

Prayer Update From Israel (January 30, 2011)



*Rainbow directly over the Temple Mount and Mount of Olives.
Saturday afternoon, January 28th
Photo: Steve Carpenter*

1. FORMER RAINS OVER ISRAEL CONTINUE

“Let us now fear YHVH our God, Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest” (Jeremiah 5:24).

“Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of YHVH. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth” (Hosea 6:3).

“Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for YHVH has done marvelous things! Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field; for the open pastures are springing up, and the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their strength. Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in YHVH your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you—the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month (Joel 2:21-23).

“Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek YHVH, till He comes and rains righteousness on you” (Hosea 10:12).

Israel is being blessed this year. There is no rain here between around early May to late October. Then begins the yoreh—the early rains. Hopefully these continue until the malkosh—the “latter rains” of March and April. For at least four years now Israel has been experiencing near-drought to drought conditions. The Sea of Galilee shrank and “islands” appeared in places. The aquifers were getting dangerously low and salinated. Water was rationed and had to be boiled in certain places. There was some respite during the early part of last year. But as the long dry summer came to its end, forecasters were predicting another dry year.

BUT GOD! He is not bound by weather forecasts. So far this winter it is raining much more than had been predicted. As of now much of the country is experiencing 100 % of its average

rainfall for this time of year. Last week heavy rainstorms swept the country and there were blizzard conditions in the Golan Heights. Today, it is raining off-and-on even though a clear day had been predicted.

The Bible is clear about the rains in Israel being a blessing from God. Jeremiah 5:24 (partly quoted above) makes clear that God's blessing should result in holy reverence for Him. The coming of the "former rains" should result in Israel's rejoicing in her God (Joel 2:21-23 above). And like the farmers' preparations of the earth and dependence upon Heaven for the rains, we are called to break up the fallow ground of Israel's soul through repentance, holy works and intercession, until the Most High rain down righteousness (Hosea 10:12).

PLEASE PRAY

*** Thanksgiving and rejoicing with us for the rains which are blessing Israel this winter.**

*** That Israel humble herself in gratefulness and the fear of the Lord for His blessing.**

*** That the rains will continue. Pray that the rains will extend to the south, which is still below normal. Pray for an abundance which will continue and will fill up the Sea of Galilee which is still over four meters below its optimum level.**

*** That we will be grateful, but not presume—that we will "ask for rain in the time of the latter rain"—that the malkosh will come in abundance in the Spring.**

*** That we will be encouraged to pursue the knowledge of the LORD, to seek Him and His righteousness...til it come in abundance, as the rains!**

2. RETURN OF THE STARLINGS: CELEBRATING THE WIND, SOARING AND TURNING TOGETHER, EVADING THE RAPTORS.

A story in Wednesday's HaAretz tells of how enormous clouds of "synchronized starlings" have returned to Israel. Until about 20 years ago Israel was on the route of these birds from Russia and Eastern Europe. Then they suddenly mysteriously stopped coming. Now they are returned, especially on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The birds feed in the fields during the day. Then at dusk they come together and for about 20 minutes go through an amazing aerobatic display, coming together into a black cloud, which continually weaves and extends and folds in unexpected ways like smoke. We witnessed one of these constantly forming clouds in the distance as we were driving back from Beer Sheba this past Friday afternoon...it reminded us of an old "lava lamp"! The starlings are called "synchronized" because of the way their movements are harmonized with each other. Ornithologists attribute this behavior at least partly to a kind of "wisdom" which protects the flock. If the birds were separated, they would be quick prey for "raptors"—birds of prey such as eagles, hawks, falcons or owls. However, being in a tight-knit continually weaving and folding flock of half a million, it is much more difficult for raptors to single out individuals for their prey. Also, one ornithologist explains, "In a split second, the flock that was a flying ball only a moment before changes direction and the burst of wind flips

the raptor over on its back.” (“Long-lost starlings are flying back to Israel” (by Eli Ashkenazi): HAARETZ.com, 25 Jan 2012; 01;12).



*Starlings over Kibbutz Ein Gev.
Gil Eliyahu: Photographer*

PLEASE PRAY:

* That we would be “synchronized” by the Holy Spirit, staying tightly together with the flocks, large or small, in which God has positioned us. It was those who straggled behind who were picked off by the Amalekites (See Deut. 25:17-19 quoted in Torah section below).

*That we would be alert to change direction unexpectedly, but immediately and together at a mere breath of the Holy Spirit; the same wind will disorient any pursuing enemy.

*To, like Abraham (Genesis 15:9-21), guard over the sacrifices the Lord calls us to offer. Abraham drove back the raptors which came down towards the altar...in doing this, he protected the way for the LORD to release a deep prophetic Word which would be relevant for generations to come.

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 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 favour 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's 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 root of the word for Salvation Yeshuah).**

***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 the 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 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 honour 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). Nes is also the word for "miracle". The Amalekites were a real people—who throughout the Scriptures epitomize and symbolize a spirit 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 the first 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 Judges 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 as well as the Word (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. 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.**



*Martin & Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 5-11 February Yitro—“And Yitro (Jethro) the Priest of Midian”) will be, TORAH: Exodus 18:1—20:26; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 6:1—7:6; 9:6-7]

You may give to our work in Israel by donating online (click [HERE](#)) or by calling **1-888-965-1099** or **1-940-382-7231**.