

PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (January 31, 2011)



*“And I said, ‘I see a branch of an almond tree.’ Then the LORD said to me, ‘You have seen well, I am watching over my word to perform it!’
(Jeremiah 1:11-12)*

1. THE ROILINGS SPREAD IN THE MIDDLE EAST

THINGS ARE TRANSITIONING QUICKLY IN THE MIDDLE-EAST. THIS PAST WEEK THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON EFFECTIVELY CAME UNDER A SHIITE RULE. THE GOVERNMENT IN EGYPT IS TOTTERING AND THOUSANDS ARE DAILY IN THE STREETS DEMANDING GOVERNMENTAL REFORM. The United States is encouraging President Mubarak to make massive democratic reforms, and so far the aging sick leader has made certain gestures. But we would remind you that “Democracy” in itself doesn’t automatically result in righteous government. Many years ago Bob Dylan wrote in his song “Union Sundown”, Democracy don’t rule this world/You better get that through your head/This world is ruled by violence/But I suppose that’s better left unsaid. Short of intercession of Divine Grace, these words bear more than a grain of truth. Hamas gained control of the government in the Gaza Strip through a more-or-less legitimate “democratic process”—then turned round after it had served its purpose, and proceeded to crush or liquidate all opposition and despotically take control of everything.

An analysis sent out on Yahoo! News on 30 January by Time Jerusalem reporter Karl Vick clarified why Israel is keenly watching the occurrences within its southern neighbor, less than confident that expulsion of Mr. Mubarak would at the moment necessarily be the most-desired scenario:

“Egypt under President Hosni Mubarak observed the 1979 peace treaty with the Jewish state, helped tighten the noose on Hamas from its border with the Gaza Strip, nursed peace talks with the Palestinians, worked to thwart Iran and, along the way, provided Israel with 40% of its natural gas. Most important to a tiny, heavily militarized country preoccupied with risk reduction, analysts say, Mubarak's posture toward Israel served to restrain other Arab states - not to mention the 80 million Egyptians whose attitudes about Israel are among the most negative in the world, according to polls. Whatever new government might emerge from the historic

demonstrations across Egypt - populist, Islamist or national unity - "there can be no doubt that the new regime will seek to deal the peace with Israel a very public blow," Eli Shaked, a former Israeli ambassador to Egypt, writes in the daily Yedioth Ahronoth. "The only people in Egypt who are committed to peace are the people in Mubarak's inner circle."

And so it is crucially important to pray the mercies and timings of the King of the Nations over what is taking place. And pray for the Believers in Egypt. We do not think that it is without significance that before the current groundswell of change a delegation of Believing Egyptian leaders made their way secretly to Israel last fall (not without strong dangers to themselves and their families) to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. This was the first such gesture of which they were aware to have taken place between Egypt and Israel in the modern era. Pray that Believers will be led by the Spirit, encouraged, and shine like stars in the darkness!

THE WRITERS ARE PRESENTLY TRAVELING OUTSIDE OF ISRAEL. WE WOULD PRESENT (WITH HIS PERMISSION) FOR YOUR INTERCESSION THE FOLLOWING SYNOPSIS OF RECENT EVENTS ALONG WITH SOME PRAYER POINTS WRITTEN BY OUR FRIEND DR. GENE LITTLE OF BEIT SHALOM—HOUSE OF PEACE:

And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbor; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom. And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it. And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the LORD, and he shall be entreated of them, and shall heal them...In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance. (Is. 19:2, 21-22, 24-25)

Dear Friends of Israel:

Greetings from Jerusalem! This week the world's attention is focused on the Middle East. Egypt is in turmoil. Inspired by a successful popular revolt in Tunisia, anti-government protestors have taken to the streets in Cairo and other Egyptian cities, determined to overthrow President Mubarak autocratic rule. Tens of thousands of Egyptians are fed up with Mubarak's inattention to their common needs. For thirty years, Mubarak has ruled with impunity, suppressing dissent and imprisoning those who disagree with his form of government.

A poor economy, high unemployment and large youthful population have served as a catalyst to fuel these demonstrations. Egypt has a population of some 80 million people, a giant in the Middle East. This population is growing by an estimated 2% a year. An estimated 2/3 of Egypt's citizens are under 30, with this age group also accounting for 90% of the unemployed. Another 40 percent live on less than \$2 a day, and 1/3 are illiterate.

The United States views President Mubarak as a vital ally and a bulwark of Middle Eastern Peace. The US, espousing democratic ideals in this region, prefers to support this dictatorship sending billions of dollars of military aid and economic assistance to secure his allegiance. President Mubarak is 82 years old and in declining health. Rumors fueled by Twitter reports and other social networks have also reported President Mubarak's wife, daughter and son Gamal fled to London along with 97 suitcases! Gamal Mubarak 47 has been chosen by his father to succeed him. Egyptian officials have denied these claims

I continue to be amazed by the relevance of scripture to daily events which happen in our lives. Egypt is primarily a Muslim country with a minority of Christian believers. It also has a deep seated suspicion of Israel. Yet, the LORD is going to cause a great change to happen in this nation. Isaiah prophesies that Egypt will be judged and then healed by God. Its inhabitants will come to truly know the LORD. Then they will form an allegiance with Israel, and open a highway to Syria. This is the Isaiah 19 highway which we have prayed for some years in intercession here in Jerusalem. The LORD God will then bless the people of Egypt.



Egypt



Israel



Syria

Are these demonstrations the beginning stages of these end-time events? Possibly, but we cannot be for certain. One thing we do know is this current instability of Egypt calls for our prayers. The Moslem brotherhood and other radical Islamic factions are waiting in the wings to assume power. Prominent reformist Mohamed El-Baradei is arriving in Egypt from Austrian exile to galvanize these protests. El-Baradei is an Iranian trained Egyptian. The world does not need this situation in Egypt to turn into a radicalized Islamic government.

This week thousands of Hamas-led Palestinians have also taken to the streets in Gaza to protest against PA President Abbas' rule. Thousands of demonstrators also took to the streets in Yemen to protest against President Ali Saleha's 30 year dictatorial rule. Yemen is struggling with soaring unemployment, and dwindling oil and water reserves. Half of this nation's 23 million people live on less than \$2 a day with one third of all Yemenites suffering from chronic hunger.

Governments in the Arab world are not democratic. The people in these Middle-Eastern countries have shown a tendency to desire strongmen who rule with impunity. The weakness lies in that there is no process for orderly transfer of power, should the common people desire a change in government. The only way reforms come is through revolts or coups. Perhaps a wave of great change is coming to the governments in these Arab lands.

Wednesday's prayer watch at House of Peace covered these areas of intercession. Pray for Egypt, Gaza Yemen and Tunisia and cover the Middle East! Lebanon is also in a government upheaval adding to the tensions of the region. Pray that the Lord would direct the outcome of

these riots. (Ps75: 7 *But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.*) There is also a danger to Israel in that it could potentially find itself sandwiched between two radical Islamic regimes, should more radical elements prevail and overthrow Mubarak. Pray that the Lord establish the leadership of His choice in Egypt. Pray for the Egyptian people that they would call upon the name of the Lord in the midst of this turmoil and be saved. Pray for the Coptic Christians in Egypt. Pray for their safety. Pray that this violence does not spill over into Israel. Pray for the government of Israel to hear the LORD. Islamic governments often tend to blame Israel and the Jewish people as being the root cause of their problems. Some of our Christian Arab friends feel that the Middle East is on fire spiritually and God is about to manifest powerfully.

President Obama to withhold veto

President Obama has indicated that he will not veto a Palestinian Arab motion in the UN this week which condemns Israel for its settlements on Palestinian occupied land in the West Bank and Jerusalem, thus allowing it to pass. If this anti-Israeli motion is passed, Obama will be the first president to allow this condemnation to go through the Security Council of the UN. The effect of this censure would make all Israeli communities illegal as well as large portions of Eastern Jerusalem. By failing to block such a motion, the US is throwing itself in league with hostile Arab nations which are seeking to undermine Israel's legitimacy as a nation. Obama is also thus signaling his approval of setting the 1967 armistice lines as official borders for Israel, thus forcing this nation to accept this mandated division. This refusal on Obama's part will send US-Israel relations into a crisis. (Read Ezekiel 35 and 36 about this area, called in Scripture "The Mountains of Israel"). The LORD God also promises judgment on those nations that have "parted my land" (Joel3:2)...Please keep all of us here in the Land in your prayers that we may follow the direction of the Holy Spirit in all we do for His Glory and Honor!

Gene Little
Jerusalem

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 T'ruma—an Offering or Contribution ("Speak unto the children of Israel to raise a contribution for Me").

TORAH: Exodus 25:1—27:19

HAFTARAH: I Kings 5:12—6:13

NOTES

MISHKAN—DWELLING PLACE

The rest of the book of Exodus (except for the incident regarding the golden calf) will be related to the setting up of the “Tabernacle”. The Hebrew for this word is mishkan—which means “a dwelling place.” Its root shakhan is used in the modern Hebrew word for “neighbor”—someone who dwells nearby. God longs to shokhen with, to dwell—to neighbor closely with His people. The word is used in Exodus 25:8 when He instructs that a “holy place” (sanctuary) be constructed so that He may dwell within Israel. This would be the tent-covered Tabernacle used in the wilderness and in the days of the Judges. At the end of this week’s Haftarah (I Kings 6:13) Solomon, some 500 years later, has completed a Temple on Mount Moriah—and the same words are again repeated, “And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel.” Around 440 years later still, a pre-incarnate Yeshua released these words two more times through the prophet Zechariah, “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst. Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent Me to you.” (Zechariah 2:10-11).

Yet, “the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands” (Acts 7:48), and today, through the work of the Messiah Yeshua, His Body on earth is “being built together for a dwelling place (Hebrew translation: mishkan) of God in the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:22). Finally, John tells us of a day when a Voice from heaven will proclaim, “ Behold, the tabernacle (Hebrew translation: mishkan) of God is with the children of Adam, and He will dwell (shokhen) with them and they shall be His people. Elohim Himself will be with them and be their God ” (Revelation 21:3-4).

*Exodus 25:2. “Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.”

*Exodus 25:10. “And they shall make an ark of acacia wood...” The word “ark” is aron, a word used today for a cabinet, closet or wardrobe (Noah’s “ark” and that of the baby Moses is a different word (teva), meaning ‘box’). It would later be called the ark- “of the testimony”, “of the covenant”, “of God” and “of YHVH [i.e. the LORD]”.

*Exodus 25:17. “You shall make a mercy seat (Hebrew: kaporet) of pure gold.” Kaporet means both “atonement” and “covering”. It was above this that the Presence of the LORD would dwell between the Cherubim, Hence the non-Biblical word shekinah (related to shakhan above) the manifest-dwelling/presence of the LORD. Upon this the blood would be sprinkled on the Day of Atonement.

*Exodus 25:22. “You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.” “Meet with

you” here means “at an appointed fixed time and place.” In God’s mercies, we now “have boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Yeshua, by a new and living way which he consecrated for us”—so as to meet with and be spoken with by our Father (Hebrews 10:19-20).

*Exodus 25:30. “And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.” Literally, this is “Bread of the Face”. Leviticus 24:5-9 clarifies that it would be 12 loaves made from wheat flour, corresponding to the 12 tribes of Israel. Each Sabbath they were placed on the golden table across from the lampstand, whose light shone upon it. Psalm 44:3 says that Israel’s victories did not come by her own prowess, but “It was Your right hand, Your arm and the Light of Your Face, for You loved them!”

*Exodus 25:40. “And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.” All of these things, the Ark; the rings of gold; the poles of acacia wood; the Mercy Seat; the Cherubim; the Table of Showbread; the golden Menorah...they point to the work of Yeshua, our heavenly High Priest and mediator of a New Covenant, “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people...For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more” (Jeremiah 31:31; Hebrews 8:3-13).



Martin & Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 6-12 Feb is called Tetsaveh—Command/Charge (“And you shall command the children of Israel...”) and will include, TORAH: Exodus 27:20—30:10; HAFTARAH: Ezekiel 43:10-27.]