

Statement of Purpose of the Leicester Prayer For Israel Group

I wrote this after a conversation I had in the early 2000s with a former member of my church. He was someone I knew did not share my perceptions and I asked him to tell me clearly and honestly how he saw the Prayer For Israel Group.

The call to pray for Israel stems from the following:

- God's choosing of the Jews as His first covenant people as their falling away from grace is clearly explained in Romans 9 to 11 as only temporary.
- A recognition of the fulfilment of Biblical Prophecy in the ongoing regathering of the Jews to their ancient promised homeland and a desire to see them in a position where the veil is removed from their minds and they recognise their Messiah, Jesus, who was sent first to the House of Israel.
- An understanding firstly that the Gentiles who have been grafted into God's people through the Jewish Messiah owe a debt to the Jews, and secondly that the issue of God's blessings on the Church is linked with the attitude of the Church to Israel.

Some important points about the group are:

- A Prayer For Israel group is not a collection of people who believe that the Israelis can do no wrong, although occasionally I have met such people. Wrong decisions are made and injustices committed by Israel but, on the other hand, a disproportionate amount of blame for the controversies which arise is often attached to Israel by biased media reporting.
- Those who pray for Israel do *not* have a racial bias against Arabs. Our praying should include them and Israel should, biblically, be hospitable to the 'stranger' in the nation. Again, however, it must be borne in mind that there are still Muslim groups who remain committed to the removal of Jewish sovereignty from the Land of Israel and, in some cases, to the entire destruction of the Jewish race.
- It is *not* the belief of the Prayer For Israel group that there are two ways of salvation- ie one for Jews and one for Gentiles. When Paul speaks in Romans 11:25 of a day coming when all Israel will be saved, he does not mean that the need to come to God through Jesus and the cross will be bypassed in some way.

By David Evans, on behalf of the Leicester PFI Group