at the greatest wedding EVER? How does this relate to Israel?”

Marriage is a spiritual picture and testimony of Christ’s relationship to the church. One day Jesus will come again (rapture) and His bride (the church – all that have put their faith in Jesus) will be ushered into heaven. We have all attended a wedding here on earth, but that was a tiny event compared to an even bigger wedding in heaven. What do I mean?

When we think about what is happening in Israel today, it is incredibly sad and unsettling. Jesus walked the very streets where devastation is taking place in Israel. God has seen the land through conflict after conflict. If you read the history of Israel and the Palestinians then, these events are not surprising.

Today’s media tries to control the narrative to change the way people “feel” without providing facts and context. Israel should not stop attacking Hamas. If Israel stops, there will be complete genocide from river to sea. Has Israel been perfect? NO.

Here is what the Bible says about standing up for Israel: Genesis 12: 1-3 “Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

God Promises Abraham Land

The first part of God’s promise to Abraham was land. Today that land is called Israel. The promise is repeated in Genesis 15:18-21 and 17:8. Exodus 23: 28-31 describes the boundary of the land as extending from the Red Sea to the wilderness of the Euphrates River. A more detailed description of the Promised Land is given in Numbers 34:1-13.

God Promises to Bless and Protect

Third, God promised to protect the nation of Israel. God promised to bless those nations who bless Israel. But anyone who seeks to harm Israel will be cursed. This is the reason to support Israel. Any nation in the world who seeks to harm Israel will find God’s wrath upon it. God’s wrath will come when He chooses. For some it will not occur until the end of the world (Revelations 18:1-2, 24; 20:11-15).

Another important passage is found in Genesis 27:29 “May peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you; Be master of your brothers, And may your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed be those who bless you.” The Stolen Blessing. This is the same message as Genesis 12: 2-3

God Will Punish the Sins of Anti-Semitism

Fourth, Ezekiel 25 tells us that God will punish the sins of Anti-Semitism and Anti-Judaism. Not only will God punish those who attack Israel, but He will punish those who rejoice when Israel suffers. Eventually, God destroyed one nation because it attacked Israel. (Canaan) Another nation (Edom) was destroyed because it rejoiced when Israel was attacked by another nation. In addition, another nation was destroyed because it sought vengeance on Israel. One nation was punished because they claimed that Israel did not have a special relationship with God. This last point is a warning to those who teach millennialism, postmillennialism and preterism. These theological views of the end times are teaching that the church has replaced Israel. These views are also called replacement theology. They claim that God is finished with Israel. They ignore the truth that Jerusalem is the focus of the world.

God also gave Abraham another promise in Genesis 17: 2-7 and then explained it in Galatians 3:8, and 16. This promise refers to Christ. That is, God promised that Jesus Christ would come through Abraham’s descendants. Jesus Christ would be born for the purpose of dying so that our sins can be forgiven. (Matthew 26:28; Luke 24:47)

The Bible teaches that God loves both Jews and Gentiles (John 3:16). But God does have a special love and plan for His chosen people. Our God is a God who seeks relationships. He is not a cold and sterile God. He wants us to love and to seek Him.

A key point in all this today, is that if Israel gives up, there will be a genocide from the river to the sea, which is the goal of terrorist organizations. The Muslim terrorists’ goal is to usher in Sharia law at any cost. You convert or die or pay a tax to the Muslim terrorist rulers.

Israel is using all the force they need to win their military objectives, while Hamas is intentionally using more than they need to win.

Hamas has blocked humanitarian relief efforts, Israel has not.

Hamas has been hindering civilians fleeing to safety, while Israel has tried to free innocent civilians.

The horrific slaughtering of babies, children, women, elderly and survivors of the Holocaust, while they rejoice has been done by Hamas, not Israel.

The only way complete peace will come is through the Prince of Peace. Do you know Him personally? Have you put your faith and trust in Him through His blood shed as a remission for your sins? Do you know that the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ alone. Have you repented and turned from your wicked ways. GOD is a righteous Judge, at the same time a gracious & loving God.

Though the marriage of the Lamb to His bride (the church) and the marriage supper of the Lamb are closely related, they are separate events, just as the wedding ceremony and the wedding reception of our day are separate events. In fact, these two events are often held at two different locations, just as the marriage of the Lamb will be in heaven right before the second coming (Rev. 19), while the marriage supper of the Lamb will commence with the beginning of the millennium. The most important thing for anyone to consider is whether they will be invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Even if all that doesn't make sense to you right now, make sure you are one of the guests at the most important wedding EVER, by accepting the invitation.

It is a free gift of salvation through simple faith in Him. The gospel is about Jesus— what He did, His life of perfect obedience, His atoning death on the cross, His resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven & the new birth through the regeneration by the Holy Spirit. This free gift of eternal life is by the grace of God. Jesus came to suffer and die for our sins, so that if we put our trust in Him and what He accomplished on the cross, we are counted as righteous and will have eternal life.

Romans 10:9 – 11 “That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. “

What can you do?

- First make sure you will be attending the marriage supper of the Lamb (the ultimate sacrificial spotless lamb)
- Pray for Israel. Pray for innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilians. Pray for the Israeli military. Pray for the leadership that is involved.
- Allow your faith to keep you anchored.

Will you join me in praying for Israel and for peace?

Donna Williams - Ruling Elder - HOPE Church Raleigh Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, October 25

NR Pastors PRISM Group
@ 9:00 a.m.

TLC Devotion @ 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Night Supper, Study &
Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.

Friday, October 27

HOPE Session Retreat

Saturday, October 28

HOPE Session Retreat

Sunday, October 29

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Wednesday, November 1

Wednesday Night Supper, Study &
Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - October 29
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - October 29
Bill Joyner

Soundboard - October 29
Ben Pierce

Live Streaming - October 29
Diane Williams

Communion - October
Terry Duffell

Greeter - October 29
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - October 29
Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon
This Sunday
The Parables of Jesus

Luke 8:5 - 15
"The Parable of
the Sower"

Daily Devotions For This Coming Week

Oct	29	Ezekiel 4
Oct	30	Ezekiel 5
Oct	31	Ezekiel 6
Nov	1	Ezekiel 7
Nov	2	Ezekiel 8
Nov	3	Ezekiel 9
Nov	4	Ezekiel 10



Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

Pop Top Soups

We have a collection bin in the foyer

HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if
needed for you or someone else.

The Computer Lab

Saturday, November 11 @ 9:00
a.m.

TLC Devotion

TODAY, October 25
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Women of HOPE

Saturday, October 28
@ 1:00 p.m.

REBOOT/Revitalization
Begin now praying for our
Vision Team as it forms

Men of HOPE

Men of the church, be praying about
whether God is calling you to lead this
Men's group at HOPE.

Quote of the Week

"Faith is deliberate confidence
in the character of God whose
ways you may not understand
at the time."

Oswald Chambers

Prayer Requests:

Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Jamie
Baldwin, Donna Williams, Diane Williams,
Carol & Colin (Kathy Herriman's Sister &
Brother-in-law), Loretta (Sandi
Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers,
Shelley, Diane Mack's Sister-in-law,
Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of
Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy
and Billy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's
brothers), Gene & Becky Hale, Dave &
Dot Geil, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin
(Sandra Pierce's dad and stepmom),
Brian Adam's dad, our Military, our
Missionaries, our Nation, and the world.
If you have those you would like added to
our prayer concerns, please email me
those names.

Wednesday Night Ministries

**Wednesday Night Supper,
Study, & Prayer**
October 25
@ 6:15 p.m.

Study of Exodus
Bring your Bibles

A Zoom Link will be available for
those who cannot meet in person.

Menu:

Beef Roast, Mashed Potatoes,
Green Beans, Rolls & Dessert

Upcoming Dates

Annual Session Retreat
October 27/28

**Annual Meeting of the
HOPE Congregation**
Sunday, November 19

Hanging of the Greens
Saturday, December 2
Advent Season Begins
Sunday, December 3

HOPE Church Raleigh
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church
4911 Green Rd
Raleigh, NC 27616
919-508-6827

Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

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YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"
in the search box)