



Het evangelie
weer terug in
Jeruzalem

De cirkel is rond

The Gospel is back in Jerusalem!

From Jerusalem the gospel spread to Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). Now, after more than 2000 years, the fire of the gospel is returning to Jerusalem! It has come to full circle!

When Jews have to flee from Israel (destruction of Jerusalem 70 A.C.), Israel becomes a barren wasteland. Over 2000 years God's focus seems to be more on the gentiles than on the Jews. Jesus calls this the '*time of the gentiles*' and it lasts as long as Jerusalem is trampled by the gentiles (Luke 21:24). From 1948 (declaration of the state of Israel), the '*time of the restoration of Israel*' starts and Jews start to return to Israel on a massive scale. It's not until 1967 that Jerusalem comes back under Jewish self-government and is not trampled by non-Jews any longer. Can we say that the by God determined '*time of the gentiles*' has ended? Romans 11:25 tells us a secret: a partial *hardening has come over Israel, until* the 'fulness of the gentiles has come'. The fact is that in the meantime almost all the nations have been reached with the gospel. Is God 'softening' the 'hardened' Jewish hearts in our time? There is no question that only after 1967 there was a significant growth of the number of Messianic believers in Israel, not before that! In the meantime there are approximately 25,000 – 30,000 Messianic believers!

And so the gospel returns to Jerusalem! The spiritual restoration of Israel has begun. Dead rocks become alive in Him and they are preludes to the massive conversion of the Jewish people. We are looking forward to the big revival that God has promised. All Israel will be

saved when the time of the fulness of the gentiles has come and “this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins” (Romans 11:27).

Notice Gods timing

Not recognizing Gods ‘signs of the times’ became fateful to Israel, they ‘did not recognize the time of God’s coming to them’ (Luke 19:44). How awful to - despite Bible knowledge - miss Gods timing. A warning, also to us. They expected the ‘restoration of the Kingship for Israel’, not a crucified Messiah! It is again shocking when with Pentecost also ‘gentiles’ come to faith in Jesus (Acts 15:14-17). A special meeting was necessary and Peter explains ‘how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles, and after that will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent’. So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear His name (Acts 15:14-17). This is Gods masterplan: salvation and restoration for all nations!

Misunderstood

I feel like Peter regularly. Like Peter had to convince the Jews back then because of the ‘non-Jews’ that came to faith, I feel the same sometimes in Christian circles, but than the other way around! Many churches struggle to give Israel a lively place. The key is relationship with the Messianic congregation in Israel itself. The prophets have been looking forward tot he spiritual restoration of Israel for centuries. So the nations will know that I am Lord (Ez. 36:23), so there will come revival (Acts 15:17), the dead will rise (Romas 11:15) and the King Himself will return! What else do we want? It cannot be said from any other country in the world, Church, don’t miss it!

Gods covenants under fire

Yes, the gospel returns! But don’t think that satans crossfire against Gods covenants with Israel will stop just like that. On the contrary, it is an intense spiritual battle, because Jesus is going to return! Christian antisemitism is a deception that says the church has taken the place of Israel. It is a spiritual satanic stronghold by which millions of Jews are hated and executed in the name of Christ. As a result, for many Jews it is hard to recognize/acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah, also because it is associated with conversion to Christianity.

Church awaken

There is a supernatural battle going on to prevent the Christian church from making Israel jealous for their Messiah (Romans 11:11). 2000 years have passed already so it is high time to awaken! The young Messianic congregations need the non-Jewish church in prayers and relationships, and the other way around the church needs them!

Youth

There is also a young generation missing in church when it comes to Gods plan with Israel. That is why PETACH TIKVAH wants to help churches with education, or connect young people in different ways to the living stones in Israel. We have for example developed an interactive and challenging training for (youth)groups and bible study groups, named 'Israel, the Messiah and you'. For our vision, you can read more in 'Mobilizing young people for Gods plan with Israel and the nations'.

Help

You can make a difference and change history! By offering your hands and heart to God! Come and help us, because we cannot do this by ourselves! Maybe financially, but also in prayer or practical. Or connect young people to us. We have a number of vacancies and especially want to challenge young people to be a torch bearer!

Eelco Schaap