

**The World Must Act  
“for the Peace of Jerusalem”  
Psalm 122:6**

by  
Gary Hargrave

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**The World Must Act**  
**“for the Peace of Jerusalem” Psalm 122:6**

*by Gary Hargrave*

I don't necessarily like to preach on politics, but I think the events that have been happening over these last twelve days warrant some type of a discussion from us as the family of the Lord and as Americans. So this morning I really want to talk about the events that have been happening in the war that's going on between Israel and Hezbollah.

I want to start by reading out of the book of Psalms. Psalms 122:6. I'd like this Scripture to guide our hearts in all that we're doing: *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. May peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces.” For the sake of my brothers and my friends, I will now say, “May peace be within you.” For the sake of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good.*

I love this Scripture because it gives us an objective way to relate to what is happening in the Middle East right now. It can focus our prayer with an intensity to say, “Let there be peace in Jerusalem. Let there be a blessing for the sake of my friends and my brothers.” The cry for peace in Jerusalem is a cry for peace in the whole region.

Thanks to our relationship with Shlomo Hizak, founder of the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies and Research in Jerusalem, many of the members of the churches of The Living Word Fellowship have been to Israel; some of us have visited on many occasions. We have friends in Israel, so this conflict is not afar off. We have friends who are Israeli and Arab.

My wife, Marilyn, and I spoke with Shlomo Hizak this week to give our support, our prayers, and the prayers of our churches to him and his family, and to the Jerusalem Center and for Israel. He was deeply moved by our conversation of love and support; we have friends in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is not the home of Israelis only. It is also the home of Arabs. I will always remember how carefully Shlomo took the time to introduce Marilyn and myself to Arabs, and talk about the seeming conflict between Israelis and Arabs. His point was always to make us understand that they were brothers and friends, and that they very deeply loved one another. Much of what we see through the media is not the reporting of truth as it exists; it is frequently sensationalism which makes its money off of blowing things out of proportion. Rarely do you see what we found from our friends in Israel. They taught us to love not just Jerusalem, not just Israel, but also the Arab

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people. The heart we have seen is a heart for peace. It was the heart of mothers and fathers in Israel who were tired of their sons, and their brothers' sons, dying in conflict which--in most instances--was being initiated by radical elements that were out of control.

So when we try to understand what is happening in the Middle East--and believe me it is difficult for the American mind to grasp the conflicts in the Middle East--we should approach the situation very humbly, yet with the determination to be engaged. This beautiful psalm becomes for us a guiding star that says, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." Today if you pray for the peace of Jerusalem, you're praying for the peace of Arabs and Israelis alike who call Jerusalem their home. I have been shown by my friends in Israel that they love one another very deeply. So we say, "Lord, give us the courage and the faith to pray for the peace of Jerusalem."

*"May they prosper who love you. May peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces." For the sake of my brothers and my friends, I will now say, "May peace be within you." For the sake of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good.* Lord, do not only give us faith to pursue a prayer for the peace of Jerusalem, but also help us express our faith through actions which seek the good of Jerusalem.

Whether we like it or not we, as the United States, are probably the most powerful nation in the world. And it is not acceptable for us to sit back and say, "We'll see what happens." The same hatred which is being leveled against Israel by these radical terrorist organizations exists toward the United States, as well. We cannot stand aside and refuse to be engaged in the process of peace. We must pray, we must have faith, and we must take action.

We, as a nation, must stop being isolated and learn to work with other nations. We have very good relationships with many Arab nations, and those relationships must be engaged in a process to bring peace in the region. You may ask, "Well, what about our enemies?" There are a lot of Scriptures we could read about how to relate to our enemies, but we should really be focusing on the process of understanding what is going on, and standing up as who we are as the United States of America to express the heart of this nation. We have to use our influence and our determination to create the peace of Jerusalem.

I do not believe that we have to be one-sided in our efforts. Our efforts can be balanced, and our efforts can be with as much motivation of love for the Arabs, in this case for Lebanon, as it is for Israel. We do not have to choose sides. Yet we know our determination is solidly for the peace of Jerusalem. One reason I don't

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believe that we have to choose sides is because, in the true heart of Israel, they are not divided from the Lebanese people. They are not divided in their hearts from their Arab brothers. It is important for us as churches in The Living Word Fellowship, and as believers in the Body of Christ, to recognize that there is a love in the heart of Israel for the Arab nations.

We have to recognize that there are radical factions which are determined against peace. You cannot say that the Arabs are against peace, and you cannot say that the Israelis are against peace; you have to recognize that there are radical elements like Hezbollah, which exist with a purpose of destruction. You ask, "How do you deal with something like Hezbollah?" Well, the first thing is to look at its prime objective.

The prime objective of Hezbollah, and Hamas, is the absolute and utter destruction of the state of Israel, and of the Israeli people. They live to see the annihilation of the Jews. There is no way to consider Hezbollah as having any political objective towards peace. They have no political objectives towards peace with which to use as a foundation for negotiation.

I hope that we as Americans are capable of realizing that the same objective exists towards our country--within Hezbollah, Hamas, and other radical terrorist groups. You can call them whatever you want, whether humanitarians, militia, or terrorists, but it doesn't matter when you look at their objective. God always looks at the heart. God always looks at the motivation of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 tells us: "For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." One of the most necessary things in this age is that there be a willingness in America and other nations of the world to take a proper lead in this situation. The world must be willing to look at the true motives and intents of these organizations.

There is no question in my mind that the United States of America is not looking to destroy or occupy any Arab nation that exists. We have no motivation toward that type of a relationship. And I know in my own heart, from my experiences in Israel with people like Shlomo Hizak and Daniel Gwertzman and our many other Israeli friends, that there is nothing in the heart of Israel that wants to destroy, occupy, or take over nations in the region. Anyone who makes any claim contrary to that is a liar.

The Scriptures are very clear about how difficult and deceptive the end time will be. We live in that time. The deception of this age

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works by hiding itself among the righteous, hiding itself among good motivations.

In Matthew 13:24, you find the parable of the tares in which the farmer went and sowed seed in the field, but the next day, it was filled with weeds. And the servants came and said, “How did these weeds come among the wheat?” Look at this age you live in and tell me you’re not living in this parable. The world is a place where wickedness is so infiltrated side-by-side with good, that it’s not only indistinguishable, it is impossible to separate, as is the point of this parable.

Israel is in a tremendous catch twenty-two. When it bombs targets in Lebanon, it is inadvertently destroying the infrastructure of the Lebanese government, destroying private homes, and injuring and killing innocent people. This is the dilemma of the field: “Master, do we go into the field and try to pull the weeds out?” Well, if you go pull the weeds out, you’re going to kill the wheat along with the tares. The satanic wisdom of organizations like Hezbollah and Hamas is to entrench itself right next to the good wheat.

It is absolutely satanic wisdom. It is reported that some members of Hezbollah set up a “rocket room” in their house. They have a room for grandma, and a room for the children, and a room for the rockets. It’s very difficult to annihilate that rocket launcher without annihilating that building. We see a lot of streets bombed out in the news, but what they don’t show is the rocket launcher that was parked in the middle of that street an hour before the bomb was dropped.

I’m not saying these are easy things to deal with. They are anything but easy. That’s one reason why I think we should be praying for the peace of Jerusalem. We should recite from the book of Malachi in our intercession and prayer before the Lord. Malachi 3:14 says: *“You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the Lord of hosts? So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up but they also test God and escape.’”* Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who esteem His name. *“They will be Mine,”* says the Lord of hosts, *“on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.”*

Verse 18 is the key: *So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.*

There could be no greater prayer for this age we live in than to ask for the ability to distinguish and separate between those who serve

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God and those who do not serve God. Everything about the methodology of terrorism is to mix the righteous and the wicked so you cannot distinguish them or even deal with them, like the tares in the field, without destroying the good and the innocent. There's got to be an answer in God.

Matthew 13 talks about the angels, the messengers that would be sent to separate out. Malachi is saying that there will be an ability to distinguish between the righteous and the wicked. If you watch the function of an organization like Hezbollah, you see that they literally appear as a philanthropic organization. They go into cities and they rebuild people's houses. They'll load thousands of windows and doors on a truck and ask people, "Can we replace your windows for free? Do you need food? Here's food, here's water." They have their own hospitals.

But read II Corinthians 11:14-15, *No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.* When Satan comes in this age, he comes disguised as an angel of light. Is it any surprise that his workers look as though they're workers of good? All of these organizations look like they are the most benevolent, wonderful organizations who take care of their people and their constituents. These groups like Hezbollah look like angels when you talk to some of the ones in their surrounding community. They look like ministers of righteousness, and yet they are a manifestation of the purpose and motivation of evil in the earth.

It all looks so wonderful and humanitarian from the outside. You can look at it and say, "This is good! This is righteous. This should be happening. We should be defending this." But again, what is the motivation? What is their single purpose and determination? The immovable foundation of Hezbollah and other radical elements is the absolute destruction, annihilation, and obliteration of not only the state of Israel, but of every Jew that exists in it. And when they're done with that, they'll do the same to America.

It's time that the world community take the blinders off of their eyes and take a stand regarding the motivations that exist. They need to stop playing games. Israel should not be doing what they're doing in bombing Lebanon. They should not have to be doing it because years ago, UN Resolution 1559 stated that Hezbollah should be disarmed, along with every other terrorist organization in Lebanon. The world community, the UN, dictated what should happen in the region, but where is their resolve to stand up and back their own resolutions?

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The United Nations, and every country that is a part of it, must decide whether this is an organization for the contriving of empty resolutions, or whether there will be anything behind what they say and believe. When you read the speeches from the beginning of this conflict from the meeting of the United Nations, as well as what was spoken in the Arab leagues, nobody denies the cause of these incidents. Nobody denies that Hezbollah violated a UN-established border by a UN-established treaty and kidnapped soldiers and bombed Israel with no provocation. But that makes sense if you understand that they don't need provocation. It's the very reason of their existence!

I understand that Israel is inadvertently killing innocent men, women, and children; and it's horrible what's happening, but it's the world's fault that it is. The world said, "Stop this." And the world said, "Disarm." But if we are going to dictate what should take place, then we'd better back what we're saying as the nations of this world.

All of these events began at a time when the world's focus was to deal with Iran and its development of nuclear weapons. It's interesting how this situation in Lebanon has distracted the world community from Iran. Many believe that was the purpose in the first place. However, it should not dissipate the focus, it should heighten the awareness! Everyone admits that Iran is behind Hezbollah, Hamas, and other terrorist organizations. They provide funds, munitions, support and direction. Syria is involved as well.

As destructive as the situation is, let's not forget that both sides of the present conflict are lobbing small munitions back and forth that do very little damage compared to the arms which exist in the world today. If Iran has nuclear weapons, do you think that an organization like Hezbollah, a rogue terrorist group, would not have access to these arms and a willingness to use them? It's hard to get that across to the American mentality, because we're so ignorant of that type of motivation and thought process. These people are determined to destroy Israel! Do you hear me? They are determined to kill Americans, as well. If they had these weapons they would not hesitate to use them. They live to use them! They train to use them! And the point of this message is to say that the world community needs to get its act together and put its foot down collectively and say, "Enough of this nuclear development," in places like North Korea, Iran, or any other state which harbors and promotes terrorism. If we think we have a political problem trying to finesse our way through that, just wait until we're cleaning up nuclear destruction in countries that have been devastated by the world's inaction.

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Imagine if this conflict right now had nuclear capacity behind it. We should never allow that to happen. The point is that this is our responsibility. The United States of America, as a leading world power and government must take a stand. And we must see our president and our leaders do something about this. And we must do this in an interdependent relationship with the other nations of the world. We, along with the world community, must be willing to stand up and recognize the true motivations behind these terrorist groups, and have the resolve to do something about it.

We've got to do something more than just try to shove democracy down everybody's throat; it just doesn't work for some people. It is already starting to not work in Lebanon, because all the terrorist group has to do is call itself a political party and get voted in--or force themselves in--and then you've got a "valid government" that has the same purpose that the militant terrorists have. These countries need the kind of leadership that works for them. We have to get out of the U.S. democracy missionary mentality. There are some wonderful kings and rulers; Jordan has one of them. We need to give answers, not promote our way of doing things or promote our agenda. Let our motivation be pure; let our motivation be correct.

There are no easy solutions, but it is time for the world community to enforce Resolution 1559. Our prayer, as Christians, should challenge the world with the same cry that Joshua spoke to Israel: "Choose for yourself today whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15). Will we serve the motivations of evil, or will we resolve to do what is right? Are we going to do the very thing that we've committed ourselves to do as the world community, and stop playing these games with Hezbollah? The destruction that's happening is not the fault of Israel, it's the fault of the world community who did not do what it should have done to enforce this Resolution. If this Resolution had been enforced by the world community, we would not be where we are today. We are not going to blame Israel for that, and we're not going to blame Lebanon for it. The government of Lebanon was too new and too young to have any capacity to enforce the UN Resolution. The situation required the world community to step in. The world not only had the capacity, it had the responsibility to enforce it.

Our prayer should be that the world community stand up and enforce this Resolution, enforce an atmosphere whereby Israel and Lebanon can live in peace. I've stood at that border. I watched Lebanese people coming across into Israel. Shlomo took us over and introduced himself and introduced them to us, and we'd stand and

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talk about their life, their love for God, what they wanted. The Lebanese we spoke with wanted to serve God, and wanted their children to grow up and live in peace. When you see that, you see no difference between the heart of the Israeli and the heart of the Lebanese, the Israeli and the Arab. The truth is, there is more good than evil, but we must see a day when evil is no longer allowed to promote its purposes and overwhelm the voice of the majority who want to live together in peace in this region.

Lebanon is a beautiful country with beautiful people, and it's being ravaged. You may hear someone say, "Well, Israel is doing it wrong." But what choice do they have? Where is the world? Where are the nations? It's time to stop pointing fingers and get in motion to promote the good and the peace of Jerusalem. For the peace of Jerusalem is the peace of the world.

We bless this. We believe with all of our hearts in the peace of Jerusalem. We pray, Lord, that somehow You blow away this deception that calls good evil, and evil good. We ask that there be an ability in this age to distinguish between the righteous and the wicked. Let Your angels separate out the field. Christ said that the field is the world. Let the angels of God come and begin to separate and expose that which is righteous from that which is wicked.

Let the nations stop halting between two opinions, and let them choose this day whom they will serve. Will they serve the righteous and the good, or will they serve the wicked and the evil? The nations of the world are in the balance before God. Lord, let Your will prevail.

We can read the Scriptures and see all kinds of destruction, but we have one instruction: to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. That prayer out of our hearts, with a right motivation and a right focus, has the ability to turn the tide of this age and create peace for the entire region. If it is not turned, we might very well be into the first battles of World War III. Lord, we refuse for that to be our history. We loose the authority of the Body of Christ to rise up and move in control. We say: "Let there be peace in Jerusalem!" Let there be prosperity, Lord, in her walls--for the sake of our friends and our brothers. Let it be, Lord. Amen.