

# ISRAEL MANDATE TEACHING GUIDE

## PART I – WHY ISRAEL?

A glorious mandate to Israel has prompted some to ask, “Why Israel, why not all the other nations of the world?”

Although God’s heart is certainly for every nation and every people to know the truth, there is only one nation and people that He made an everlasting covenant with and calls “the apple of His eye.” That nation is Israel.

### A. GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH THE PEOPLE AND THE LAND OF ISRAEL.

#### 1. With Abraham: *Genesis 12:1-3*

Scripture is very clear that God made a covenant with Abraham concerning the land of Israel and its people. (NKJV unless otherwise noted)

In *Genesis 12:1-3*, God promised to do 7 things:

- I will show you a land
- I will make you a great nation
- I will bless you
- I will make your name great
- I will bless those who bless you
- I will curse him who curses you
- In you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

This covenant was:

- 1) Literal: God meant exactly what He said.
- 2) Unconditional: Abraham had to do nothing but believe.
- 3) Unilateral: God alone would fulfill His covenant – He alone passed through the two parts of the sacrifice (see *Genesis 15:8-18*).
- 4) Everlasting: God hasn’t changed His mind! He is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

God reaffirms His covenant with the descendants of Abraham:

#### 2. Isaac: *Genesis 26:1-4*

*1 There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.*

*2 Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. 3 Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. 4 And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed"*

**3. Jacob: Genesis 28:13-15**

*13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. 14 Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. 15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."*

**4. Moses: Exodus 33:1-2**

*1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' 2 And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.*

**5. Joshua: Joshua 1:2-5**

*2 "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them – the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.*

**B. GOD'S COVENANT WITH THE PEOPLE**

**1. 1 Chronicles 17:21-22**

*21 And who is like Your people Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people – to make for Yourself a name by great and awesome deeds, by driving out nations from before Your people whom You redeemed from Egypt? 22 For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God.*

**2. Exodus 4:22-23**

*22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. 23 So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn."*

**3. Psalms 147:19-20**

*19 He declares His word to Jacob,  
His statutes and His judgments to Israel.  
20 He has not dealt thus with any nation;  
And as for His judgments, they have not known them.  
Praise the LORD!*

**4. Deuteronomy 7:6-7**

*6 "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. 7*

*The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples.*

**5. Amos 3:2**

*"You only have I known of all the families of the earth*

**6. Jeremiah 31:33**

*But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

**7. Deuteronomy 32:10**

*"He found him in a desert land and in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.*

**C. GOD'S COVENANT REGARDING THE LAND**

**1. Genesis 15:17-18**

*17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. 18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates*

**2. Genesis 17:7-8**

*7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. 8 Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."*

**3. Psalms 105:7-12**

*7 He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. 8 He remembers His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, 9 The covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, 10 and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel as an everlasting covenant, 11 saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the allotment of your inheritance," 12 when they were few in number, indeed very few, and strangers in it.*

**4. Numbers 34:1-7**

*1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Command the children of Israel, and say to them: When you come into the land of Canaan, this is the land that shall fall to you as an inheritance- the land of Canaan to its boundaries. 3 Your southern border shall be from the Wilderness of Zin along the border of Edom; then your southern border shall extend eastward to the end of the Salt Sea; 4 your border shall turn from the southern side of the Ascent of Akrabbim, continue to Zin, and be on the south of Kadesh Barnea; then it shall go on to Hazar Addar, and continue to Azmon; 5 the border shall turn from Azmon to the Brook of Egypt, and it shall end at the Sea. 6 As for the western border, you shall have the Great Sea for a border; this shall be your western border. 7 And this shall be your northern border: From the Great Sea you shall mark out your border line to Mount Hor*

5. Scriptures that reference Jerusalem in relation to God's promises, specifically are: *Psalms 46, 48, 122; 132:13; Jeremiah 3:17, Zechariah 2:5-8; 8:3, 22-23; 12:9; 14:8; Zechariah 2:10-13 (NLT)*

#### D. IT IS AN EVERLASTING COVENANT

##### 1. *Genesis 17:7*

And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you."

##### 2. *Psalms 105:8*

*He remembers His covenant forever,  
The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations,*

##### 3. *Jeremiah 31:35-37 (NIV)*

*35 This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— the LORD Almighty is his name: 36 "Only if these decrees vanish from my sight," declares the LORD, "will the descendants of Israel ever cease to be a nation before me." 37 This is what the LORD says: "Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done," declares the LORD.*

##### 4. *Jeremiah 33:19-26 (NLT)*

*19 Then this message came to Jeremiah from the LORD: 20 "If you can break my covenant with the day and the night so that they do not come on their usual schedule, 21 only then will my covenant with David, my servant, be broken. Only then will he no longer have a descendant to reign on his throne. The same is true for my covenant with the Levitical priests who minister before me. 22 And as the stars cannot be counted and the sand on the seashores cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David, my servant, and the Levites who minister before me."*

*23 The LORD gave another message to Jeremiah. He said, 24 "Have you heard what people are saying? The LORD chose Judah and Israel and then abandoned them! They are sneering and saying that Israel is not worthy to be counted as a nation. 25 But this is the LORD's reply: I would no more reject my people than I would change my laws of night and day, of earth and sky. 26 I will never abandon the descendants of Jacob or David, my servant, or change the plan that David's descendants will rule the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Instead, I will restore them to their land and have mercy on them."*

##### 5. *Ezekiel 16:60* (following God's charges against Israel for their spiritual adultery)

*"Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you .*

##### 6. *Malachi 3:6*

*"For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*

**7. Numbers 23:19**

*"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"*

- 8.** Additional scriptures related to the everlasting nature of the covenant: *Isaiah 54:4-10; 55:3; 59:21*

**E. THE COVENANT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

**1. Romans 9-11**

**2. Specifically:**

- a. Romans 9:1-5; 10:1; 11:1-5, 11-26, 29** (the entire chapter)

**F. THE PLAN OF GOD**

God's purpose was to use the man and the woman to bring forth His image in the earth, and to bring forth the world's Deliverer through them. In *Genesis 3:15*, God declared that Eve's Seed (Jesus) would crush the enemy's head. Through the Israelites, the family that began with Adam and Eve, and became a nation through Abraham, God would redeem all peoples from the effect of sin. All the families of the earth were to be blessed through Abraham (*Genesis 12:3*).

**G. THE PLAN OF THE ENEMY**

Satan's plan was to destroy the people through whom Messiah would come. Beginning with Adam and Eve, his plan was to bring sin, creating division between the two through whom God's plan would move forward. If Satan could do away with this one family, all the people of the earth would not be blessed through Abraham and his descendants. God's word would be proven wrong and Adam's children would forever be separated from the Father God.

Down through the ages, the enemy has sought to destroy God's chosen people, the Israelites:

- a. Pharaoh tried to keep them as slaves in bondage;
- b. Following David's reign, division of the tribes of Israel was meant to destroy David's family;
- c. Nation after nation attacked Israel. Foreign powers ruled Jerusalem.
- d. Haman sought to annihilate the Jews;
- e. Herod tried to kill the Messiah;
- f. The Crusades, the Inquisition: attempts to destroy the Jewish people;
- g. Hitler, a modern-day Haman, sought to do the same.
- h. Anti-Semitism
  - Definition: *Having or showing prejudice against Jews. It is discriminating against or persecuting Jews. It is opposition to the Jewish race.* (Webster's Dictionary and the Funk and Wagnall Dictionary)
- i. Replacement Theology:
  - A doctrine which holds that, because the Jews rejected the Messiah, therefore:
    - 1) The New Testament Church has replaced Israel in God's purposes;
    - 2) The Jewish people have been replaced by the Church as God's "chosen people";
    - 3) The promises, covenants, and blessings ascribed to Israel in the Bible no longer belong to the Jewish people or nation, but to the Church.
  - (For additional information on Replacement Theology, see Supplemental Information)

The enemy will use any and all means to thwart God's plan and purpose for His people and His land. The enemy thought he had accomplished his purpose when Jesus died on the Cross. But it was a very temporary victory. Once Jesus was resurrected, Satan continued his attempt to destroy Israel, knowing that one day the Jewish Messiah would return to establish a Jewish homeland and create the "one new man" spoken of in *Ephesians 2:15*. He also then began a strategy to discredit the Messiah Yeshua in the eyes of His people. That strategy continues today through anti-Semitism and the error of Replacement Theology in the Church. The enemy understood that the promises of God would not be realized if he was successful in destroying the national identity of His people.

## **H. ISRAEL IS UNIQUE AMONG NATIONS AND PEOPLES**

For over 4,000 years, the Jewish people have survived as a separate and unique people, despite opposition from the enemy.

The Bible clearly states that God has a unique relationship and covenant with the Jewish people...

*Psalm 147:20 -- He didn't do this for any other nation. They don't know his laws. (NCV)*

We have seen through Scripture that the covenant He made was an everlasting covenant, one that does not change. As you look at history, you realize that there is no other nation quite like Israel.

What other nation or people has been the target of abiding and relentless global anti-Semitism?

What other nation or people has been able to sustain a presence in the world when they have been so maligned and repeatedly plotted against?

What other people group, as small as it is, has had the profound influence that the Jewish people have in society (medicine, literature, education, finance, government, etc)?

What other people have had the spiritual impact on the minds and hearts of mankind?

Mark Twain, commenting on Israel before it was established as a nation in 1948 said:

*If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but 1% of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of stardust, lost in the blaze of our Milky Way. Properly the Jew ought never to be heard of, but he is heard of. He is always heard of. His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, abstruse learning are all so out of all proportion to the smallness of his bulk. He has made a marvelous fight in the world in all the ages, and he has done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain in himself and be excused for it. The Egyptian, the Babylonian, the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor and then faded to dream stuff and passed away. The Greek and Roman followed and made a vast noise and are gone. Other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time. But it burned out and they sit in twilight now or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew. All other forces pass but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?*

In a word: GOD!

All this is evidence that the God of history has selected, appointed, and protected the Jewish people down through the millennia because He has purpose for them!

## PART II – WHY AGLOW?

Over the past several years, God has birthed a revelation of His heart regarding Israel into the heart of the leadership of Aglow. He has actually been preparing the ministry for this call for many years. NOW is the time!

### A . THE “ESTHER” CALL

Down through the years, Aglow has received prophetic words that the ministry was called “for such a time as this.” As early as 1992, a word came likening Aglow to Esther, an ordinary Jewish girl who risked all to stand in the gap for her people. The plot to annihilate the Jews had come through Haman, an officer of the court, and would have succeeded in destroying the race had Esther not been obedient to the call of God to risk her life and go before the king. Before she went, she called for a 3-day fast among the people. In 1998 (and again in 2003), the Aglow ministry participated in a “Third Day” fast, based on *Esther 4:16* for the purpose of seeking God as He brought us into a new season and a new anointing. In retrospect, as we see what He unfolded in the following years, it is clear God has been at work preparing us “for such a time as this.”

In Esther’s story, she found favor in the king’s sight and he extended his scepter of authority to her. As a result, he granted her request, “up to half the kingdom,” and her people were ultimately redeemed from destruction. The enemy’s plan had failed once again.

### B. 1999 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

God confirmed the call of Esther in a very specific and clear way through a prophetic word at Aglow’s 1999 International Conference in Orlando, Florida. It was also the beginning of an unfolding revelation the Lord would bring concerning His heart for Israel, and Aglow’s role in His end-time purposes. The Lord, our King, prophetically extended His scepter to Aglow, calling the ministry to walk in the authority and favor of Esther, through a word from one of Aglow’s leaders:

*God has called Aglow as a ministry of Esthers... It is a ministry for such a time as this.’*

Several months following the conference, just before Aglow’s first trip to Israel, the word was expanded:

*Aglow has been called to stand in the gap for the people of Israel against the spirit of Haman, against the enemy’s attempts to annihilate God’s people... a plan that has persisted through the years.*

The significance of this “Esther call” took on greater meaning as God continued to speak to Aglow about Israel.

### C. 2000 – FIRST JOURNEY INTO THE LAND

Just 3 months after the loss of her husband, President Jane Hansen led a group of 450 women and men into Israel to stand with the people and pray for the land. It was just before, and during, this first Aglow journey into Israel, that God began to bring greater revelation about the Haman spirit and Aglow’s role in exposing it. A word came prior to the trip that stated, in essence, the same spirit of

annihilation that functioned through Haman was today seeking once again to annihilate the Jewish people. Aglow went to Israel knowing God had sent us in the spirit of Esther to stand against the spirit of Haman.

### HAMAN REVELATION

In Israel, revelation continued to unfold regarding Haman. In *Esther 3:1*, Haman is referred to as the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite. Cross-referencing that scripture, *1 Samuel 15:8* states that Agag, from whom Haman descended, was king of the Amalekites. The Amalekites were bitter enemies of Israel, having been the first tribe of people to attack them as they began their journey to the Promised Land following the crossing at the Red Sea. Because the Amalekites were interfering with the purposes of God through the Israelites, God emphatically declared His purpose for them as a people: destruction (see *Exodus 17:14-17*, also *Deuteronomy 25:17-19*).

One of the first directives given by God to King Saul shortly after his anointing as king of Israel was to destroy the Amalekites (*1 Samuel 15:1-3, 9*). However, Saul disobeyed the word of the Lord and spared Agag, king of the Amalekites as well as the best of the spoil. As a result, God rejected Saul as king. By not destroying this people, the spirit of annihilation against the Jewish people was allowed to continue until we see it surface in *Esther 3* in the person of Haman.

### THE HITLER CONNECTION

An interesting insight that came to light during the trip was the fact that, centuries after Esther's time, when Alexander the Great conquered Persia, Haman's descendants were exiled to Northern Europe, the land of the Huns, which modern day Germany. The continuing thread of the enemy's attempt to annihilate God's people continued through Adolph Hitler. His "final solution" to the "Jewish problem" was the resurgence of the spirit of Haman in modern history.

### HAMAN, HITLER... HUSSEIN

In the present day, one of the manifestations of the Haman spirit operating against the Jewish people is not an individual, like a Hitler or a Haman, but a system: a religious, political, economic, cultural, and social. This system called radical Islam. Exemplified by tyrants of the day such as Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden, it views Jews and Christians alike as "infidels," worthy of destruction. Radical Islam is intent on nothing less than seeing Islam dominate the nations of the earth.

### ESTHER ARISING

As we watch current events unfold in the light of biblical prophecy, we realize that the Middle East is the center of where it all began and where it all will end. How interesting that God has called a women's ministry to confront two key end-time issues: Islam and Israel.

Throughout history, God has used women primarily in *singular* ways (Jacobed, Deborah). Since 1967, we have seen God moving in an unprecedented way in the lives of women by calling them forth *corporately*, particularly through Aglow. He has equipped and prepared women to embrace their destiny and accomplish His purposes in the earth.

He has called forth an entire ministry of Esthers "for such a time as this" to stand against the spirit of Haman!

## THE CALL TO ISRAEL

It was also on this trip in July of 2000, that President Jane Hansen heard the Lord speak a word to her heart that she would be going in and out of Israel over the next several years. That word was confirmed by a trusted prophetic voice in the body of Christ. The three mandates of Aglow (Male/Female reconciliation, Islam, Israel) were becoming clearer as understanding regarding God's heart for His people and His land increased.

## SIGNIFICANT TIMING

God's timing for this first pilgrimage into the land could not have been more significant. To the natural mind, who would go to Israel in the month of July... probably one of the hottest months of the year when temperatures soared to over 100 degrees? Who would go to Israel given the ongoing unrest that has plagued this nation for decades? Who? Aglow! The 450 women and men who traveled the land, prayed and proclaimed God's prophetic purposes for Israel while expressing love and support for the Jewish people.

Concurrently with Aglow's 2000 journey to Israel, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat were meeting with President Bill Clinton at Camp David, Maryland, USA, in an attempt to come to an agreement that would lead to peace.

During the peace talks, a statement was issued by Rabbi Chaim Richman of the Temple Institute in Jerusalem, reflecting the seriousness of the time and the critical issues involved. His language calls to mind the continuing onslaught of the enemy to destroy the Jews:

*Even at this writing, the mad spectacle of the Camp David peace talks continues. The very survival of the Jewish people is at stake, as our morally bereft leadership continues along a path of self-destruction, and promises our precious homeland to the enemy of the Jewish people in exchange for... nothing. And in the meantime, the Palestinians are preparing for war and mayhem... The current spiritual struggle being waged within Israel is being fought over the future of this singular generation – the outcome will determine the future character of the State of Israel, and the Jewish people.*

In those peace talks, Prime Minister Barak made an unprecedented, and overgenerous offer to Yasser Arafat: he would give up 97% of the contested land of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), he would divide Jerusalem giving the Palestinian Authority sovereignty over the Temple Mount, and would give \$30 billion in compensation to rebuild the infrastructure of the ceded land.

Remarkably, Yasser Arafat turned down the offer. Even his Arab allies privately conceded that he had made a grave mistake. He did not even counter the offer. He just walked out of the peace talks. Had he accepted that offer, Jerusalem would look very different today.

God needed a prophetic people for a prophetic purpose at this specific time and place!

Aglow has been called "for such a time as this!"

## D. 2001 – THE CALL CONFIRMED

In June, 2001, the call to Israel upon Jane Hansen and Aglow was confirmed at a gathering in Florida through several prophets in the body of Christ, including Don Finto, author of *Your People Shall be My People*, and James Goll, founder of Encounters Network, and recent speaker at the Aglow International Conference in Indianapolis. Jane was called out of the audience, had hands laid upon her, and was prayed and prophesied over in relation to the call to Israel. It was a public impartation, a public setting apart, and a public anointing for Israel – not for Jane alone, but for the entire ministry as well.

The word declared that, as her eyes were being opened to the purposes of God for His people, so would the eyes of those “under her charge” be opened as well. The word continued that there would come, through Aglow, a new injection into the global prayer movement and the ministry of Aglow would be instrumental in calling forth a “massive, corporate day of repentance” for Replacement Theology in the body of Christ. It was also spoken that Queen Esther’s court was being raised up and that women are arising in the apostolic anointing as well as the anointing of the other 5-fold ministry gifts. One of the men present stated:

*You have been called. You have been positioned. You have been given the king’s favor. And we (men) are recognizing the place God is giving women.*

The men ministering these words knew nothing of God’s Esther call to Aglow down through the years. It was a significant moment of impartation for Jane and the ministry of Aglow. It was another milestone in the mandate to Israel.

## **E. 2002 – TWO TRIPS TO ISRAEL**

In 2002, Aglow made two trips into Israel: one for the Feast of Pentecost in May with 250 women and men, and in September for the Feast of Tabernacles, with a group of 35. The purpose of both journeys, and every journey Aglow makes to Israel, is spiritual, not political. The aim is to pray and declare God’s peace, protection, and promises over the land and His people. Through Aglow, God desires to bring down spiritual walls between the Jewish people and Christians and build new bonds of relationship as we walk the land.

Aglow women made an impact by their very presence in a nation where tourism, their main industry, was down by 97%. Visiting an army base in the Golan Heights and praying with soldiers, placing a wreath at a military memorial, meeting with government officials, and planting 250 trees in memory of the son of the group’s guide who died in combat just 3 months before – all were significant events on the second trip to Israel.

Aglow has been called “for such a time as this!”

## **F. 2003 – SIGNIFICANT TIMING, AGAIN!**

Once again, Aglow’s journey into the land in June, 2003, was significant in its timing. On June 5, 2003, Aglow women were praying in Metula, the northernmost point of Israel bordering Lebanon and Syria. As they let their voices be heard in heaven and earth, that same day, President George Bush was presenting his “Road Map to Peace” in Aqaba, Jordan. As he met with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, Aglow women (and the 22 husbands traveling with them) made powerful proclamations over the land and people of Israel.

This was also a time when the Chief Rabbi of Israel as well as the Minister of Tourism welcomed Aglow with open arms and were thankful that we had come. A powerful statement was made by the Chief Rabbi regarding Aglow: “YOU are the answer to the terrorists!”

Aglow has been called “for such a time as this!”

## G. 2004

On its 5<sup>th</sup> pilgrimage, in May, 2004, Aglow women (and a few good men!) numbering 200 celebrated the Feast of Pentecost with the Jewish people, first at the Western Wall very early in the morning, then later in the day as a “holiday festival” on a kibbutz outside of Jerusalem. It was a time of connecting with the people that put a personal perspective on the call to Israel for many who participated.

Aglow women prayed at the borders of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and at the Mediterranean Sea; took communion on a hill overlooking Jerusalem; wept at Yad Veshem, the Holocaust Memorial; floated on the Dead Sea; participated in an archaeological dig. All the while God was imparting into our hearts a love and understanding of His people and land that only comes from being there. Through this impartation, Aglow can stand in the gap with greater understanding and deeper compassion for the Jewish people.

Aglow has been called “for such a time as this!”

## H. 2005/2006 – NEW CONNECTIONS

In 2005, as we waited on God and considered the next step in our call to Israel, the Lord began to open up divine connections with the Messianic believers and ministries in the land. Through Don Finto and Asher Intrater, both of whom spoke at the 2005 Worldwide Conference and are deeply involved in the Messianic movement in Israel, we have made contacts with vibrant Messianic ministries in the nation of Israel.

Therefore, the 2006 journey into the land was somewhat different from past journeys. As is the case with each journey, Aglow women prayed and prophetically traveled the land to stand with God in His divine purposes for His people. This trip offered a variety of ways to connect with the people of Israel:

“First Timer” – Follow the footsteps of Jesus: Nazareth, Cana, Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Jordan River, Dead Sea

Prayer – On-site praying at key sites in the Galilee, northern Israel, Jerusalem

Compassion – Reaching out to those in need in tangible ways through connections with various ministries

Nature/Desert – A more physical experience: visit an archaeological dig, camel ride, Bedouin camp, Wilderness of Zin, Dead Sea

The journey concluded with visiting significant sites in and around Jerusalem followed by a 2-day mini-conference.

Each successive trip Aglow has taken into the land has revealed a unique focus that covered the particular aspect God wanted us to concentrate on at the time. The 2006 trip was as exciting and significant as every previous journey!

**A G L O W H A S B E E N C A L L E D “ F O R S U C H A T I M E A S T H I S ! ”**

## PART III – WHY NOW?

### A. BECAUSE GOD HAS SOVEREIGNLY SPOKEN TO THE MINISTRY OF AGLOW.

See “How we got to where we are... A brief history of Aglow’s mandates” at the front of this Teaching Guide.

### B. BECAUSE WE ARE LIVING OUT BIBLICAL PROPHECY IN OUR TIME

Israel, and specifically Jerusalem, are becoming the focal point of all the earth. The Middle East is center of the spiritual war that has been raging since the beginning of time, and will be the place where the culmination of the age occurs.

The timetable of biblical prophecy took a quantum leap on May 14, 1948.

From 70 AD after the fall of Jerusalem until 1948, the land of Israel was ruled by 18 different gentile nations.

But in the late afternoon of May 14, 1948 (Jewish year 5708) the British kept their word and took down their flag. That afternoon Israel proclaimed its independence and raised its newly designed flag featuring the Star of David. David Ben-Gurion was elected Israel’s first Prime Minister and Chaim Weizmann was elected the first President. Both were immigrants from Polish Russia.

#### ***Isaiah 66:8***

*8 Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children. (NIV)*

Israel is being opposed by the entire world. All eyes are focused upon this tiny nation, whose land mass is 1/10 of 1% of the land mass of the Middle East. Israel is surrounded by 22 Islamic nations. They, as well as the rest of the world, stand against this nation God has chosen, this city where He has chosen to place His name (*Psalm 132:13; 2 Chronicles 12:13; Zechariah 8:3*).

#### ***Ezekiel 5:5***

*"Thus says the Lord GOD: 'This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her.*

#### ***Zechariah 12:3***

*One day all the nations on earth will come together to attack Jerusalem, but I will make it like a heavy rock; anyone who tries to move it will get hurt. (NCV)*

**Luke 21** says that Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles and it has been. Beginning with the destruction of the temple in 70 AD, it has been trampled by the Romans, Byzantines, Muslims, Crusaders, Turks, and the British. Christians and Muslims have claimed its holy sites as their own.

Aglow is called in this strategic hour to stand with Israel, to be proactive in the face of biblical prophecy rather than passive. We are not to be confused with the political rhetoric on the news, nor dulled into apathy by the frequency of reports of violence. Our perspective of current events needs to be biblical and based on God’s Word and truth about Israel.

### C. BECAUSE ANTI-SEMITISM IS ON THE RISE AND IS AT PRE-WORLD WAR II LEVELS

A new wave of anti-Semitism is sweeping over Europe. In Britain, the media is openly scathing in their reporting on Israel. Spokesmen for the more than 2 million Muslims in Britain are hateful in their attacks on Israel and Israeli supporters. A new wave of hatred of Jews is sweeping France as well, giving great concern for the 600,000 Jewish population in that nation. There were 588 anti-Jewish acts in France in 2003. There has been a dangerous increase in hate crimes globally against Jews and Jewish places of worship, such as the bombings of synagogues in Istanbul, Turkey. Some social historians report that anti-Semitism is now reaching pre-World War II proportions worldwide.

According to Dr. Avi Becker, Secretary General of the World Jewish Congress, *The rise of anti-Semitism in Western Europe comes in the disguise of freedom of expression. There seems to be an attempt by Europeans to shrug off responsibility for the Holocaust by claiming that the Jews in Israel use the same tactics against the Arabs that the Nazis employed against the Jews.*

Other examples:

A Portuguese novelist declared that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza was tantamount to Nazism and that the Jews therefore no longer deserved sympathy for their suffering in the Holocaust.

A Greek composer said the Jews are the root of all evil.

At a United Nations Conference Against Racism in 2001, pro-Hitler posters were displayed on UN grounds and thousands of nongovernmental organizations signed a document that singled out Israel as the world's premier perpetrator of racism, apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and even genocide.

A November, 2003 poll in an Italian publication stated that "17% of the Italian public believed that, all in all, it would be better if the State of Israel did not exist." In the same poll, 22% said that Jewish citizens are not "real Italians."

The U.N. has never passed a resolution in support of Israel. Nor have they ever passed a resolution condemning the killing of Israelis by Arabs.

A European poll in 2003 rated Israel the greatest threat to world peace.

(For above references, see Jerusalem Report articles: *The Scourge Unleashed*, Dec. 15, 2003; *Long in Coming*, March 22, 2004; *French government report, unlike EU study, blames Muslim Arab delinquents for attack on Jews*, May 3, 2004)

A story of anti-Semitism in the U.S. city of Chicago, Illinois:

In March, 2004, Alan Dershowitz, Harvard law professor and author of *The Case for Israel*, was accosted by a group of screaming, angry young men and women carrying hateful anti-Israel signs, as he left a meeting of the Jewish Council on Public Affairs, where he received a justice award. They shouted phrases such as: *Dershowitz and Hitler, just the same, the only difference is the name. Dershowitz and Goebbels, just the same, the only difference is the name.* The sin that warranted this comparison was his support for Israel. What he saw in their faces was passionate hatred that was beyond mere differences of opinion. Dershowitz doesn't believe that criticism of Israel, or even Zionism, is tantamount to anti-Semitism, but what he experienced was beyond criticism. It was hatred that was meant to intimidate him into silence. Had police officers not been present, he believes he would have been attacked physically. (*Israel Insider on the Web*, March, 2004)

Anti-Semitism is alive and well and this time, the Church cannot remain silent. Aglow is called to stand with Israel and address anti-Semitism.

## PART IV – A G L O W ’S R E S P O N S E

The unfolding call of Aglow through the journeys into Israel have provided opportunity to meet the people, pray for the land and the borders, pray that the veil would be lifted and the scales would fall from the eyes of these precious people. Aglow has sought to obey God's prophetic cry through *Isaiah (40:1)*: „*Com fort, yes, com fort M y people!*‘ says your G od. *Speak com fort to Jerusa lem ...*

We do that by showing the love of Christ to a people who have, in history past, experienced pain and rejection at the hands of Christians. Aglow's desire is to promote understanding and relationship with the Jewish people and to re-establish bonds of love, humility, service, and self-sacrifice toward them. The response to Aglow's mandate can be summarized in three areas. (These points can be used in practical application of the mandate in the local Aglow group.)

### A. PRAYER! PERSONAL AND CORPORATE

#### *Psalms 122:6*

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you.*

#### *Isaiah 62:6-7*

*6 I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, 7 And give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*

God directs us to pray for Israel. This needs to be a priority in our prayer life.

Suggestions for personal prayer:

Join two women in a Triple Cord Prayer Group and pray for Israel;

Start or participate in a local Aglow prayer group that has a focus on Israel;

Pray the prayer requests that are available on Aglow's web site: [www.aglow.org](http://www.aglow.org)

Suggestions for participating in corporate prayer for Israel:

Participate in an Aglow journey to Israel;

Join Aglow sisters around the world in praying Aglow's 30-day prayer guide for Israel.

### B. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Educate yourself and your family first! Through studying Scripture, reading resource books and articles, allow God to bring revelation to your heart about the key role Israel holds in His purposes. (Supplemental Information follows this teaching for help in understanding the history of Israel and significant events that shaped the nation.)

Become knowledgeable about anti-Semitism and Replacement Theology (see Supplemental Information). Determine to repent of any place where these have slipped into your heart and your beliefs. Be willing to speak the truth to others concerning these issues.

### C. STAND WITH ISRAEL AND SPEAK COMFORT TO HIS PEOPLE

Purpose in your heart to honor and esteem the Jewish people as our elder brothers and sisters. Realize that it is through them that we have received the Bible, Old and New Testament, the concepts of covenant, a loving God, and a Jewish Messiah who is our personal Savior. Jesus was a Jewish man who kept Jewish traditions, taught in synagogue, was observant of the Torah – God's teaching or law.

Most of the books of the Bible were written by Jews. The apostles and early disciples were Jewish. They worshipped on Shabbat (Sabbath), celebrated the feasts, and attended synagogue. The membership of the early Church was mostly Jewish. The Jewish roots are the source or origin of our

faith. Through those roots, the plant that is the Church has grown, and from them we have received water and nourishment. The God they worship is the God we worship! The covenant they have - spiritually - is also our covenant.

Many today have considerable interest in tracing their family, ethnic and national ties. But many Christians do not have an understanding of their spiritual heritage. *Ephesians 3:6* says that we, as Gentiles (non-Jews) are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body. So we, as Gentiles have a new history – Israel's history is now our history. In the early Church, Jewish and Gentile believers claimed a common spiritual ancestry with the Hebrews of the Old Testament.

#### COMFORT MY PEOPLE...

If ever there was a segment of humanity that needed comfort, it is the Jewish people. Through the course of history, many other racial and religious groups have been the victims of prejudice and persecution. But the sufferings of the Jewish people far exceed all others in their intensity and duration.

**Derek Prince:** *Who are the comforters to comfort God's people, the Jews? It is the group that accepts God's prophetic Word as authoritative in their lives. The one group that answers this description is the whole body of Christ worldwide who accept the Bible as the Word of God and are committed to obeying it. To them God says, Speak comfort to Jerusalem.*

In the wisdom and mercy of God, He promises them not only regathering, but also comfort.

Scripture is clear in *Joel 3:1-2* and *Zechariah 14:1-3* that Jesus will judge the nations of the world for their attempts to re-divide Jerusalem and to alter Israel's sovereign borders.

#### **Joel 3:1-2**

*"For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land.*

As Aglow has journeyed into the land, supporting the people and loving the people, there has been an openness of heart in the people – open to Aglow women, and open to what they see and feel in us. They know we are Christians and they are responding. Here are what some of the Jewish people who have had contact with Aglow have said:

*What we feel when we are around Aglow groups, we don't feel when we are with our Jewish friends or even with other Christians. We love being with Aglow!*

Following a time of speaking/praying, a Jewish woman came to Jane saying: *Why don't we feel this way when the Rabbi speaks?*

One of the tour guides, on approaching Jerusalem where the group was to take communion, said: *Entering Jerusalem is so meaningful to me. I feel like you have become like my family and I want to share this moment with you and take communion with just you.*

At the closing banquet one year, a young Israeli couple was our guest. They knew about Aglow but had never spent time with the group. On observing the joy of the women as they thanked and honored their guides and drivers, as he heard the singing and saw the glowing faces, he said: *All Israelis need to experience this. We don't know Christians love us. We don't know anything like this is happening between Christians and Jews. Ordinary Israelis need to experience this!*

God has given Aglow a mandate to the land and people of Israel – God's chosen people, the one He calls *the apple of His eye* (*Deuteronomy 32:10, Zechariah 2:8*).

God has given Aglow authority as an apostolic ministry to be a prophetic voice that will stand against the spirit of Haman that is manifesting with renewed strength through anti-Semitism, Replacement Theology, and Islamic fundamentalism, whose chief aim is the destruction of Israel and the Jews.

God has given Aglow a heart to support, love, and give comfort to the people of Israel.

God has given Aglow understanding and wisdom to pray and proclaim His prophetic purposes over the nation and the people.

And because it is His mandate, He will supply all that is needed personally and corporately to fulfill it.

**AGLOW HAS BEEN CALLED FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!**