

In three weeks we have an opportunity to join in a global initiative to fast and pray for Jerusalem



*6 Pray for peace in Jerusalem. May all who love this city prosper. 7 O Jerusalem, may there be peace within your walls and prosperity in your palaces. Psalm 122:6-7*

*6 O Jerusalem, I have posted watchmen on your walls; they will pray day and night, continually. Take no rest, all you who pray to YHWH. 7 Give YHWH no rest until he completes his work, until he makes Jerusalem the pride of the earth. Isaiah 62:6-7*

## **Fasting & Praying for Jerusalem**

Did you know that we are only commanded to pray for two cities in the Scriptures. You can probably guess that one of them is Jerusalem (the other one by extrapolation is for your own home city [Jeremiah 29:7]). Coming up on May 7-28, we have an opportunity to join in a global time of fasting and prayer for Jerusalem and the Jewish people from Isaiah 62. To date, there are conservative estimates that well over a million people from around the world have already committed to be a part of this time.

When I heard of this opportunity, I immediately knew that I was in and that I wanted to encourage others in my sphere to join in for this time. I've been on a handful of longer fasts in my life, but this one resonates with me that is uniquely different than these others. I know that what I will be joining in praying for is absolutely on God's heart and that is all the more important because of the present crises that are rocking the nation. Here's the webpage that shares more of the details about this time. <https://isaiah62fast.com>

As it relates to the corporate nature of fasting, I used to be confused by passages that shared of the hidden aspect of it before the LORD and felt that this was the legitimate New Testament expression. One of the drawbacks to the English language is that we have one word for both a singular and plural you. It's thus harder to tell in certain contexts (especially when reading the Bible) the difference between being addressed to you solely (as an individual) or whether it's a plural "you all" or "you guys." One of the benefits to reading the King James Version is that it uses the old English which did have different words for the singular you (thee, thine, thou) and the plural you (you, ye, your).

In the Matthew 6:16-18 passage on fasting, I discovered that it has both the plural you and the singular you in its context. Before this, for most of my spiritual life I had equated fasting as solely a personal, private spiritual discipline. Over thirty years ago, I heard a Bible teacher share about the benefits of fasting. I began to implement what he shared in my life immediately and discovered a number of those benefits myself.

Again, in Yeshua's teaching in Matthew 6:16-18 on fasting there is a "you guys" section. That means it is biblically appropriate to have corporate fasts that we do together. We don't lose our reward by doing this together and gaining the accountability and encouragement of doing so. And, even though there are parts of my flesh that really does not enjoy fasting, I have found out over the years that the benefits far outweigh the negatives.

In closing, Yeshua stated that we as His followers would fast after He went away (Matthew 9:15) so it is important for us as Believers to be a fasting people. I would encourage each of us to seek the LORD to see if this coming global fast for Israel is a fast that we should participate in and if so, how we should enter in. I'm excited to be a part of something big on Yah's heart and

look forward to the encouragement from others around the globe who are also joining in.