

## ***Prayer Update From Israel (January 29, 2013)***



### **Fiery cloud over Mount Zion**

***“...I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself.”***  
**(Exodus 19:4b—See Torah Portion below)**

#### **1. THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS AND THE CHALLENGE FACING MR NETANYAHU**

Although last week’s elections resulted in Prime Minister Netanyahu retaining his office, and being granted a mandate to form a new government, his own Likud-Beiteinu party dropped from 42 to 31 seats. When the smoke cleared, new-comer and former television personality Yair Lapid’s left-of-center *Yesh Atid* (“There is a Future”) party had surprisingly landed a resounding second place with 19 seats. Left-wing Labor was third with 15, and the nationalist right-wing *HaBeit HaYehudi* (“The Jewish Home) party led by Naphtali Bennet (also a newcomer) gained 12 seats at fourth. Two right-wing ultra-Orthodox parties also faired fairly strong. This means that, although Mr. Netanyahu’s party is not as weak as it might be, there are strong blocks on either side that cannot be ignored in forming his coalition. On the one side are those who will stand firm regarding Israel’s interests in the Territories and on behalf of religious issues, while on the other are those who will stand equally strong regarding human and civil rights for all Israelis (including the demand that all share the burden in military and national service responsibilities). It is a daunting task...but Mr. Netanyahu has faced daunting tasks in the past. At least Mr. Lapid has evinced a desire to join with his coalition, rather than be part of forming a leftist faction to keep it from forming. It is thought presently that the Prime Minister may attempt to form a party including both *Yesh Atid* and *HaBeit HaYehudi* (Labor has continually vowed not to enter the coalition under any circumstances).

We would refer you again this week to a selection drawn from last week’s prayer points (provided by Eliyahu ben-Haim of Intercessors for Israel) which we list below. **We would also**

**ask specifically that you pray that Mr. Netanyahu would be protected from being influenced by occult powers**, especially those working on behalf of the two ultra-Orthodox parties United Torah Judaism and, in particular, *Shas*. We see the *Shas* party as being probably the most militantly anti-Messiah (i.e. anti-Christ—anti-Messianic Jewish) force in the government. It historically goes for the Ministry of the Interior folio ... which decides “who is a Jew” and rules over who is allowed to immigrate into Israel under the Law of Return. It is also, in our opinion, among the least trustworthy parties to have in one’s coalition. In fact it was this party which brought down Netanyahu’s government in the late 90’s after he had embraced them, but later went against their demands. Yet, there seems to be a spiritual power at work in the Prime Minister to reach out to this party.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR PRIME MINISTER BENYAMIN NETANYAHU AS HE GOES ABOUT SEEKING TO PUT TOGETHER A STRONG COALITION:**

**\*That he will be able to put together a government through whom God can glorify Himself.**

**\*For a government that has the ability to actually govern, something that is often lacking because of our electoral system.**

**\*For a coalition of parties allied with the leading party so as to have sufficient mandates that they will not be under the constant threat of blackmail by smaller sectarian parties.**

**\*For a government that will be like the sons of Issachar who have understanding of the times and know what Israel should do (I Chronicles 12:32). This concerns the security situation we are facing (we must be alive to be saved!).**

**\*For a government to govern responsibly regarding the internal/fiscal/welfare needs of the people of Israel.**

**\*For a government that has the courage to act when and where needed in all areas**

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**2. “NO ISRAELI KILLED IN WEST BANK TERROR ATTACK IN 2012”**

Such was a headline in ynetnews.com on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The article presented reports by an Israeli secret service organization indicating that although in 2012 the number of attacks and injuries increased, *for the first time in 39 years, the year went by with no Israeli being killed in a terror attack in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) or Jerusalem.*

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*Thanksgiving for God’s protection over the lives of His inheritance in the Holy Land.**

**\*Awakening of the Jews living in Judea and Samaria and in Jerusalem to the voice of God and to the righteous work of His Messiah Yeshua. That they have revelation regarding Who is the source of their life and their preservation—and whose “righteousness” is required to preserve and exalt their nation.**

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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 27 January—2 February are called *Yitro*—“Jethro”.

**TORAH:** Exodus 18:1—20:26

**HAFTARAH:** Isaiah 6:1—7:6; 9:6-7

**\*Exodus 18:21-22:** *“Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders...let them judge the people at all times...”*

Moses is counseled by his father-in-law to set up a system of “judges” amongst the people. Yet the word for “select” here is not the same as that for “chose” in verse 25. Rather it is Hebrew “*hazeh*”—to watch, envision, *see prophetically*, foresee. It is of critical importance for the Body of Messiah in Israel that the choosing of leaders of godly fear, truth and honesty be done with supernatural vision and prophetic insight.

**\*Exodus 19:4b.** *“...I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.”* Compare Deuteronomy 32:10-12, *“He found him in a desert land and in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings, so YHVH (the LORD) alone led him, and there was no foreign god with him.”*

**\*Exodus 19:5.** *“And now, if you will truly heed My voice and guard My covenant, you will become for Me a treasure among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine.”* Compare Psalm 25:10, *“All the paths of the LORD are grace and truth (Heb: chesid and emet), to such as guard His covenant and His testimonies.”* **PLEASE PRAY:** For Israelis to realize that God still longs to “bring her to Himself”, that He has released a New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-33) in the blood of His Son Yeshua, in whom “grace and truth are realized” (John 1:17); that as she embraces that Covenant, she will find that He is still speaking, and as she hears and responds to His voice, she will find again the treasured place in His heart.

**\*Exodus 19:6, 10.** *“You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation... ‘Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.’”* Revelation 1:5-6 teaches that becoming a kingdom of priests and a holy nation comes about through the love of Yeshua and the washing away of sins by His blood.

**\*Exodus 19:16-20.** *“Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thundering and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the shofar was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled...Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because YHVH descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the*

*smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when the blast of the shofar sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and Elohim answered him by voice. Then YHVH came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And YHVH called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.”* Compare Hebrews 12:18-29, “For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a shofar and the voice...But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn registered in Heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Yeshua the Mediator of the New Covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. See that you do not refuse Him who speaks...Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. **FOR OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE.**”

**\*Exodus 20:4.** “*You shall not make for yourself a carved image...you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I am YHVH your God, a Jealous god...*” This word for “Jealous” (*kana*) is used in its noun form in the last sentence of this week’s Reading from the Prophets, Isaiah 9:7. However, there it is translated “zeal” (through which the LORD will establish the government of His SON forever). Righteous jealousy or zeal is always released on behalf of someone or something which is intensely loved. However, when activated in the flesh for selfish motives, the same word is translated “envy”.

**\*Exodus 20:13.** “*You shall not murder.*” In some older English translations the word “kill” was used. But the word for kill and that for murder are different words in the Hebrew.

**\*Exodus 20:21.** “*So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick cloud where God was.*” This “thick cloud” (*araphel*) is translated “deep darkness” in Isaiah 60:2. But that darkness is over the “peoples”, and will be dispelled by the rising of the LORD, when His glory shall be “seen.” Today in Modern Hebrew *araphel* means “fog”—and Israel for the most part is “in a fog” regarding finding her God. **PLEASE PRAY: For the veil to be removed from the eyes of God’s ancient people—that a light rise in their hearts and God’s glory will be seen—that they will be drawn into the “Cloud of Unknowing” to discover the One who has known them from afar and drawn them in lovingkindness.**

**\*Exodus 20:26.** “*Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.*” It was God who first provided suitable clothing for hiding that which had awakened shame in Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:21). It would only be through the work of the Son that all humankind can again find themselves clothed, in His righteousness, and our shame taken away. “*Clothe yourselves with the Lord Yeshua Messiah, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature*” (Romans 13:14).

### **An exceptionally powerful Haftarah**

#### **Isaiah 6:1-7:6; 9:6-7**

The readings from the Prophets for this week (Isaiah 6:1-7:6) contain, in parallel to the manifestation of the LORD’s presence in power on Mount Sinai, the awesome revelation of Holiness made to the prophet Isaiah. Before the holy presence of the LORD “high and lifted

up”— the seraphim, the Voice, the shaking and smoke, Isaiah sees himself as unclean and his lips as unclean. Yet his lips are touched with the coal, his iniquity taken away. and his sin purged. And he is given a message for his people—a message describing a “veil” which would settle upon the House of Israel (and which continues until the present day)...and the promise of a remnant. After a shorter message of instruction related to current events, the reading incredibly leaps two chapters to Isaiah 9:6-7, *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of HOSTS will perform this!”*

**PLEASE PRAY:** For divine revelation of the Holiness of the LORD to accompany this reading—and of His Zeal and Jealousy which has already seen the birth of the “Child”—who will soon be released to return and rule over His kingdom *in judgment and justice forever!*



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Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 3-9 February are called *Mishpatim*—“Judgments”: TORAH: Exodus 21:1—24:18 (Plus Exodus 30:11-16); HAFTARAH: II Kings 11:17—12:17]

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