

# ISRAEL PRAYER UPDATE

*Glory of Zion International Ministries*



*“Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving...Who covers the heavens with clouds, who provides rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains!”  
(Psalm 147:7-8)*

***The slopes of Mount Zion (below), after the recent rains, are finally greening!  
Thank you for joining with us in prayers for rain. It fell again last night, and more is forecast for later this week!***



**Wednesday is *Rosh Hodesh Shevat*, the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in the Hebrew calendar. This month is mentioned by name in Zechariah 1:7, after which the prophet is told by an angel to proclaim:**

*Thus says the LORD of Hosts,*

***“I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and ZION...I will return to Jerusalem with compassion; My house will be built in it and a measuring line will be stretched over Jerusalem...My cities will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort ZION and again choose Jerusalem...For I will be a wall of fire around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.”***

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**Below is an article we have just contributed for the Spring issue of the Polish Christian family magazine, *Nasze Inspiracje*. It regards a very significant anniversary which will take place in Israel this year. We believe this anniversary will indeed be of significance to all nations. Please pray grace for alertness to apprehend what the Lord will reveal to all of us about what He is doing during this important season!**

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***Shalom! We have moved into a very special year in our land.*** This spring Israel will celebrate her 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary! On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1948, a miracle occurred! The Hebrew people, who had for centuries been scattered throughout the world, were now, as foretold by their prophets, gathered back into their ancient land of promise. Their language had been restored. And on that afternoon in a hall in Tel Aviv, David Ben Gurion read in Hebrew the “Scroll of the Establishment of a State”— (“Declaration of Independence”), which included these words, “[We do] HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL.” That evening at midnight, after over 2500 years, a nation under the sovereignty of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob once more came into being!

In the year 1948, May 14<sup>th</sup> fell on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month in the Hebrew calendar, the month of *Iiyar*. Since then, “Independence Day,” as with other festivals in Israel, has always been celebrated according to the Hebrew Calendar rather than the Gregorian. This means that this year the 4<sup>th</sup> of *Iiyar* falls on **April 19<sup>th</sup>**, which is when the primary celebrations will take place. But there will certainly be others as well on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May! ***In fact, there is a sense here that because it is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this entire year has something incredibly important about it!*** This anticipation is not only in Israel! This year Israel is expecting more tourists from the nations than ever before. Already, many hotels are finding themselves overbooked throughout the year!

***Why is this 70<sup>th</sup> year so important? Why do so many people sense there to be something very significant about the number “70”?*** We certainly cannot explain all the reasons! But we would point out that the numbers “7” and “70” turn up at very significant times in the Hebrew Bible. Often, the number “7” in Scripture appears to signify “completion” or “fulfillment”. And 70? It is recorded in the Book of Genesis (46:27) that the number of sons of the house of Jacob (Israel) who came down to Egypt in the days of Joseph was seventy. (Four-hundred years later, they would depart a mighty nation.) In the early days after the Exodus, God met with “70 elders of the people” (Exodus 24:9). Is “70” a number related to beginnings and leadership which will expand? In the Book of Daniel (Chapter 9:24), there is a mysterious prophecy of “seventy weeks” for the Hebrew people and Jerusalem, which is related to “*finishing transgression, making an end of sin, making atonement and bringing in righteousness.*” In 605 BC, Daniel was among the captives of the southern kingdom of Judah when they were exiled to Babylon. ***70 years later, they were released from captivity*** and allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their Temple. Might the completion of this first 70 years of modern Israel signal a time for release, of a new freedom in the area of worship?

The last paragraph of Israel’s Declaration of Independence, signed 70 years ago this year, begins this

way, ***“Placing our trust in the Rock of Israel, we affix our signatures to this proclamation...”*** This concept of Israel trusting in God as her *Rock* is very ancient. In the Book of Deuteronomy (Chapter 32), she was given a song in which over six times God is referred to as her “Rock”—her source of strength, anointing, salvation and protection. In many of the Psalms (18:2, 31, 47: 19:15) King David declares the LORD to be his Rock—his Deliverer, and Redeemer. As Israel wandered in the desert before entering Canaan, the LORD provided water for His people out of a rock (Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:8). In the New Covenant Scriptures, Rav Sha’ul (Paul), a First Century Messianic Jewish teacher, reveals that the Children of Israel had actually been strengthened during their wanderings in the desert by a *spiritual rock* which followed them—and that rock was their Messiah! (I Corinthians 10:4).

This brings me to a wonderful thing which has occurred during these first seventy years of our nation. Many, many Jews in Israel are awakening to the identity of their Messiah. Today there are tens of thousands of Messianic Jews living in Israel. (A Messianic Jew is one who has come to believe that *Yeshua*/Jesus is the Jewish Messiah and Savior.) Today, moving in the authority of their Messiah, Jews are rising into areas of influence within Israeli society—government, military, education, the arts. And in the schools, believing Israeli children are learning to pray for each other, and to share their faith with their schoolmates.

***One thing more about “70”!*** In Hebrew, there is a numbering system made up of Hebrew letters. The letter signifying “70” is *ayin*. Besides the number 70, *ayin* is also the Hebrew word for “eye”. As we move through this “*ayin*” year, may the “eyes” of many Israelis be opened to recognize and trust in their Messiah, *Yeshua*—the true Rock of Israel, mentioned in their Declaration of Independence seventy years ago this year!

### **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 14-20 January 2018 are called *Bo*— “Come” (--to Pharaoh):

**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 10:21-23.** *“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 darkness will be felt and hated—that the true Light will shine into both Egypt and Israel today, bringing illumination, hope and security to the inner “dwellings” of both of these peoples.**

**\*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 hope, strength, encouragement and salvation in the light of the LORD’s face runs throughout the Hebrew Scriptures (See Psalms 44:3, 80:3,7,19). Often, the word translated “face” (*panim*) is also 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, the life, the 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 causes to be released in the hearts of all men, “Bakshu-Phanai! —Seek my Face!”**

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

In Exodus 13:4 and Deuteronomy 16:1 this month is called by its Canaanite name *Aviv*, a name now used in Israel for “springtime.” Since the return from Babylonian captivity, a Babylonian name *Nisan* has been used on Hebrew calendars. The “number” of the year for the Hebrew calendar (this year **5778**) is calculated on the Hebrew calendar from the *Feast of Trumpets* in the fall (a day related in Hebrew tradition to the creation of the world). The month of *Aviv/Nisan*, however, marks the “Beginning of Months” for the Hebrew *religious* calendar (from which date all the Biblical Feasts are calculated). *Rosh Hodesh* (“Head of the Month”) for this *Rosh Hodashim* (“Head of Months”)

will fall this year on **Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>**.

**\*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 Pharaoh’s own firstborn. It was the YHVH (the LORD), not a created ‘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 those under the blood from the judgment coming upon all the other firstborn.

**PLEASE PRAY:** That this weekend when this passage is read in synagogues—and at Seder tables on the evening of **March 30<sup>th</sup>** (Passover) when it will be read again in Jewish homes around the world—the message of the BLOOD of the Lamb which covers and diverts judgment would be imbued with supernatural revelation to the descendants of Jacob. Pray that the Holy Spirit would move Jewish 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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Jerusalem*

[The readings for next week (21-27 January 2018) are called *B'Shalach*—“*In the Sending*” (-- away of the people by Pharaoh): TORAH: Exodus 13:17—17:16; HAFTARAH: Judges 4:4—

**5:31.**

**NOTE:** Because this week's Torah and Haftarah readings contain two of the great recorded songs of the Bible (the *Song of the Sea* (Exodus 15) and the *Song of Barak and Deborah* (Judges 5), this Sabbath is sometimes known as *Shabbat Shirah*—"Sabbath of Song."] ]

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