

Prayer Update From Israel (January 28, 2016)



“Descending” cloud over Jerusalem.

Then YHVH came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain (Exodus 19:20; See Torah Section below).

And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind...and they were all filled with Ruakh haKodesh—“The Wind/Spirit of Holiness” (Acts of the Apostles 2:2-4)

1. YOUNG ONES, BUT FOR GRACE, DOOMED FOR DESTRUCTION...

“For death has come up through our windows; It has entered our palaces to cut off the children from the streets, The young men from the town squares” (Jeremiah 9:21).

“Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles... (Proverbs 24:17).

*Last week we wrote of two stabbings in Judah—the murder of Dafna Meir in Otnie’el, and the wounding of a pregnant woman Michal Froman in Tekoa. The attacker of Michal was captured almost immediately; he was 19 years old. A few days later the killer of Dafna was apprehended and proved to be a 16-year-old boy from a nearby village. Towards the end of the week, a Muslim woman approached the entrance to the Jewish settlement of Anathoth in the region of Benjamin north of Jerusalem. As the sentinel came near to check her I.D., she drew a knife and began trying to stab him. The guard managed to dodge the knife and shoot before she could strike again. Only as they attempted unsuccessfully to resuscitate her, did the Israelis discover that she was only a girl; Raqiya Abu Eid was only 13 years old. ***A deeply disturbing element in the current wave of terrorist attacks in Israel and the disputed territories has been that at least****

a third of these lone-wolf attacks have been carried out or attempted to be carried out by Arab teenagers—some in their early teens.

The attacks by these young people appear to not be part of some large conspiracy. They are not being sent by terrorist organizations; most do not seem connected to the Palestinian sovereignty issue at all. . Contrary to an assumption widespread in the nations, the majority of these youth are not from homes made desperate and poverty-stricken because of Israeli oppression—they have cell phones, they go to school, their parents have jobs. Rather, the attacks seem to be personal, in many cases spur-of-the-moment decisions made by the kids on their own—actions which they seem to be aware will likely result in their deaths. In some cases, it is a longing for recognition by their peers; a recognition which has magnified irrationally into an obsession worth dying for. The young people who have been killed while involved in stabbing attacks on Israelis have been lionized in the Palestinian media and in their home towns as “martyrs”. A few weeks ago, Israel intercepted an enormous shipment of children’s dolls holding knives, headed for shops in the territories. The inciting falsehoods of the Palestinian media certainly make an impression on the young. The 16-year old who brutally murdered Dafna Meir last week confessed his actions as having been strongly influenced by watching Palestinian television, in which Israel was presented as a country that “kills young Palestinians.” So on the day of the attack, we went forth to the nearby village to murder a Jew.

1) *However, many of the motives behind these child-terrorists stem from irrational reactions to severe personal problems*—abuse as children or teenagers, social alienation, unrequited love; situations in which the youth have decided that dying is better than being alive—and better to die so as to be a national hero rather than by committing suicide, which would bring shame on the family.

2) The 13-year-old Raqiya Abu Eid mentioned above, had evidently had a family quarrel, which led to her leaving her village with a knife in her bag, apparently planning to die. Her father went after her, but arrived after she had already attempted the stabbing at the gates of Anathoth.

3) In recent weeks the phenomena of young Palestinians yielding to this unpredictable “death wish” has come home to the Palestinian Authority itself, which has begun to realize that these children and teens are not serving any interest, except their own. The PA has begun initiating measures in schools to detect ahead of time if students are behaving in a way to arouse concern. They recently apprehended a teen in Hebron already armed with a knife and on his way to carry out an attack on Jews because of a girlfriend’s father’s refusal to give her hand in marriage.

4) Although this present wave of violence does not appear to be an *Intifada*, carefully planned, organized and fueled by the Palestinian Authority in collusion with various terrorist organizations as in the past, ***we are convinced that in fact a conspiracy in the heavens has been launched to capture and snuff out the lives and redemptive destinies of Arab children, living in both Israel and the Territories.***

PLEASE PRAY:

*** That the curse of a “death wish” would be lifted from the young Arab community in Israel and Judea and Samaria. Pray against spirits assigned to lead Palestinian young people to suicide.**

*** That a light of truth and hope, of salvation and supernatural deliverance from sin be released into Palestinian and Arab Israeli children—a Light which is the Light of Yasua/Jesus—the Son of the Living God.**

*** For Angelic activity on behalf of those Muslim young people who “will inherit salvation” (Hebrews 1:14).**

*** For wisdom and grace for the Israeli authorities to move in both mercy and justice in dealing with the young captives who have been apprehended for carrying out or attempting to carry out attacks against Israeli citizens while under this demonic influence.**

**1) “Terrorist who murdered Dafna Meir incited after watching Palestinian TV”:
ynetnews.com, 01/24/16; 17:23.**

**2) “Fighting the phenomenon of teenage terrorists”:
ynetnews.com, 01/22/16 23:24.**

**3) “Palestinian girl tries to stab security guard in Anathoth”:
ynetnews.com, 01/23/16
09:55.**

4) “Fighting the phenomenon...”

2. PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR NATAN MEIR AND HIS FAMILY.

Please continue to pray for Natan Meir who lost his wife Dafna just over a week ago. This past week his family has observed what is known in Hebrew culture as “sitting *shiva*”—a seven-day period in which a bereaved family receives guests to join with it in mourning and remembering the departed one. A very deeply-moving remembrance of Dafna was printed in the ynetnews Magazine; this may be accessed by typing <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4756598,00.html> into your browser. Dafna, with the light and faith which she had, was truly a blessing in her community. Last week, though in the midst of his great grief at her taking, Natan felt nevertheless to emphasize, *“We have no anger. I am not angry at anyone. We do not curse Arabs. We are not people who hate. That’s not how Dafna and I educated the kids. I spoke with the children yesterday and didn’t hear a single bad thing. I talked to themj about what we will do now. It’s not simple.”*

PLEASE PRAY:

*** For Natan Meir. His wife’s name meant, “A Garland of Illumination”. Natan’s name means, “He Gave Illumination.” Pray that the Father of Lights will grant Him and his family comfort, and illuminate a path for them to go.**

*** For his four natural children and two foster children—that they will be allowed to stay together, and will be healed and restored by the God of Life from the trauma of what they have seen and experienced.**

* That the LORD who will not allow a smoking flax to go out, will breath on the light in this family—and lead them into a true and living way...and all of Israel.

*“Terror victim’s widower: ‘We have no anger’”: ynetnews.com; 01/20/16; 10:27.

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. The Haftarah, unless otherwise noted, will be that read in Ashkenazy synagogues around the world. The references for all texts are those found in English translations of the Scriptures.

The readings for this week 24-30 January 2016 are called *Yitro*—“Jethro”)

TORAH: Exodus 18:1—20:26

HAFTARAH: Isaiah 6:1—7:6; 9:6-7

For our further intercession this week, we will focus upon one of the most powerful Torah Portions of the Year, centered round the descent of the LORD onto Mount Sinai and the release through His Living Word of the Ten Commandments to His people. This event changed the direction of history for Israel and the world, and continues to instruct of His nature and ways today.

***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*, to 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 19:1-2.** *“On the third new moon (Rosh Chodesh—“head of the month”) of the setting out of the people of Israel from the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the desert*

of Sinai” ...there Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God”
(Exodus 19: 1-2).

The “mountain” is *Horeb*, the Mountain of God, where Moses had first encountered the LORD in the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-2). The Hebrew for “bush” in that passage is *sneh*. Some believe that the name by which this mountain would be most often remembered in Israel’s future—*Sinai*, was itself taken from *sneh*, which in the Hebrew it very much resembles. In that case, Mount Sinai would be the “mountain of the bush out of which the LORD had spoken to Moses, and the mountain out of which He would now speak in the hearing of all Israel. Today, its location is not certain. Although traditionally assumed to lie either in the center or south-central of the Sinai peninsula, in recent years strong reasons have been advanced for suspecting that the “far side of the desert” (Exodus 3:1; Midian straddled both sides of the Gulf of Aqaba) referred in fact to the north-western corner of the Arabian peninsula—in which case the crossing of the Red Sea might have taken place at the southern end of the Gulf.

The arrival of the Moses with the Children of Israel at Mt. Sinai where they would remain for a year ministering to YHVH (rather than the Pharaohs as they had done for the past 400 years) began the fulfillment of God’s promise to Moses in Exodus 3:12, “*I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve Elohim on this mountain.*”

***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: chesed 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.’”* In Revelation 1:5-6 this call, made first to Israel, is now extended to all those children of Adam who receive the love of Yeshua by being washed from their sins in His blood. In this washing, they enter their destiny, being made into “*a kingdom of priests to His God and Father.*”

***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 19:20; 20:1-** *“Then YHVH came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain...And Elohim spoke all these words, saying...”* The Scriptures testify that just as God Himself was present in the burning bush (Ex. 3:4), so was He present at Mount Sinai—He *“came down”* (19:11, 20) and *“spoke all these words”* (the Ten Commandments). It is difficult for religious Jews to grasp the concept of God taking a literal form, of coming physically into our experience (If they allowed such a possibility, they might then be compelled to consider the claims of His having taken on human form in the person of Yeshua/Jesus!) To explain away the Scriptural implications, they have contrived many complex theories regarding such manifestations, whether to Abraham at Hebron, or to the other Patriarchs, or His appearance to Moses in the bush and here at Mt. Sinai.. John 1 speaks powerfully of the *“Living Word”* which was *with* God and which *was* God, and which was made flesh and came into the world in the form of Yeshua the Messiah. **PLEASE PRAY:** for revelation that this same WORD/TORAH which came down and was released at Sinai in the hearing of all Israel, is that Word which took on flesh and came to bear away Her sin—and will return to rule and reign over a Kingdom of Peace. It is traditionally held that this giving of the Torah took place on what would later be celebrated as the Feast of Shavuot (Weeks, Pentecost). **PLEASE PRAY:** that this *Holy Spirit*, which breathed forth the Torah and all of the Scriptures and was released on Pentecost, would awaken revelation within Jewish hearts regarding the Living Word of God which has come down to Earth.

***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 could again find themselves clothed, in His righteousness, and their 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).

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 as he humbles himself and confesses his uncleanness and inadequacy, his lips are touched with the coal, his iniquity taken away, 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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[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 31 January—6 February 2016 are called *Mishpatim*: “Judgments”: TORAH: Exodus 21:12—24:18; HAFTARAH: Jeremiah 34:8-22; 33:25-26]