

## **PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (January 26, 2015)**



*“Watchful over My Word to Perform It”*  
(See No. 3 below)

**New almond blossoms frame a distant view of the Mount of Olives,  
to which Messiah shall soon return.**

### **1. 70 YEARS AFTER AUSCHWITZ, AND THE LAUNCH OF *GLOBAL PRAYER CALL 2015* IN POLAND.**

**This Tuesday the 27th of January is “International Holocaust Remembrance Day.” This year it coincides with the 70th anniversary of the liberation in 1945 of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of the Nazi death camps.**

There will be many commemorative events around the world—but **we would especially draw your attention to a gathering taking place in Krakow, Poland, which began Sunday and will continue through Wednesday evening.** An alliance of European Christian leaders have over the past year been following what they believe is a strong mandate from the Holy Spirit to host an international prayer conference on this occasion as a launching for a critical 100 day prayer initiative among the nations. Delegations of prayer and congregational leaders from around the world have gathered this week to corporately hear what the Spirit is saying, and to seek the Lord’s guidance and directives regarding this Call.

We repeat here Rick Riding’s description of the event as included in last week’s Update:

**“The Lord brought to the attention of my friend, Harald Eckert, that the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp (27 January, 2015) falls 100 days before the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe (8/9 May, 2015). We and many others have joined with Harald to issue a “Global Call to Prayer” during these 100 days, to confess the sins of our nations towards Israel and the Jewish people, and to cry out to the Lord to turn the hearts of the Gentile Church and national political leaders to rightly align with the Lord’s Word and heart towards Israel and the Jewish people.**

**I sense an urgency concerning this issue, to intentionally pray into this before the hearts of nations are “set” and “hardened” in a path that would lead to judgment.”**

We would strongly encourage you to access the website **100-days.eu** for the Vision and Prayer Call for this event. Also available free of charge through the site is a book *Israel, the Nations and the Valley of Decision* by Harald Eckert with contributions by a number of other Christian prayer leaders.

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*For a powerful presence of the Holy Spirit at the *Global Prayer Call Conference in Krakow* this week. Pray for revelation, encouragement, and direction of prayer for the nations represented as regards their relation with God’s purposes for Israel.**

**\*That all the speakers to whom God is releasing words for this conference would arrive safely. For the release of Prayer Strategy for this season—and an awakening of urgency regarding the necessity of standing in intercession during the 100 days which begin January 28th.**

**\*For the tens of thousands of Jewish Holocaust survivors still living, that their hearts may be softened, illumined and healed by the supernatural working of the God of hope and life who loves them—the only One who has “surely seen the oppression of His people...heard their cry and known their sorrows” (Exodus 3:7; Isaiah 53:3-4).**

**\*For the millions of children of Holocaust survivors, many of whom have had the wounding, bitterness and hardness of parents passed on to them. We are acquainted with some who have been delivered from this bondage into the life and hope that comes through an encounter with the One who “borne their griefs and carried their sorrows” (Isaiah 53:4).**

**\*That even as this week’s *Parashah* chronicles the coming forth from the House of Bondage and crossing over the Red Sea into a new life, many still bound under the curse of the Holocaust, will be brought out into a new life and identity in the light, goodness and eternal blessing of their Messiah and Savior Yeshua.**

**\*Although we cannot pretend to really *know* the depths of what these people experienced, there are glimpses which the Lord may lead us to receive through some of the accounts which have been left by those who were there. Through these the Holy Spirit can awaken understanding and compassion, which will aid us in our prayers. Probably the most famous is *Night* by Elie Wiesel, which chronicles his horrific experiences as a teenager with his father in Auschwitz, experiences which had strong repercussions on the Jewish faith within which he had been raised. *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom presents also a graphic view into this profound darkness as experienced by this Christian lady and her sister in another camp Ravensbruck—but in her case illumined by a holy light of love in Jesus which the darkness was unable to extinguish.**

## **2. THE WARFARE OVER ALIGNMENT IS NOT JUST IN THE FUTURE.**

***The contentions arising within nations regarding their relations and alignments with Israel may have been epitomized this week by events in Washington.*** Last Wednesday U.S. House Speaker John Boehner issued an invitation to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to address a joint session of Congress. This meeting, first slated for February 11th, has been since pushed back to March 13th when the Prime Minister will be in the U.S. fulfilling another, long-standing, invitation. The House Speaker’s invitation reportedly requested Netanyahu to “*in this time of challenge...address Congress on the grave threats radical Islam and Iran pose to our security and way of life.*” The Speaker’s request came the day after President Obama declared in his State of the Union address that he would veto any bill sent to him by congress imposing further sanctions on Iran related to its nuclear arms program (“Netanyahu invited to address Congress on Iran”: *ynetnews.com*, 012115, 17:23). The Speaker chose to issue the invitation without first advising the President or the Democrats in Congress. Nor did Mr. Netanyahu request

permission from the President before accepting the request. The White House responded quickly by labeling the invitation a breach of long-standing protocol, and has since declared that the President will not meet with the Israeli Prime Minister when he comes in March, citing the nearness of Israeli elections and a policy of not possibly influencing them by hosting an official who is candidate.

***But Mr. Netanyahu is not just a “candidate”—he is the present Head of State of Israel’s closest ally in the Middle East.*** This will be the first time that in that office he has visited Washington and not had audience with the President. Word has also been released that neither will the Israeli leader be meeting with the administration’s Secretary of State during his visit.

Netanyahu has been accused both in the U.S. media and by the political Left here in Israel that in accepting the invitation, he is merely grandstanding for political gain. We are not suggesting that such gain is foreign to his thoughts. However (as evidenced by his impassioned speech to the UN General Assembly in September 2012), one thing is certain—the Prime Minister is dead serious about his conviction of what is going on in Iran, and he feels it is his mission to do what he can to awaken a timid world to those realities before it is too late. To his critics, Netanyahu this week responded, *“As prime minister of Israel, I am obligated to make every effort in order to prevent Iran from achieving nuclear weapons that would be aimed at the State of Israel...This effort is worldwide and I will go anywhere I am invited in order to enunciate the State of Israel’s position aid in order to defend its future and its existence”* (“Netanyahu defends US trip...”: *JPOST.com*, 26 Jan 2015, 10:54 IST).

At times, the Prime Minister’s warnings to the international community about Iran’s arms and stated intentions seem like they are blown away in the wind. Yet, this nation, whose religious sovereigns have not ceased to prophecy Israel’s annihilation, continues unabated on its path towards a nuclear weapon and the long-range missiles with which to deliver it. The “progress” declared by the Obama administration in last week’s speech “consists of an extension of negotiations on an agreement with Iran, after the previous round failed.” (“Obama’s State of the Union Delusion...”: *The Federalist*; 21 Jan, 2015).

**We are honored that our Prime Minister has been invited by a leader of a concerned congress in an influential western nation to share his concerns, even when they are at odds with the administrative leaders of that government.** “In the past 140 years, there have been 114 such joint meetings of Congress to hear speeches from guests, events that are typically arranged to be celebratory *or to exhort the nation toward some common cause*” (“There appear to be no rules anymore”: *POLITICO*, 1/25/15 7:59 AM EST; EMPHASES OURS).

#### **PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*If it is God’s desire that P.M. Netanyahu address the joint houses of the U.S. Congress on March 3rd, it will take place. And if so, that it will be God’s message to the members of that government and the people they oversee.**

**\*That the fear of the LORD will be upon the Prime Minister, that he will realize Who is giving him this venue and be granted grace to put down motives of pride or selfish ambition and seek wisdom and guidance from his God.**

**\*For courage among American lawmakers; to continue to seek to honor Israel.**

**\*For President Barak Obama—that he, as a professed Christian, will be open to conviction and guidance of the Holy Spirit in carrying out his office during the duration of his tenure as leader. That he will put personal differences aside and not open up a breach in the nation God has allowed him to lead by violating its alignment with Israel.**

**\*That he will realize that by publically dishonoring a Head of State of God’s covenant nation, he is**

coming dangerously close to dishonoring that nation itself (Genesis 12:3) a far graver violation of “protocol” than that which he accuses Congress of making against his office.

### A Warning?

We try to be cautious about attribution of natural phenomena to offences against Israel. But as we write, we notice that CNN has just released a quote from the Mayor of New York City regarding an approaching storm: "*I want everyone to understand that we are facing -- most likely -- one of the largest snowstorms in the history of this city.*" Job 37:6-13 speaks of storms (including snow) which God causes to come, "*whether for correction, or for His land or for mercy.*" (NKJV, Emphases ours). Let us pray for the mercy of rightly interpreting signs from heaven when they are occurrences through which God is trying to speak to us.

**\*That God will send His deliverance to the land of Persia/Iran—that this people will be delivered from tyrannous, Godless leadership which insists upon keeping them under a curse through its hatred for Israel. Pray for the brave persecuted believers in the thousands of house-churches throughout that land.**

### 3. SHA’KAD—SHA’KED.

*After a cold and rainy Israel during the first half of January, the last few days were sunny and warm; the buds on the almond trees surrounding Jerusalem responded with their buds popping open into blossoms, clothing the hills in white and pink!*

In Hebrew, *sha’kad* is the root for a word meaning “to watch”, “to wake”, “to be diligent”. It is related to wakefulness or alertness. This is its meaning in Psalm 127:1, “*Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.*” Because the almond is the first tree to blossom in Israel (while all the other trees are still ‘sleeping’), its name is spelled with these same Hebrew letters, and pronounced almost the same way—*sha’KED*. This is why in Jeremiah 1:11-12, the LORD asks Jeremiah what he sees, and he responds, “*The branch of an almond (sha’ked) tree.*” The LORD responds, “*You have seen well, for I am watching over (sha’kad) my word to perform it.*” Very soon all of Jerusalem will be a-blossom in white almond flowers!

**\*PLEASE PRAY:** *for the Body of Messiah in Israel and your own lands to be clothed in watchfulness during this hour—alert, and awake, to hear and understand what the LORD is saying to His congregations!*

### THIS WEEK’S TORAH PORTION:

*From ancient times there has been a weekly portion (Parasha) 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 25-31 January 2015 are called *B’Shalach*—“In the Sending”.

**TORAH:** Exodus 13:17—17:16

**HAFTARAH:** Judges 4:4—5:31

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. At present it is estimated that there are more than 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.** *“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 she yet realized it or not, 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 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, 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.



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*Jerusalem*

**[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 1-7 February 2015 are called *Yitro*—“Jethro”:  
TORAH: Exodus 18:1—20:26; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 6:1—7:6; 9:6-7.]**

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