

Prayer Update From Israel (January 21, 2013)



1. THE WATERS CONTINUE TO RISE—EVEN FROM THE LOWEST DEPTHS!

“This water [from under the threshold of the house of YHVH in Jerusalem] flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes. It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea [i.e. the Mediterranean], exceeding many...” (Ezekiel 47:8-10).

The *Dead Sea* first turns up in Scriptures as the “Valley of Siddim” in which the Battle of the Kings took place as recorded in Genesis 14:3-12. Although the valley at that time seems to have contained asphalt pits (14:10), there were portions of it further to the south which were evidently very fertile until the coming of the cataclysm which took place at God’s judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19), after which the entire area became an arid and salty waste. The sea lies in a natural rift (the *Arava*) through which the Jordan River wends its way down from the Sea of Galilee to pool at the lowest point on the entire earth (the rift continues, now rising, southward to the Gulf of Aqaba). Because for thousands of years there have been no escape streams from here, the sea has accumulated salts and minerals so dense that no life is sustainable in its waters. Thus, it is called in the nations *The Dead Sea*--while in the Hebrew Bible as well as in modern Israel it has always been *Yam haMelakh*—“The Salt Sea”.

About midway down the western shore of the Sea lies *Ein Gedi* (“Spring of the Goat”)—a desert oasis where fresh water tumbles down the wadis in a graceful network of waterfalls. It

was here that David and his men camped and were searched for by Saul (I Samuel 23:29-24:22). Here also he is thought to have written some of his Psalms, and its beauty inspired the writer of the Song of Songs (Song of Songs 1:14). Here the LORD released a great victory over an alliance of Israel's enemies as King Jehoshaphat placed singers in front of his army *"to sing and to praise the LORD"* (II Chronicles 20:21-22). As seen in the Scripture from Ezekiel quoted above, someday this "dead" Salt Sea will become fresh from the waters pouring forth from the Throne of God in Jerusalem...and there will be fish flourishing there as far south as Ein Gedi.

But for now...the sea has been waning at an alarming rate. Due to the necessity of drawing off water from the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan to irrigate crops throughout Israel, as well as diversion of water to the Dead Sea Works factory to the south, the sea has gone down over 20 meters since the 1970s. Where the water used to come up nearly to the north-south highway, it is now far away—and enormous sinkholes have appeared, in some cases threatening the road itself. Ecologists have warned of a disaster if this is not somehow stopped. There have been drastic measures postulated for rescuing the sea—one being the building of a canal all the way down the *Arava* to the Gulf of Aqaba to bring in water from there. But this would take cooperation from regional powers including the Kingdom of Jordan, which late last year backed out of the program. And the sea continues to shrink.

Until this week! Following the ferocious storms of a week-and-a-half ago, the sea was measured as rising ten centimeters. This may appear miniscule—but scientists measure its height each month and have reported that this week's increase is ***the first rise at all recorded during the past decade!*** (See "Dead Sea rises for first time in 10 years": *The Times of Israel*, January 17, 2013, 11:54 a.m.). What does this mean? We are not yet certain, but we have found that such a happening in such an historically significant place in Israel is not something it is wise to attribute to mere, meaningless, coincidence.

PLEASE PRAY:

***That God's Kingdom will come and His waters heal the land of Israel. That Jews would "ask for" the living water of His Son, which springs up in those who receive it, making life where there was death (John 4:10-14).**

***That Believers in Israel will have their "saltiness" restored, that they would be a seasoning and preserving from the Holy Spirit of the Truth of God to those around them (Matthew 5:13; Mark 9:49-50; Luke 14:34-35).**

Isaiah 41:17-20...That the poor and needy will seek God for permanent solutions to the water problems in Israel, so that He *"will open rivers in desolate heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; that He will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land springs of water...that they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it."

2. TUESDAY'S VOTE AND THE SETTING UP OF A NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT FROM ITS RESULTS

As we have written in the past—the vote on Tuesday is very critical. The party with the largest number of members voted in will be the one from whom the Prime Minister is chosen. All indications are that this will be Likud-Beiteinu with Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister for

another term. However, the newly elected Prime Minister will then have a very limited time in which to draw together a coalition of over 60 members from the 120 which will make up the Knesset. There are very difficult decisions to make, which if righteousness is to be maintained, will demand great integrity and wisdom and courage. From the natural perspective, there are major plusses and major minuses to be had by drawing up a coalition from either side of the spectrum. Divine grace is so necessary in putting together a coalition which will be strong—and sensitive to the influence of the Holy Spirit. We would pass on to you some excellent prayer points we just received, written by a highly-respected leader in the Body in Jerusalem, Eliyahu ben-Haim of *Intercessors for Israel*. We would suggest praying these throughout the coming weeks—several of the points are pertinent right up until the complete new government is formed:

We will be praying for a government through whom God can glorify Himself.

We will be praying for a government that has the ability to actually govern, something that is often lacking because of our electoral system.

We will be praying for the leading party to have sufficient mandates that they will not be under the constant threat of blackmail by the smaller sectarian parties.

We will be praying for a government that will be like the sons of Issachar who have understanding of the times and know what Israel should do. 1Chron. 12:32

This concerns the security situation we are facing (we must be alive to be saved) and also praying for a government to govern responsibly regarding the internal/fiscal/welfare needs of the people of Israel.

We will be praying for a government that has the courage to act when and where needed in all areas.

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 20-26 January are called *B'Shalach*— “In the sending away” (by Pharaoh of the people).

TORAH: Exodus 13:17—17:16

HAFTARAH: Judges 4:4—5:31

***Exodus 13:18b.** *“And the sons of Israel went up in martial array from the land of Egypt”* (NASB). There was, as of yet, no military experience or discipline in this people (see verse 17), and a furious battle with the Amalekites (Ex. 17:8-16) awaited them just a little way down the road. Yet, somehow, they left Egypt armed and in orderly array. In I Samuel 17:45, David goes out to meet Goliath *“in the name of the LORD of Hosts, God of the Battle-Arraying of Israel (YHVH Tzeva’ot Elohei-Ma’arkhot-Yisrael)”*. It is YHVH of Armies who ultimately brings Israel into array both physically and spiritually to face her enemies. **PLEASE PRAY:** For the armies of Israel to come into array under the LORD of Hosts. Pray for the Messianic Believers in the Israeli Defense Force; they have organized, and many get together regularly on weekends for praise, worship and prayer. Favorable articles have appeared in Israeli newspapers in the past two years about the Messianic presence in Israel’s military. Many of these soldiers have excelled, some gaining rank and favor and now themselves in positions of command. We know of cases in which some of these commanders have been actually encouraged by their superiors to share their faith with the others in their company. At present it is estimated that there are at least 300 Messianic believing soldiers in the Israeli military! But the battle against them by the Enemy is fierce. Please pray courage, integrity, cleanness, and close fellowship for these young men and women both with their LORD and each other, that they be a light of Truth and Life to their comrades.

***Exodus 13:21-22; 14:19-20.** *“And YHVH went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.” “And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.”* **PLEASE PRAY:** for Israel to be aware that God’s presence is with her to lead and give light. For believers to apprehend His Presence...for an awareness of the presence of God’s angels in the heavenlies round about us to lead, encourage and protect!

***Exodus 14:13-14.** *“**SET YOURSELF** and **SEE...**” “And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid! Stand still (NKJV)/Set Yourself (NASB)/Take Your Station (Robert Alter), and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall not continue to see forever and ever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.’”*

We would observe regarding the first part of Moses’ admonition *“Stand Still”*, that this is far from an indolent ‘standing to the side’—rather, it is exactly the same word used by the Watchman standing his post in Habakkuk 2:1, *“I will...set myself (NKJV)/station myself (NASB) on the rampart, and watch to see...”* As we are watchful at our stations, the LORD will be working his salvation on the battlefield. At the end of these readings Moses’ station is on the hill with his hands raised as Joshua (meaning *“The LORD is Salvation”*) is prevailing in physical combat on the plain below.

Exodus 15:1-18 contains one of the most exalted, beautiful and truth-filled victory songs in any language:

Shirat haYam—The Song of the Sea

***15:2.** “My strength and song is YAH; and He is become to me Salvation (Yeshuah); He is my God, and I will adorn Him with praises.” **PLEASE PRAY:** That present-day Israel will recognize that the LORD is indeed become her Salvation (The name Yeshua (Jesus) is a contraction combining the name of the LORD (YHVH) with the *yesh*, the root word meaning “Salvation”).

***15:3.** “YHVH (the LORD) is a man of war; YHVH is His name.” This verse literally calls the LORD a “man”. We do not believe this to be merely metaphorical. How could the Most High call Himself a man (*Ish*)—unless He would actually become one? **PLEASE PRAY:** That the Holy Spirit will shine divine illumination onto his written Word—that minds will be opened to comprehend what is written about Yeshua (Jesus) in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms (Luke 24:44-45).

***15:11.** “Who is like You, YHVH, among the gods? Who is like You, sublime in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?” **PLEASE PRAY:** that these wonderful attributes of the LORD will be released in new understanding in His congregation throughout the world—**1. Sublime HOLINESS; 2. PRAISES** in spirit and truth which nurture **GODLY FEAR** in His servants, terror in His enemies. **3. A release of signs and WONDERS** in the name of His “holy servant Yeshua” (Acts 4:30).

15:17.** “You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, in the place, O YHVH, which You have made for Your own dwelling, the sanctuary, YHVH, which Your hands have established. YHVH shall reign forever and ever.” This is a prophecy regarding what, hundreds of years later, came to be called the “Temple Mount” in Jerusalem. Since 1967, Israel has claimed sovereignty over this mountain. Yet non-Muslims are only allowed to ascend for a few specified hours on certain days of the week. It has been said that “the Last Battle will be fought over who will be worshipped on this mountain.” Over the interior doors of the Dome of the Rock is a passage from the Muslim holy book proclaiming that that religion’s deity “has no helper (son)”. The Second Psalm of the Hebrew Bible says that the LORD not only has a Son, that Son will reign as King on that Mountain. In Ezekiel 20:40 the Lord GOD (Adonai YHVH) declares that “On My holy mountain, on the mountain height of Israel, there all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, shall serve Me; there I will accept them...***” At that time, it will truly be said that Israel has been “***brought in and planted in the mountain***”. But at present, she is only a wary custodian of a highly disputed area inhabited by structures of desolation. **PLEASE PRAY:** that God’s Kingdom come and His will be done on the “mountain of His inheritance” in Jerusalem. We know teams of believers who ascend the mountain weekly to walk round it, praying this. Also, please pray for divine wisdom and guidance over our nation’s leaders in how best to administer Israel’s present governance of this holy site.

***Exodus 15:26b.** *“For I am YHVH (The LORD) who heals you.”* **PLEASE PRAY:** For release, revelation and progression concerning the healing gifts in the Body of Messiah in Israel.

***Exodus 16:8b.** *“Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD.”* A similar warning is echoed in the New Covenant in Acts 5:4, *“You have not lied to men but to God.”* **PLEASE PRAY:** That the fear of the Lord would be on the Body of Messiah in Israel regarding their honor and conduct towards God’s appointed leaders.

***Exodus 16:29.** *“See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath...”* Elohim blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy (Gen. 2:3a). Yeshua taught that *“The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath”* (Mark 2:27-28). **PLEASE PRAY:** For Israel to be freed from the legalistic structures of man, and enter into the true Rest given by God. Pray especially for leaders in the Body of Messiah to not ignore the necessity of availing themselves of the rests God has ordained for His children.

***Exodus 17:15-16.** *“And Moses built an altar and called its name, THE LORD IS MY BANNER; for he said, ‘Because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.’”*

The Hebrew for “banner” is *nes* (“my banner”—*nissi*). In modern Hebrew *nes* is also the word for “miracle”. The Amalekites were a real people—who throughout the Scriptures epitomize and symbolize a covenant-hating spirit, specifically that of anti-Semitism. They were Israel’s first enemies after leaving Egypt. They preyed on her, picking off the weak straggling in the rear (Deut. 25:17-19). God grants “no quarter” to those who threaten His Covenant purposes; their remembrance was to be “blotted out from under heaven.” When King Saul failed to do this, it was an Amalekite who in the end claimed to have killed him. Centuries later, it would be Haman, a descendant of Agag (an Amalekite whom Saul also spared) who, as recorded in the Book of Esther, sought to ignite a Holocaust. With the hatred Satan has for Israel and her redemptive call, it is indeed a Divine Miracle flying over her which has sustained her and brought her, still an entity and with her ancient language restored, back to her native Land. **PLEASE PRAY:** For revelation in Israel that it is only the Banner of YHVH (The LORD) flying over her which will protect her from annihilation...that the LORD is fighting for her...that His Banner over her is LOVE.

***Judges 4:8.** *“And Barak said unto her [Deborah]: ‘If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.’”*

We would suggest that Barak’s error here was not fear or cowardice; he is, in fact, listed among the heroes of Faith in Hebrews 7. Moses had said something very similar to the LORD in Exodus 33:15, *“If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here”*. But there, Moses was dismayed because He longed for the LORD’s presence (face), and God had threatened to send an angel instead. In this passage, Deborah, who held the Office of Prophetic Judge over Israel had released God’s Word of command over the warrior. Yet Barak seems not to have realized that in God’s *Word of Command* would be God’s presence and authority for the

battle. He seems to have identified the divine power and authority with the vessel releasing the *Word*, rather than the *Word* itself, and thus felt it safer to have the prophetess along with the Word she had released (It is significant that when Deborah later released a further command, he corrected his error and without hesitation went like lightning (Hebrew: *barak*) down the mountain (4:14). **PLEASE PRAY: For a maturing in Israel of the Body of Messiah to the “prophetic.” For re-establishment by the Holy Spirit of the Office of Prophet in Israel. For discernment and respect among believers for God’s Word and how it relates to His government. For realization that on the Battlefield, instantaneous obedience to God-ordained authority structures is critical.**



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[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 27 January—2 February is called *Yitro* (Jethro): TORAH: Exodus 18:1—20:26; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 6:1—7:6; 9:6-7]

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