

# ISRAEL PRAYER UPDATE

*Glory of Zion International Ministries*



*Detail from mural in Magdala chapel depicting finger of woman with issue of blood touching the hem of Yeshua's garment.  
(Luke 8:43-48)*

## **1. DAUGHTER OF ZION GATHERING THIS WEEKEND IN THE GALILEE.**

*From Norma*

**Twenty-seven years ago when I moved to Israel, the Lord put two Scriptures on my heart:**

**\* Jeremiah 8:11.** *For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, saying, 'Peace, Peace!' when there is no peace."*

**\*Jeremiah 8:21.** *"For the hurt of the daughter of my people, I am hurt; I am mourning."*

For the past two years, I have sensed that I was to gather the Daughters of Zion. It is time for an army of women to be healed and arise in the Land. I love Psalm 68:11: *"The Lord gives the command; the women who proclaim the good tidings are a great army."* After meeting with women leaders a few times in 2017, I was able to see whom I could walk with in leading this. A Messianic pastor's wife from Tel Aviv has the same heart as I do, and together we are gathering believing women of Israel in the Galilee this coming weekend, the 26th and 27th of January. We felt to begin

this at *Magdala*, the site of an archeological dig on the Sea of Galilee where, in recent years, the original ruins of the oldest synagogue ever discovered in Israel were uncovered. It lay in an ancient fishing village, the hometown of Mary Magdalene. There is little question that Yeshua Himself would have visited this synagogue. And adjacent to this site, a new worship center has built with the specific purpose of honoring women.

***Our theme for this gathering is “Hope for the Daughters of Zion!”*** The worship leaders and speakers are from Israel, with one coming from Europe. This being a first-time event, I honestly expected about 80-90 women. As of now, over 150 have registered to come. For Israel, this is a very large group! Most of the women coming are 40 years old or younger. They are hungry!

It is interesting that in the *Parasha* for this very weekend (see Torah Portion below), the Torah Portion speaks of “Miriam the prophetess” (Exodus 15:20-21), and the *Haftarah* (reading from the Prophets) begins with Deborah a prophetess to whom the sons of Israel came for wise judgment (Judges 4:4-5) and goes on to speak of Ya’el, whom God used to defeat an enemy captain (4:21-22). We believe that it is indeed time for the women of Israel to come together as an army, to hear the Command of the LORD, and to proclaim the tidings!

**PLEASE PRAY:**

- \* **That many women at the conference be touched, healed and encouraged.**
- \* **For the army of believing women to begin to arise in the land of Israel, and come into the array which the Lord has prepared for them.**
- \* **For anointed worship and messages and times of prayer and communion.**
- \* **Protection for the speakers, admin team and worship leaders.**
- \* **That the leaders and intercessors would stay alert to any attempts of the enemy to sabotage what God wants to do for women in the Land.**

**2. VICE PRESIDENT PENCE’S VISIT TO ISRAEL.**



***Vice President Mike and His wife Karen Pence disembarking from their plane at Ben Gurion Airport, Israel Sunday evening.***

***A little over a month ago we dedicated a Prayer Update to US Vice President Mike Pence's pending visit to Israel.*** At the last moment that trip had to be cancelled. On Sunday evening, after quick visits to Egypt and Jordan, the Vice President and his wife Karen arrived in Israel for a 48 hour visit. As we write, Mr. Pence is meeting with Israeli President Rivlin (He had meetings with PM Netanyahu yesterday). Afterwards, he and his wife will go to the Holocaust Memorial at *Yad Vashem*, after which they will visit the Western Wall. They leave later today for the US.

It has been a very important visit, the first by an American leader since President Trump's historical declaration of Jerusalem as being Israel's capital, and Israel went to unusual lengths to welcome the Vice President. He is known and respected here—he is known to be an Evangelical Christian who loves Israel, and his history in politics of standing up for that love is also known. Still—it was as though Divine favor was preceding him on this trip. There was an honour guard—something ordinarily reserved for heads of states ( i.e. presidents, prime ministers or royalty), not Vice Presidents. And Mr. Pence was invited to address the Knesset during his visit—the first time that honor has ever been extended to an American Vice President.

***It was a remarkable address***, resulting in frequent outbursts of applause and standing ovations. There was something which Mr. Pence's Israeli audience found deeply moving in a way they're not used to. What captured their hearts and respect was the quiet authority and integrity of this leader, coupled with humility—a gracious and genuine respect, not only for those whom he was addressing, but for the land in which they lived, its history, and the sanctity of its heritage. Perhaps more than any senior foreign speakers before him, in this “Homeland of the Jewish People”, Mr. Pence, while not failing to make mention of other peoples living here, spoke specifically of the *Jews*. He spoke of the influence the “People of the Book”—their songs and stories, their Bible—have had on America since its founding. He spoke of the American people becoming “*fierce advocates of the Jewish people's aspiration to return to the land of your forefathers*” after 2000 years of exile. And he sowed his words with quotations of allusions from the Scriptures (probably more than any foreign leader speaking to the knesset, ever)...he spoke of Mount Moriah, “*here in Jerusalem [where] Abraham offered his son, Isaac, and was credited with righteousness for his faith*

*in God.*” (This is of course, the Temple Mount, which radical Islam teaches has no connection to Jews or to their heritage). Towards the end of his speech, Mr. Pence likened Israel to a tree,

*that has grown deep roots in the soil of your forefathers, yet as it grows, it reaches ever closer to the heavens. And today and every day, the Jewish State of Israel, and all the Jewish people, bear witness to God’s faithfulness, as well as your own. It was the faith of the Jewish people that gathered the scattered fragments of a people and made them whole again; that took the language of the Bible and the landscape of the Psalms and made them live again. And it was faith that rebuilt the ruins of Jerusalem and made them strong again. The miracle of Israel is an inspiration to the world. And the United States of America is proud to stand with Israel and her people, as allies and cherished friends. As so we will “pray for the peace of Jerusalem,” that “those who love you be secure,” that “there be peace within your walls, and security in your citadels.”* [Psalm 122:6-7]

Earlier, related to the up-and-coming 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary,

*And this April, we will mark the day when the Jewish people answered that ancient question, “Can a country be born in a day, Can a nation be born in a moment?” As you prepare to commemorate this historic milestone, I say, along with the good people of Israel, here and around the world: She’hekheyanu, v’kiyimanu, v’higiyanu la’z’mam ha’zeh!* (“Who has given us life, sustained us and enabled us to come to this day.”)

For a foreign dignitary to speak out this ancient blessing (which every Jewish person has known from childhood) in Jerusalem in Hebrew—the chamber simply exploded!

***There were some important announcements in Mr. Pence’s speech.*** On behalf of the Trump administration (Mr. Pence, as was fitting, persistently honored his boss), he declared decisively that the American Embassy *will* be relocated from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by the end of 2019. He affirmed his government’s commitment to Israel’s security. He declared that, even though ISIS is crumbling, the US will not stop until it is completely destroyed “at its source.” He spoke of the work the US is doing to provide direct support to “Christian and other religious minorities” in the region as they rebuild after years of repression and war. And he urged allies in Israel, Europe and across the world to assist “Christian and other religious minorities across the wider Middle East.” (It is highly unusual to allude to “Christian” persecution in this part of the world.) Regarding Iran, he labeled the “nuclear deal” made during the past regime a disaster, and said that unless it is fixed, the US will withdraw. He reiterated that the US will *never* allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon. But the Vice President also sent a “better message” to the “*proud and great people of Iran: We are your friends, and the day is coming when you will be free from the evil regime that suffocates your dreams and buries your hopes. And when your day of liberation finally comes...the friendship between our peoples will blossom once again.*”

Yet, we suspect that, quite apart from the formalities and announcements and reassurances regarding policy, etc., the deepest importance of Mike Pence’s address to the Israeli parliament last Monday may prove to be (looking to the future) *a strong bond of trust sovereignly brought into place between Israel’s leaders and this godly leader from America.* After his speech, Israel’s Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked tweeted, “*Vice President, I thank you for a consummately Zionist speech, a moral*

*speech of the first order.” Science Minister Ofir Akunis said, “This is the greatest and most important Zionist speech ever delivered by a foreign leader at the Knesset plenum.” And Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan called him, “a great leader who really loves us with all his heart, not as a politician, but out of deep faith and understanding of the role and mission of the Jewish State. An exciting day. We are happy to hear his hoyous and moving words.” 1)*

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*Blessings of strength and restoration over Mike Pence after what has been expended in his trip to the Middle East. Pray divine protection over him, his wife and family.**

**\* That the God whom he serves will deepen his understanding of what he has seen**

**and experienced in these countries. That he will have heavenly insight regarding what God is doing in Egypt, Jordan and Israel—and how to influence his nation in the part they may most righteously play.**

**\* For Keren Pence, for what God has and will reveal to her from her visit here with her husband. That God will grant her wisdom and insight to share with and support her husband in his office.**

**\* That what God released into the Knesset Chamber, the Prime Minister’s and President’s dwellings and other places here in Israel through VP Pence’s presence and words will “not return to Him void, but will accomplish all for which He sent it forth!”**

**We would encourage our readers to read the speech for themselves by accessing the following site:**

**<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Full-transcript-of-Pences-Knesset-speech-539476>**

1) (“Pence address was a ‘consummately Zionist’ speech: Arutz Sheva 7, 22 Jan 2018.

**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 21-27 January 2018 are called *B'Shalach*—"In the Sending":

**TORAH:** Exodus 13:17—17:16

**HAFTARAH:** Judges 4:4—5:31 (*Shabbat Shirah*)

**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".

**Because both the Torah and Haftarah portions contain wonderful prophetic songs,  
this Sabbath is sometimes called  
*Shabbat Shirah*—"Sabbath of Song"**

**\*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 recent years about the Messianic presence in Israel's military. Many of these soldiers have excelled, gaining rank and favor and with some 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. A year ago, it was estimated that there are more than 300 Messianic believing soldiers in the Israeli military...and we believe that number has grown! 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.** *“And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid! Stand still (NKJV) 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” (NKJV), that in the Hebrew this is far from an indolent ‘standing to the side’. Far better translations are “**Set Yourself**” (NASB) or “**Take Your Station**” (Robert Alter), The Hebrew *lehityatzev* is a military term. It is exactly the same word used by the Watchman standing his post in Habakkuk 2:1, “*I will...set myself-* (NKJV) or “*station myself-* (NASB) *on the rampart, and watch to see...*” As mentioned above, Israel was already an army, whether or not she yet realized it, and each member had a positioning within that army, appointed by the Captain of the Host of the LORD. The same is true for those coming into the Kingdom today. As we are watchful at our stations, the LORD will be working his salvation on the battlefield. At the end of this week’s readings, Moses’ station will be on the hill with his hands raised, as Joshua (whose name means, “*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 (yeshu’ah); 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 of a compound name combining the name of the LORD—YHVH with yeshu—“Salvation”).**

**\*15:3.** *“YHVH (the LORD) is a man of war; YHVH is His name.”* In this verse, the LORD YHVH is literally referred to as an **ish**—“man”. We do not believe this to be merely metaphorical. How could the *Most High* call Himself a man—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, Adonai, which Your hands have established. YHVH shall reign forever and ever.”* **This is a prophecy regarding what, many**

*hundreds of years later, would become 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 rebuke and 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 16:23, 29.** *“Then he said to them, ‘This is what YHVH has said: “Tomorrow is a Sabbath, a Holy Sabbath to YHVH...”’ “See! For YHVH has given you the Sabbath...”* (Emphases ours). “Sabbath” (Hebrew: *Shabbat*) comes from a verb meaning “to cease work”. The first place in the Bible where the word “holiness” is used relates to this word, *“Elohim blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy”* (Genesis 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 from normal work which God has ordained for His children.

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

One of the Hebrew words for “banner” is *nes* (“my banner”—*nissi*). In modern Hebrew *nes* has also come to mean “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). Because God’s covenants bring life to all of humankind, He therefore grants “no quarter” to those who threaten their purposes; their remembrance must 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 (II Sam. 1:13). 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, to annihilate God's covenant people. With the hatred Satan has for Israel and her redemptive call, it is indeed a Divine Miracle flying over her which has sustained Israel 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 11). 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, young and old, to the "prophetic" (I Cor. 14:1; Rev. 19:10b). For re-establishment by the Holy Spirit of the *Office of Prophet* (Ephesians 4:11) amongst both men and women in Israel. Pray for discernment and respect among believers for God's Word and how it relates to His government; how, on spiritual as well as physical battlefields, instantaneous responses to divine instruction released through His ordained authority structures can be critical.



*Martin & Norma Sarvis*

*Jerusalem*

[The readings for next week (28 January—3 February 2018) are called *Yitro*—*“Jethro”*: TORAH: Exodus 18:1—20:26; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 6:1—7:6.]

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