

## *Prayer Update From Israel (January 16, 2013)*



**A view last Thursday morning of the head of the Ben Hinnom Valley with Mt Zion on the right.**

### **1. RAIN AND SNOW AND MORE RAIN**

*“For as the rain comes down and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth, it shall not return to me void” (Isaiah 55:10-11).*

*“Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail, which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war?... Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water, or a path for the thunderbolt, to cause it to rain on a land where there is no one, a wilderness in which there is no man; to satisfy the desolate waste, and cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass? Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew...” (Job 38: 22-28).*

Last Thursday morning, after a week of heavy rains and winds, Jerusalemites awakened to see the city covered in deep snow. The heavy wet snow continued off and on into the afternoon. This only happens occasionally, and the city turned out to enjoy it. (There were pictures of the Prime Minister and his wife throwing snowballs, and of our President affixing a carrot-nose to a snowman.) The high winds had broken down trees throughout the city (and the nation), there had been many accidents—but when the precipitation finally subsided, Israel had experienced its heaviest storm in decades, receiving over 130% of the annual rainfall. Our largest water resource the Sea of Galilee had risen over 84 centimeters (with more certain as the snow in the highlands melts); it now stands higher than it was at the end of last winter—in fact, it now reportedly stands at its highest point since 1994. Israel’s water and energy Minister Uzi Landau announced that following years of drought, Israel’s present water needs are now “quenched.” The lake is still a little over two meters below the highest possible, where Israel would be required to open a dam and drain the overflow into the Jordan. (The last time this occurred was in 1992.) But it continues to rise—and the winter is still young!

## **PLEASE PRAY:**

\*We are grateful to God for this wettest beginning of Winter in many years. Our dependence is upon Him; we pray that His mercies supply remaining Former and Latter rains to fill all of the coming needs of Israel, which He foresees.

\*Isaiah 55:10-11 (above)—for all the rains and snows which the LORD has sent forth on Israel's behalf will accomplish their purposes. That His living Word which has been released will accomplish its purposes this year—falling on receptive ground in the souls of Jews and Arabs in Israel (Hebrews 6:7-8).

\*Job 38:22 (above)—that all weather patterns and ground-saturation levels necessary for Israel's safety in any outbreak of war, will be put in place by the YHVH Tzevaot—the God of Armies who is her hope and defender.

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## **2. “NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD...”**

On Sunday French jets struck deep into Islamic strongholds in the west-African nation of Mali. Mali, a former French colony (it gained independence 53 years ago), remains a strongly Muslim nation. Last year a militant coup resulted in a faction led by junior officers from the military attempting to sever three northern states from the rest, declaring them an independent nation. This was thwarted, however, by other militant Islamist factions linked to *Al-Qaeda*, which imposed instead, a severe form of *Sharia* law on the North, and begun a push to eventually bring the entire nation under their control. It was this which caused France, which still has thousands of its citizens living in the land, to move into actions against the threat.

**In a *New York Times* article based on the French attack, we found our attention drawn to remarks regarding fall of the northern Mali last year:**

*For years, the United States tried to stem the spread of Islamic militancy in the region by conducting its most ambitious counterterrorism program ever across these vast, turbulent stretches of the Sahara. But as insurgents swept through the desert last year, commanders of this nation's elite army units, the fruit of years of careful American training, defected when they were need most—taking troops, guns, trucks and their newfound skills to the enemy in the heat of battle, according senior Malian military officials... Than an American-trained officer overthrew Mali's elected government, setting the stage for more than half of the country to fall into the hands of Islamic extremists.” (“French Strikes in Mali Supplant Caution of U.S.”: *The New York Times* (NYTimes.com); 13 Jan 2013).*

***“We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).***

Because the secular humanist orientation of most nations in the West will not allow for their leaders' taking into account the *spiritual* aspect of the conflicts arising to contest their freedoms, their resultant attempts to 'buy' the favor and alliance of these nations with money, “education,” military supplies and promises of security is doomed to failure. It will have neither defense against the deception of the very real spiritual powers activating these nations,

nor the blessing of the God of Spirits whose counsels, which they have ignored, stand forever (Numbers 16:22; Psalm 33:10-11).

We see this principal further exemplified in the following circumstances which came to light last week regarding U.S. aid to another Muslim nation, Egypt (with Israel's security ostensibly in mind):

In September, a little over two months after Mohamed Morsi took office as Egypt's President, replacing the deposed Mubarak, American lawmakers moved to permit billions of dollars in US aid to Egypt, \$250 million a year in economic aid and \$1.3 billion in military aid, ***"We provide assistance to Egypt because it's in our interests to help them advance regional security and uphold their treaty with Israel and transition to democracy"*** was the rationale given by White House Press Secretary Jay Carney (*"Despite anti-US unrest, Washington set to open tap for billions in aid to Egypt"*: *The Times of Israel*, 19 Sept 2012, 1:46am).

Last week the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) posted portions of interviews made with Egypt's (now President) Mohamed Morsi in 2010. (This was the year after President Obama's celebrated Cairo Speech and two years before the American aid decision mentioned above.) Following are a few of the future Egyptian President's comments:

***Either [you accept] the Zionists and everything they want, or else it is war. This is what these occupiers of the land of Palestine know—these blood suckers, who attack the Palestinians, these warmongers, these descendants of apes and pigs" (This last phrase is a quotation about Jews from the Koran: Surah 5, Verse 60)...Resistance should be the practice of the Muslims and the Arabs outside Palestine. They should support the resistance fighters and besiege the Zionist wherever they are. None of the Arab or Muslim peoples and regimes should have dealings with them...The Zionists have no right to the Land of Palestine. There is no place for them on the land of Palestine. What they took before 1947-8 constitutes plundering."***

This week Morsi, who himself visited Tehran last August, this week welcomed Iran's Foreign Minister for the second time since becoming President, and received a formal invitation to revisit Iran in the near future.

**Truly, dependence upon human logic and strategy alone will not stand against those of the dark powers which are rising.**

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*For godly believers who have an understanding of spiritual realities to rise into decision-making and influencing positions of our governing bodies, deposing the evil powers positioned there.**

**\*For intercessors with such understanding to become positioned so as to pray for God's hand on behalf of the decisions our leaders are required to make.**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RAISING UP AND POSITIONING OF SPIRITUALLY SOUND AND MATURELY-OPERATING HOUSES OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST. WE BELIEVE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS SHOWN THAT THESE WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE RELEASE OF HIS STRATEGY TO CONFRONT THE DARKNESS IN THIS REGION.**

**\*There are several of these in Israel; we are aware of others which have been raised up in Lebanon, Egypt, Cyprus, Dubai, Turkey. One is even now in the process of coming into place in the Kingdom of Jordan. (Of course, we believe there may be many already in existence—but hidden. This is certainly the case in Iran.)**

**\*Pray for sustaining grace over those involved with these houses. At times the attacks of discouragement, or infirmity, or disorder can be fierce.**

**\*Pray that the Lord will send mature believers from other nations as well as these nations themselves to man these centers.**

**\*Pray for unity and cooperation between the leaders of these centers and the leaders of local congregations.**

### **3. Elections**

**Please continue to pray that leaders of righteous actions and integrity would be elected into Israel's government in the elections which take place a week from this Tuesday (22 January). We repeat the prayer points from last week:**

#### **PLEASE PRAY:**

**\* That a government which can operate righteously under divine influence will be brought into place in the upcoming elections.**

**\* That traps and schemes of the enemy for evil in the elections will be exposed.**

**\* That God put into place that which will enable the smooth formation of a government after the elections. Pray that the upcoming government will be one which can come into strength and unity with its Prime Minister to make decisions necessary for the protection and prosperity of the country.**

**\* For the present acting Prime Minister, Benyamin Netanyahu, that during this last week leading up to elections he will be strengthened to operate in his position with integrity, uprightness and courage.**

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#### **THIS WEEK'S TORAH PORTION:**

*From ancient times there has been a weekly portion (Parashah) from the first five books of Moses (The Torah) and an ending (Haftarah) from the Prophets read on the Sabbath in synagogues around the world. This portion is given a Hebrew name drawn from the opening words of the Torah passage. An illustration of this practice appears to have been recorded in Luke 4:16 where Yeshua (Jesus) arrived in the synagogue in Nazareth and was asked to read the portion (Isaiah 61) from the Prophets. We have found that in perusing these weekly readings, not only are we provided opportunity to identify in the context of God's Word with millions of Jewish people around the world, but very often the Holy Spirit will illumine*

*specific passages pertinent that week in our intercession for the Land and people of Israel. All texts are those of English translations of the Scriptures.*

The readings for this week are called *Bo*—“Come” (—to Pharaoh! For I have made his heart and the heart of his servants heavy-with-stubbornness...—Everett Fox: translation).

**TORAH: Exodus 10:1—13:16**

**HAFTARAH: Jeremiah 46:13-28**

\***Exodus 10:3.** *“Thus says YHVH Elohei-ha’Ivrim (“Yehovah the Hebrews-God”): ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Send My people that they may serve Me.’”*

As in Ex. 9:1, the LORD here identifies his Name *YHVH* and godhead *Elohim* with the Hebrews as a race—a people extending back many generations before the fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (with whom He had identified Himself to Moses in the Burning Bush). He is thus also the God of the race which Pharaoh’s father had tried to exterminate 80 years previously (Ex 1:16). **PLEASE PRAY: for an awakened awareness in Israel that it is this same God who identified Himself by Name with the Hebrew race to Pharaoh...who has miraculously kept it in existence for over 4000 years—and who still chooses to identify Himself with this race for good and not evil.**

\***Exodus 10:28-29.** *“Then Pharaoh said to him, ‘Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! For in the day you see my face you shall die!’” So Moses said, ‘You have spoken well. I will never see your face again.’”*

In Ex 7:1, the LORD says, “*See, I have made you Elohim to Pharaoh...*” The concept of finding light, victory and salvation in the LORD’s face runs throughout the Hebrew Scriptures (See Psalms 44:3, 80:3,7,19). Often, the word “face” is synonymous with the word “presence”. In Psalm 27:8-9, David’s response to the admonition “*Bakshu-Phanai!—Seek My Face!*” is a heartfelt, “*Your face O LORD will I seek...Do not hide your face from me...*” By rejecting Moses’ face, Pharaoh was rejecting the presence and life and hope of Moses’ God...and eventually God allowed him to be granted his request. **PLEASE PRAY: For secular, religious, Orthodox, and ultra-Orthodox Jews to hear and respond to the call which God places in the hearts of all men, “Bakshu-Phanai!—Seek my Face!”**

\***Exodus 10:21-23.** *“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt...and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.’”*

*“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it...That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world”* (John 1:4-5,9). **PLEASE PRAY: that the darkness will be felt and hated—**

and that the true Light will shine into both Egypt and Israel, bringing illumination, hope and security to the inner dwellings of both of these peoples.

**\*Exodus 12:2.** *“This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.”*

The “number” of the year in the Hebrew calendar (This year 5773) comes with the Feast of Trumpets in the fall and is traditionally related to the season associated with the creation of the world. However, this month of “Aviv” (Deut. 16:1; also called “Nisan”) marks the “Beginning of Months” on the Hebrew religious calendar. This year it will begin on 12 March.

**\*Exodus 12:12-13.** *“For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt...and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment; I am YHVH. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.”*

At the very beginning (see Ex. 4:22-23) YHVH had warned Pharaoh that refusal to release His “firstborn” Israel to serve Him, would result in the killing of his own firstborn. It was the LORD, not a mere ‘angel’, Who would pass through (Heb: *avar*) the land executing judgment; however, the word translated “pass over” in verse 13 (*pasach*) means to “skip” or “step over”—thus sparing them the judgment coming on all the other firstborn. **PLEASE PRAY: That this weekend when this passage will be read in synagogues—and at the Seder tables on March 25th when it will be read again in homes—that the message of the BLOOD of the Lamb which covers and diverts judgment would be imbued with supernatural revelation to Jews around the world. Pray that the Holy Spirit would move hearts to recognize the “Lamb of God, who carries away the sin of the world”—the Pesach Lamb who was “stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted...He was wounded for our transgressions...and by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4-5).**

**\*Jeremiah 46:27.** *“But do not fear, O My servant Jacob, and do not be dismayed, O Israel! For behold, I will save you from afar, and your offspring from the land of their captivity; Jacob shall return, have rest and be at ease; No one shall make him afraid. Do not fear, O Jacob My servant,’ says the LORD, ‘For I am with you...’”*



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**[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 20-26 January 2013 is called *B'Shalach* (“In the sending”— away of the people by Pharaoh): TORAH: Exodus 13:17—17:16; HAFTARAH: Judges 4:4—5:31]**

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