

PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (October 18, 2010)



Bedouin tent and camels in the desert near the site of ancient Be'er Sheva.

“So Abram journeyed, going on still towards the Negev.”
(Genesis 12:9 See Torah Portion below)

1. “Send forth Your Light and Your Truth” into ancient Shiloah/Silwan

The village of *Silwan* lies in an area along both sides of the Kidron Valley just south of the Old City of Jerusalem. This ancient Hebrew name *Shiloah* had by Yeshua’s day begun to take on a Greek equivalent *Siloam* (See John 9:7-11), and from this later came the Arabic name *Silwan* by which the predominantly Muslim Arab neighborhood is more commonly known today. Within the western part of this area lies all of the Jerusalem conquered by David in ancient times—the spots where he built his palace and erected a tent around the Ark of the Covenant, the burial sites of most of the kings of the Judah who came later. The eastern side of the valley is pocked by old graves, one thought to be the tomb of one of Pharaoh’s daughters married to Solomon. Today there are approximately 45,000 Muslim Arabs living in the town, along with a small but rapidly growing Orthodox Jewish community. In the early 1880’s some 150 Jewish families from Yemen settled here. After the Arab uprising of 1929 and following, many of these Jews were driven from the city and their homes occupied by Arab families...the rest were vacated on recommendation of the British in 1938. The area was annexed by the Kingdom of Jordan in 1948 and remained under its sovereignty until Jordan was driven out by Israel in the 1967 war.

Today, this area has become one of the most delicate of “hotspots” in Jerusalem. Most of the Arab homes constructed on the “City of David” side were done so “illegally”, without Israeli permits after Israel gained control in ‘67. However, there is no question that for many years Israel “looked the other way” during these constructions. Now she would like to implement a form of “imminent domain” over many of the dwellings, relocating the inhabitants somewhere else (with compensation) and making the hill into an archaeological park. Needless to say, many of the inhabitants don’t wish to be relocated—and there is intimidation from Hamas elements, which are strong in this area, against any Arab daring to sell or appear to do business with Jews so far as land is concerned. At present the municipal plan is on hold, but the tensions have not abated.

For a year the area has been seething. Then, a few weeks ago a Jewish guard driving through the village found his way barred by trash cans, etc...and himself being surrounded and closed in on by stone throwing Arabs (“stone throwing” amongst Palestinians usually includes the use of catapults and slingshots). Fearing that he might be kidnapped or worse, the guard drew his gun...in the end one of his assailants was killed (The dead assailant was found to be in possession of a screwdriver and knife and had a police record). The death triggered violent riots which resulted in burned busses, police cars and stoning of tourists. In recent weeks a new “weapon” has appeared—children twelve years of age and under are sent out, their heads wrapped in masks, to hurl stones at passing Jewish motorists. A week ago a video showing a child being evidently purposely hit and thrown into the air by a Jewish driven car was aired around the region by the Arab broadcasting company *Al Jazeera*. However, another film of the event surfaced showing clearly that the masked children were running out into the street to meet the car hurling stones, with no evidence at all that the car driver was aiming at the children. Furthermore, as the camera pans back, several other cameramen come into view, already on station to capture the obviously staged encounter on film. A few days later Knesset members travelling through the area were stoned, and yesterday tourists visiting the Pool of Siloam were also stoned, one being sent to the hospital. Israel is faced with how to administer law and order when little children are being sent to break the law by adults who obviously have no concern for their physical welfare. Of course, all it would take would be a serious wounding or fatality of one of these little ones to galvanize the whole region into a storm of violence.

Shiloah is related to a Hebrew verb meaning “to send” (John 9:7). It was at the Shiloach (Siloam) Pool that Yeshua sent a man whose eyes He had anointed with mud, to wash...and from there the man came seeing. It was from this pool that waters were taken up to the Temple and poured out on Sukkot—when Yeshua cried, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘streams of living water will flow from within him!’” (John 7:37-39). Please Pray for Arabs and Jews in Silwan to become aware of a thirst which cannot be quenched but by realizing that the “anyone” called by Yeshua includes them! Pray for the Lord to send forth laborers into the field of Silwan with Living Water.

**** Shiloah can also mean “to launch”, and a noun bearing the same root refers to a javelin or weapon (which is launched). Please pray that even as children are launching their weapons, God would arm his intercessors with weapons of spiritual power and light to launch back into these regions of darkness.***

Lastly, we believe that there is a much greater “war” being arrayed here. It was in this same area that David built his palace—his “temporary dwelling”. But God has promised (Amos 9:11) to raise up that “sukka” of David, “I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken” (Ezekiel 34:23-24). So, the warfare ahead over that piece of land is likely to be fierce...but in the end God will establish a Dynasty of Peace from Mount Zion which will last forever. Pray His Kingdom Come, His Will be Done in Shiloah/Silwan!

PLEASE PRAY:

**** Psalm 43:3: “Send forth [sh’lah!—imperative form of shiloah] your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy mountain—to your dwelling places!”*** Pray that the Lord send forth light and truth to the Body of Messiah in Jerusalem, to know how best to pray and intercede for His timing and purposes in the *Shiloah* area of His city.

*Against spirits of religion which seek to control the inhabitants of this area of Jerusalem, both Arab and Jewish.

* ***“Here am I and the children whom the LORD has given me...for signs and wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells in Mount Zion.”*** Pray the mercies of God on the Arab children in Silwan who are being raised to hate and cast stones at Jews, that they be rescued from the covenant-hating power which hates them as well as Israel; that angels who are “sent to minister on behalf of those who will inherit salvation” will work to divert them from destruction and draw them towards the true Light.

***For Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat**...who is under tremendous pressures in overseeing this City, that he will seek divine wisdom (as did Solomon) so as to know what decisions to make which are in line with God’s righteous purposes for both Jew and Arab in the Shiloah/Siloam neighborhood of Jerusalem.

***For protection, guidance and encouragement for Believers** whom God has inserted into that area...for the Light of God to shine brightly through them in the darkness, for the wells of praise which once watered this ancient city from here to rise again in His servants.

2. PRAYING OVER THE RESTORED COMMUNICATION OF THE RESTORED PEOPLE

“For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord” (Zephaniah 3:9).

This past Wednesday quietly marked yet another anniversary of an event crucial to the modern restoration of Israel. On October 13th 1881, Eliezer Ben-Yehuda (Born Eliezer Yitzhak Perlman), a Jewish man originally from Belarus and educated in Paris with a group of friends all of whom had immigrated to then Ottoman Palestine, ***agreed to begin speaking only Hebrew in their conversations.*** Until then, Hebrew had lain as a dead language—spoken only in Synagogues, academia, and as a pidgin language in some markets in Jerusalem; it had not been a native mother tongue used in everyday language by a people for some 1800 years. Jewish people throughout the world either spoke the languages of the lands in which they lived, or adopted hybrids, depending upon their locale such as Yiddish or Ladino. But now a miracle occurred—among the great stirrings, which within half a century would result in the returning of Jews from all over the world to their ancient ancestral homeland and re-establishment of a nation, rose also a supernatural restoration of the ancient tongue, *Hebrew*. It is the only occurrence in recorded history of a “dead” language being restored to status of a mother tongue. Last year, passages from the Book of Isaiah hand-written on parchments over 250 years before the birth of Yeshua were placed on display in the Museum of the Book in Jerusalem. Thousands of Israelis filed through, having no trouble reading such passages as Isaiah 53 and 60—and as they walked out the door, they conversed on what they had seen in virtually the same language as that spoken by the writers of the parchment 1250 years before! Yet for over 1800 years, such conversation had not existed. Today there are Jews in Israel calling out with the literal words Yeshua said they would one day speak, *“Baruch haba, b’shem Adonai”...Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!*

PLEASE PRAY:

*For modern Hebrew to continue to be enriched and to deepen as a communicative force among the people of Israel.

*Supernatural encouragement to new immigrants to Israel who must “start over” with a new language. This can be especially discouraging for those who arrive here as older adults.

*For dissemination of *Brit haChadasha* –the New Testament throughout Israel. The New Covenant Scriptures are available in Modern Hebrew...but relatively few Israelis have ever looked into them or are even aware that they are available in their language.

*For wisdom and funds and fortitude for the Bible Society in Israel, which has finally been able to begin preparation of a “reference Bible” in Hebrew. This incredibly helpful Bible study tool, so taken for granted in the West, is unavailable in a complete Hebrew Bible for Messianic Believers in Israel. Imagine being a new Believer who knows nothing of the Gospel, who has absolutely nothing to show where a particular person, idea or verse may appear again in both the Old and New Testaments.

*For continued release from the Holy Spirit in the skills of writing anointed praise and worship songs in Hebrew. There is a steady growth in these among the Body of Messiah in the land...but there is need for new songs covering a wide spectrum of the workings of the Spirit in the Body...intimate worship, high praise, thanksgiving, warfare, lamentation, that which is regal, that which is childlike. Pray that the wells of the ancient Psalmists be reawakened in our day...in the reawakened language!

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 *VaYera* (“Appeared” the LORD to Abraham):

TORAH: Genesis 18—22:24

HAFTARAH: II Kings 4:1-37

***Genesis 18:1, 3.** *“Then the LORD [Heb: YHVH] appeared to him [Abraham] by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door...three men were standing by him...he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, and said, ‘My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.’” **John 8:56, 58.** Yeshua/Jesus: *“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad...Before Abraham was, I AM.”**

There is no clearer example in the Hebrew Scriptures of God taking on human form. He “appeared” to Abraham. When Abraham sees Him and runs to greet Him, it is to someone he recognizes (Remember, God had “appeared” to Him at least three times before (Acts 7:2; Gen. 12:7; 17:1) and he had become familiar with the “*Word of the LORD*” coming to him (Gen. 13:14; 15:1). Here Abraham approaches the three men, and to One of them he says, “My Lord...” But instead of using the normal Hebrew word *Adoni* (Lord/Master/Sir), the vowel points of the text show that he used the word “Adonai”—a pronunciation which is only used for Deity. And in the ensuing conversation both with Abraham and with Sarah, it is made abundantly clear that it is the LORD with whom they are speaking (The other two ‘men’ are obviously angels, who will soon release destruction on Sodom and Gomorrah). **PLEASE PRAY for believers in Israel, that, from inclining our ears to His voice and seeking His face, we become so familiar with our Lord and His messengers that we recognize their**

presence when they move among us. And pray that in our busy-ness we “not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels” (Hebrews 13:2).

***Genesis 18:14.** *“Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”* **Jeremiah 32:17-18.** *Jeremiah: “Ah, Lord YHVH! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great Power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too wonderful for you...the Great, the Mighty God, whose name is YHVH Tzeva’ot.”*

***Genesis 20:6-7.** *“And God said to him [Abimelech] in a dream, ‘Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. Now therefore, restore the man’s wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live....”* **PLEASE PRAY:** that although surrounded by peoples who are often hostile to us, we would make allowance in our hearts for the grace and lovingkindness of our God for all men and women of every nation, remembering that He is not willing that any should perish. And that we will not stereotype those in the peoples and nations around us, but be sensitive and ready to pray restoration and prosperity for those upon whom God through us chooses to rest His grace and mercy.

***Genesis 22:7-8.** *“Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, ‘My father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ And he said, ‘Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?’ Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.’ So the two of them walked on together.”* **Genesis 22:14.** *“And Abraham called the name of the place “YHVH will Provide...In the Mount of YHVH it will be Provided.”*

In ancient Hebrew the word *yireh* could idiomatically carry with it an idea of “provision”. Yet literally it was then, as today, a form of the verb “*To See*”. “God will see for Himself the Lamb” (22:8); “YHVH will see; as it is said to this day, ‘In the Mount of YHVH it will be seen” (22:14). God’s “seeing” and being “in His sight” is so important! We believe this to be a reason so much importance is placed throughout Scripture on the importance of dwelling “in the light of His face” (Psalm 44:3; 80:19)—“seeking His face” (Psalm 27:8-9)—“finding grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6:8). If there is nothing coming between us and His face (the place of His “seeing”), all the provision for our journey will be there. Lastly, God had indeed “seen/provided the *Lamb*”. Isaiah 54:11 uses the same word— “He shall *see* the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.”

***Genesis 22:13.** *“Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horn.”* We believe that here lies an important part of the significance of the *shofar* or rams’ horn. Here, caught by its horn, was the figure of God’s Provision for all humankind--the ‘Lamb of God which carries away the sin of the world’. The sound of the *shofar* is a sound of the redemptive work and victory of the Lamb. When it is blown in the timing and authority of the *Ruah haKodesh* (Holy Spirit/Wind)...demons tremble, and the hearts of God’s army are strengthened, renewed with courage and joy!

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[The readings for next week (17-23 October) will be called *Chayeh Sarah* (Sarah Lived).
TORAH: Genesis 23:1—25:18; HAFTARAH: I Kings 1:1-31]