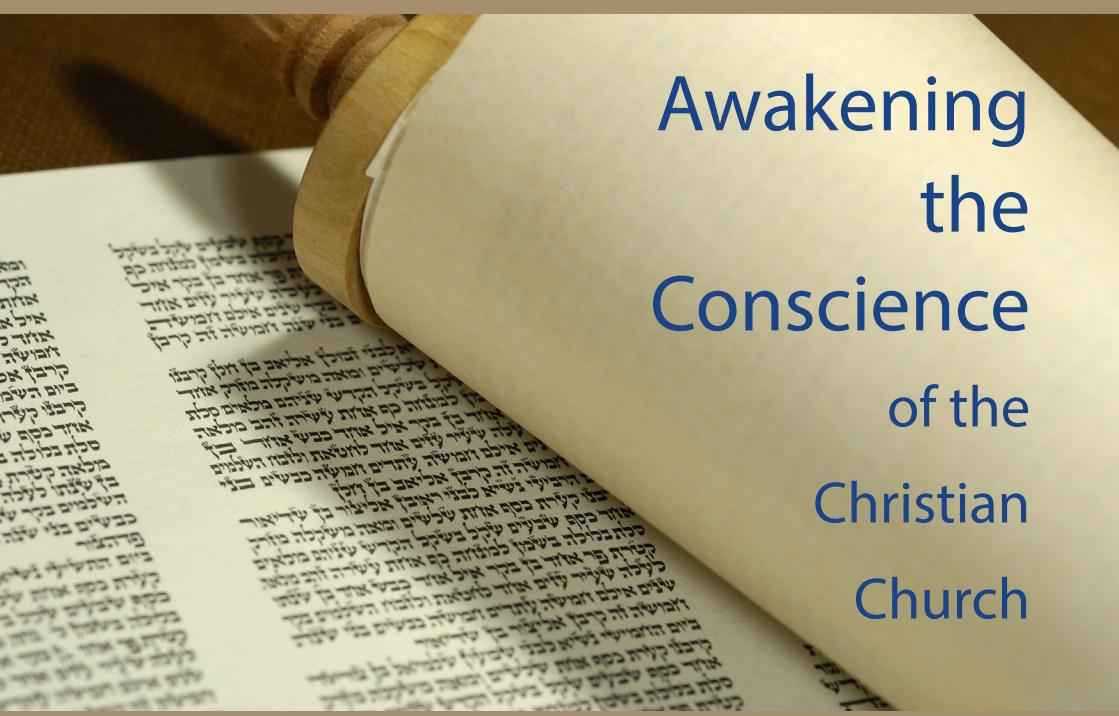


A resource of Christian Witness to Israel (N. America)
to challenge, assist and equip in local Jewish evangelism.

THE AC COURSE



Awakening
the
Conscience
of the
Christian
Church

THE BIBLICAL BURDEN

1: THE MOTIVE

1a THE PRAYING PATRIARCHS - PSALM 67

COMPLETE COURSE OUTLINE

The Biblical Burden for Jewish Mission The Hope throughout History for Jewish Redemption Contemporary Connections for Jewish Salvation

THE BIBLICAL BURDEN

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>The MOTIVE</i> | <i>Psalm 67</i> | <i>The Praying patriarchs</i> |
| | <i>Romans 9-11</i> | <i>The Praying apostle</i> |
| <i>The METHODOLOGY</i> | <i>Isaiah 63</i> | <i>The Longing of the prophet</i> |
| | <i>Luke 4</i> | <i>The Liberation of The Prophet</i> |
| <i>The MISSIOLOGY</i> | <i>2Cor 3&4</i> | <i>The Ministry that is glorious</i> |
| | <i>Acts 20-22</i> | <i>The Ministry that is blessed</i> |
| <i>The MANDATE</i> | <i>Psalm 150</i> | <i>The Holy hallelujahs</i> |
| | <i>Rev 4&5</i> | <i>The Cosmic chorus</i> |

THE HOPE OF HISTORY

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>PROTECTIVE PROVIDENCE</i> | <i>- Past, Present, Future</i> |
| <i>PIRATES OF PROVIDENCE</i> | <i>- Expulsion and Expansion</i> |
| <i>REPLACEMENT AND DEFACEMENT</i> | <i>- Forgotten and Forsaken</i> |
| <i>REFORMATION AND RE-EMBRACEMENT</i> | <i>- The Puritan Hope</i> |
| <i>The LIE OF THE LAND</i> | <i>- Too much love will kill you</i> |
| <i>REWRITING THE RAPTURE</i> | <i>- Confusion and correction</i> |

CONTEMPORARY CONNECTIONS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <i>The CHALLENGES TO CONNECTING</i> | <i>The separated and the assimilated</i> |
| | <i>The atheist and the evangelical</i> |
| <i>The FRAGRANCE OF FRIENDSHIP</i> | <i>The aroma of Christ</i> |
| <i>The WISDOM OF WORDS</i> | <i>(Un)common language</i> |
| <i>RABBINIC REINTERPRETATIONS</i> | <i>Jewish objections</i> |
| | <i>Peter and Pentecost</i> |

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. As you begin each study, pray for the Lord's grace and wisdom.
2. Discipline yourself to set aside one hour for each paper.
3. Keep a personal 'physical' notebook.
4. Begin with the questions and in your own notebook, answer each question in one sentence, prior to engaging in the study.
5. Read through the paper in one sitting, with note-taking.
6. Answer the questions again; this time, a paragraph each.

Feel free to send your answers to me, ask further questions, or simply make appropriate comments.

Stephen Atkinson: Director of Ministry, CWI (N America)
cwinamerica@gmail.com

THE BIBLICAL BURDEN

1: THE MOTIVE

1a THE PRAYING PATRIARCHS - PSALM 67

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the original setting and time of Psalm 67.
2. What was being stated and sought as Israel's important calling?
3. What was the primary matter of interest to be shared with the world?
4. In the light of Psalm 67, what was the Great Commission of Jewish believers in the first century and how did they fulfill it?

1a THE PRAYING PATRIARCHS - PSALM 67

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah

2 that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity

and guide the nations upon earth. Selah

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

6 The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.

7 God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

I want you to imagine a group of believers in Iran holding a prayer meeting. Their whole world around them is Islamic, but they know the true and living God. They are a tiny light, in a dark place.

Next imagine a group of reformers in the 16th century, praying for the overthrow of the darkness of Popery. They are a tiny light in a dark place.

Then imagine a group of Jewish disciples in an Upper Room. They know their rabbi Jesus is the prophesied Messiah and God incarnate; their hands have touched and they have beheld His glory. They are a tiny light, in a dark and Pharisee ruled Jewish world; a tiny light that would soon be dispersed to the unclean, goyim world of the Gentile. We know the fuller story. They were a tiny light but, under God, the world was turned upside down.

We might helpfully discuss how these various fragile groups of Jewish and Gentile believers fulfilled their calling in New Testament history and beyond, but I want to go back further, to some 3,000 years ago, and to the writing of this Psalm 67, c. 1,000 BC.

Now imagine a tiny group of Jewish faithful in Jerusalem, who are believers (pre-Christ) in the saving and redeeming work of the One True God – the God of Israel. These faithful souls are holding a prayer meeting. At this point in human history, Jerusalem and the wider region of Judea / Israel, is the only area on the planet that has the light of the knowledge of the glory of God (that is, apart from the light of nature). So this group is particularly blessed, and graced. They are a tiny light, in a dark, dark, world.

3,000 years ago, this little group in Jerusalem, were singing a song of praise; a psalm. It is Psalm 67. But now leap forward and contemplate this miracle. 3,000 years later in a land unknown to them, but now commonly known as the United States of America, God is answering – even in your very reading of this article.

How can I say that, you might ask? Well, what we have in Psalm 67 is the Ancient Church of Israel praying through the Great Commission – yet to be delivered by Israel's Messiah 1,000 years after this psalm is composed, and we who are Gentile Christians of the goyim nations, are the fruit of their prayer. We should pause with the psalmist and say, Selah.

Now this picture I've just painted is so far removed from much regular thinking on this passage that I must delay a little bit longer by way of introduction. I need to clarify and state a couple of things further.

Can I make an important announcement? - the Church is in the Old Testament! It is true, faithful and believing Israel, with a handful of Gentiles who attach themselves to this Olive Tree. They are the qahal (Hebrew - assembly), which became the ekklesia (Greek - the church). Qahal has the meaning, 'gathered', and ek-klesia, simply means, 'called out ones'.

Thus the believing people of God are both the gathered and called out community of those who believe in the saving

power of God from Genesis to Revelation. Those who know they are sinners and believe in God's mercifully wrought salvation from the guilt and power of sin – they are ONE people, from the Old Testament and New. So in Psalm 67 we have the Ancient Church of Israel at prayer for God's grace to become global.

I need to stress these points, since some commentators and many present-day Christians are guilty of textual theft. We steal this psalm out of its context and simply make it ours, without any reference to the initial singers and prayers. 'This is the church praying blessing for world mission!' Yes, but not at first... This is the congregation of '1st Free Remnant Church of Jerusalem' praying for the sin-darkened and spiritually dead rest of the world!

Puritan Matthew Henry says it is 'a prayer for the prosperity of the Church of Israel'; and Calvin says, 'It is evidently a prayer of the ancient Church for the appearance of the Messiah and the universal diffusion of his gospel.' That is the best definition of Psalm 67 I have read!

A PRAYERFUL DESIRE (v1,2.)

Turn your mind back to the little prayer meeting. At that time Israel was a tiny little insignificant nation surrounded by enemies; a world, darkened in paganism and idolatry. Consider then this dark world that surrounded them: Ammon, and Moab, and Edom, and Syria, and kingdoms yet to arise and be known, like Assyria, and Babylon, and Medes and Persians, and Greeks and Romans, and the Caliphates of Islam, and Picts and Gauls, and Britons, and Vikings and Saxons, and Celts, and Aztecs, (and of course I haven't got them all in chronological order – so please don't write and correct me!) and Mongols and ancient peoples of China, and Russia, and India and Africa, and Australia, and American Indians, and all the imports and immigrants to a so-called

New World... the world of godless darkened humanity.

3,000 years ago, a tiny people were at prayer – for the world, because, the world did not know Him. The prayer was, ‘that your ways may be known on earth’. But notice the order of what is being sought? - blessing upon Israel, and then God’s salvation known among ‘all nations’.

Blessing upon Israel

It is God’s order of events in human history to bring the knowledge of Himself, and His salvation, through Israel. (‘Salvation is of the Jews.’ John 4:22)

When Adam sinned, God promised a Savior who would crush the serpent (Genesis 3:15). Sin increased to the extent that God decided to wipe man from the face of the earth and yet he would save one family, by grace (Genesis 6:7,8). God then entered into covenant with a people and said he would never again cause such a holocaust.

Of course, sin increased again in the building of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9) and so God dispersed and confused the nations. But then He called Abram. (Genesis 12:2,3.)

Abraham’s people continued to sin but had been given the means of approach to a holy God, through signifying sacrifices; and specifically blood, representing the death of one party in the place of another. The symbols given to the ancient people Israel pointed to One who would crush the serpent; the Holy One of Israel, the Suffering Servant of YHWH (God’s Salvation of Psalm 67) by whose wounds they would be healed (Isaiah 53).

But at this point they did not know this. What they did know was that God was covenantally ‘with them’. He had bound himself and He had declared to Abraham, in the picture of Isaac and the sacrifice of a son, that ‘God himself would provide the lamb’, and that Lamb would be the Son of God,

the Servant, the Messiah – the One who would be called ‘Salvation’; Yeshua, Jesus.

But I’m rushing ahead. So let’s get back to the Psalm. 3,000 years ago, the Jewish liturgy was praying ‘God bless Israel’, so that they may be a blessing to the nations. And what was that ‘blessing’?

Here again, we need to rethink our terms. We hear the over-used term ‘bless’. We should ‘bless Israel’, or ‘God bless America’. But what is such ‘blessing’? Notice the ‘so that’ of v2. It is ‘so that’ through the blessing upon Israel, God’s Way and God’s Salvation may be universally known among the Gentile nations of the world.

God’s Way & Salvation

They lived in a world that did not know God’s Way. God’s Way is the principle by which God rules the cosmos; the Divine government, the Divine rules, the Divine operations.

I recently visited Washington. As a native of Northern Ireland, I confess my ignorance of ‘your way’! Your recognizable terms of Senate, House of Representatives, or Congress, are all unfamiliar to me. What is the ‘way’ by which this country is ruled? I don’t know ‘the way’. Of course, some of you may also wonder at the same question! But at least you learned civics in your High School years.

2019 was an important year for me and my wife. We both became US citizens, after having arrived here on a Religious Workers Visa, then transitioned to Green Card after 2 years, and then a further 5 years on Green Card enabled us to apply (no guarantees) for full citizenship. After 8 years of applications, R-1 Visa and Green Card, we now had to sit some tests. ‘Can we read and write English? Are we part of a terrorist group? Who was the President in WW2?’ Well, fortunately we had been given a book of 100 questions to learn our ‘civics’. We had to learn ‘your way’.

3,000 years ago the Gentile world was in ignorance of the True God, his sovereign rule and demands, and the nature of human guilt before a holy Creator. The world was in ignorance of any light other than the light of nature by which they were made to know they are a created people, and should seek God. But Israel was different; Israel was singularly blessed and thereby was to be a blessed light to the Gentiles, the nations.

Thus it was, in the fullness of time, when Messiah came, when 'Salvation' came, a small group of 'enlightened' Jews; upon whom the Light of the knowledge and wisdom of God had come, preached this Messiah initially to their own people. On the Day of Pentecost, when 3,000 Jews had gathered for the Jewish Festival, Peter preached and the Spirit descended, and the gathered Jewish community of Peter's hearers was cut to the heart. Now, so 'blessed' with the face of God shining upon them, they went on to cross land and sea to tell the nations about God's ways, and God's Yeshua, Jesus.

Picture again the little insignificant nation, and an insignificant prayer meeting – 'O God, favor your chosen people Israel; bless us'. We want the world to take notice and become jealous. We want to provoke to envy, the goyim, unclean world.

Make the world see, Lord! Be gracious. We don't deserve mercy, we don't deserve favor. We have nothing to bring – the blood of bulls and goats cannot atone. Works and empty rituals bring us nothing. But, God – bless us, shine on us, in grace... so that the world may believe in the saving power of the God of Israel.

I was speaking with a Jewish friend (unconverted at the time of this conversation), and I told her I was studying Psalm 67 and planning to preach on it. As someone competent in Hebrew I asked her if she had ever studied it and asked if she had some insight into the original Hebrew and even what

Jewish scholars might have thought of this.

She said she would check when she got home, and one hour later I got a text. She suddenly saw Yeshua all over it...

'The depths one can go with the Hebrew words of Psalm 67. And what my people were praying! Thanks for showing me this. I can't stop studying it.' Later I got an email. 'The word below is the word in which is translated as "Your salvation"... the root word is Yeshua... the last part is tayach... Amazing! In our Bibles it says we are praying for the arrival of the Messiah and we distinctly use the name Yeshua! Wow!!!'

What a glorious thought of a little ol' prayer meeting, 3,000 years ago, who had a prayerful desire.

A PRESUMPTIVE DECLARATION (V3-5)

You rule! You guide! Your Way of governance and dominion needs to be known. And because you rule and guide, and care and provide, O, let the nations and peoples of the earth, praise you!

This is a presumptive declaration – we are presuming it to be right. The cared for nations should praise. It is a no brainer that since the world is receiving its oxygen from Israel's God; they should praise – Let them praise you O God! May they praise you. May all the peoples praise you!

God is not Allah, ruling on a whim, from a distance fatalistically uninterested. God is not the Greek or Roman pantheon of gods that need to be appeased or they fire down thunderbolts. You, Israel's God, rule justly; righteously. The watching world should praise you.

3,000 years ago, a little Jewish prayer meeting was asking God to bless them and declaring presumptively that the nations should praise God for his Salvation, because they were praying for the coming Messiah, whose name is Yeshua, Jesus. Fast forward to Matthew 1:21. 'You shall call his name

Jesus (Hebrew Yehoshua – ‘the Lord saves’), for he will save his people from their sins.’

This little prayer meeting cried out. ‘O peoples of the earth. You need to hear this! We want you to be glad. We want you to know this God who saves and sing for joy!’

But in Psalm 2 we see what the nations were really thinking. They were plotting against the Lord and His Messiah, wanting to break the chains and throw off the fetters. We don’t want his Way; we don’t want his management.

What do we see in our world all around us? Filled with a drunken madness against the divine order of Genesis, the nations want to throw off God’s way. We should praise, but instead we suppress the truth. The heavens declare the glory of God but society’s evolutionary experts ascribe it all to billions of years and Mother Earth.

The truth of His Way has been trashed and so nations, be warned – those who trash God, become trashed by God. (Romans 1:18ff) And what does Romans 1 say is the fruit of that? – unnatural perversions and not only permitting such but approving such. Nations; and our nation, has approved the practice outlined in Romans 1 and trashed the divine order of marriage. In redefining marriage, the Supreme Court has trashed the divine ‘Way’.

Does this make you weep? When a little prayer meeting 3,000 years ago had a prayerful desire for nations yet unborn, and presumptively declared how it should be – Nations, you should be glad! Nations, come and hear what we have to tell you. Nations, we want you to know God’s Way. O God, make this dark world know your Yeshua!

The 1st Free Remnant Church of Jerusalem says ‘we presume this’. This ought to be. We make this our presumptive declaration.

A PRE-DETERMINED DOXOLOGY (V6,7)

Is this just an empty prayer of a disappointed people in a far-away land from an obscure time? No, for v.6,7 point to a pre-determined plan that will bring about pre-determined praise, or doxology. God's purpose in blessing Israel is to usher in cosmological worship.

The unflinching truth of God's Way, is this: God will bless Israel, to be a blessing to the nations. There shall be a harvest. God shall bless 'us', and the world will fear and worship the One True and living God.

No the prayer did not simply ascend no further than the ceiling fan of the Jerusalem townhouse. It reached the heavenlies. And 1,000 years after this Psalm 67 prayer meeting, as this little group of insignificant Jews prayed for the coming of God's Salvation, so Yeshua, He really would come to His own. The Lord, that they were seeking would suddenly come to his temple; even the messenger of the covenant. For God had sworn! He also had sworn in Psalm 2, 'Son, I will make the nations your inheritance'. The world must kiss the Son.

This is also God's promise to David as related later in Isaiah 55:5 – 'You will summon nations you know not and nations that do not know you will hasten to you.' And in Is. 60:2 – 'Darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you (Israel) and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light.' Continue the thought through the latter chapters of Isaiah, and then remember the incident 700 years later in a Nazareth synagogue. A rather maverick rabbi was handed the scroll of Isaiah, and he opened at chapter 61. And then He said that He fulfilled it.

In the pre-determined plan, Yehoshua - Jesus, God's Salvation, comes, dies as the Suffering Servant and Atoning

Sacrifice, and He is preached to the nations. Thus it is that the Church of Israel's prayer of Psalm 67 is answered, and the ancient Jewish Church (qahal) becomes the Church of Israel and the Nations (ekklesia).

Conclusion:

But I must pose one further question. Was this prayer fully answered at Pentecost? Well, not according to Romans 11:11, 'salvation has come to the Gentiles so as to make Israel jealous. Romans 11:12 - their failure brought riches for the Gentiles but their fullness is to bring more... even life from the dead. Romans 11:15

And here we are 3,000 years on with our ministry desires and prayers. 'God bless Israel' so that their fullness will bring revival, never before seen.

David Dickson, an old Scottish preacher (1583-1662), comments on this psalm.

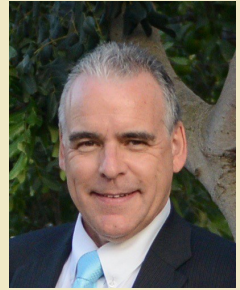
'The Spirit of God gave the Church of the Jews to understand, that the conversion of the Gentiles, especially, the conversion of the fullness of the Gentiles, was to be a mercy antecedent unto, or nearly joined with, the bringing in and blessing of the Jewish Church and possibly in their own land: 'then shall the earth yield her increase, and God even our own God shall bless us' – for by the earth he meaneth the promised land of Canaan, which has been and is accursed, during the time of their ejection out of it. When God shall be gracious to the Jews, after the conversion and bringing in of the Gentiles, and shall renew the covenant with them in Christ, it shall fare the better with true religion, and with the Christian Churches among the Gentiles; it shall be to them as a resurrection from the dead, in regard both to the purity of doctrine and worship, and the multiplication of persons converted unto Christ in all places. 'God shall bless us... And all the ends of the earth shall fear him.'

Amen and Amen!!

WHO ARE WE? WHAT DO WE DO?

DIRECTOR: STEPHEN ATKINSON

As **Director of Ministry** and 35 years of preaching experience, Stephen has been engaging with churches on behalf of CWI since 2004. With a Biblical mandate, historical reasoning, and present day missionary urgency, Stephen makes the case that every Church must have Jewish mission on its agenda!



MISSIONARY: MITCH TEPPER

As a **Jewish believer** Mitch has the apostle's burden for his own 'kindred after the flesh'. A graduate of Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, his Scriptural knowledge and personal passion drive him in his street evangelism, one on one relationships, and household bible studies, with the singular purpose of 'Telling Jewish people about Jesus'.



CWI International

Christian Witness to Israel has been sharing Jesus with Jewish people for almost 180 years. Today we have missionaries in the USA, UK, Israel, France, Holland, Hungary, Australia, all faithfully witnessing to Jewish communities across the world.



CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO ISRAEL (N America)
6401 S. 50th St, Rogers AR 72758 USA

www.cwina.org www.facebook.com/cwina cwinamerica@gmail.com

CWI (N America) is a registered 501c3 non profit. All donations are tax deductible.