

Prayer Update From Israel (October 19, 2015)



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. AS THE TERROR IN ISRAEL PERSISTS, STAND WITH US AGAINST THE DARKNESS—THE NAME OF YESHUA/JESUS IS OUR PROTECTION. PROCLAIM, “NOT NOW!!”

The wave of terrorism in Jerusalem and throughout Israel continues; there have been almost daily attacks with knives, some with guns. In attacks in Jerusalem and Ra’anana last Tuesday morning, three Israelis were slain and over 20 injured. Our next-door neighbor, a dear believing woman from Holland who has lived 40 years in Jerusalem raising abandoned Arab children, was at the front of the bus in south Jerusalem that morning when the attackers entered. She was stabbed twice in the shoulder. As she cried out the name “*Jesus! God!*” the third blow swerved, missing her heart and instead pierced her lung. The terrorist left her and moved on. Please pray for her—she is recovering, but is plagued by images of the murderer’s face.

Persistent seemingly random violence can awaken fear, anger, racism and reciprocal violence. Israelis are severely on edge, and can go over the edge. In the attack in Ra’anana, a furious crowd beat the terrorist after he had been subdued. Last night a terrorist attacked the central bus station in Be’er Sheva, killing a soldier and opening up on the crowd with the soldier’s gun. Ten people were injured, several critically. An innocent Eritrean man, mistaken for a second terrorist, was shot by a security guard, and then beset upon and savagely beaten by a frenzied mob. He afterwards died of his wounds. As we stand against the spirit of “*hamas*” (Hebrew for “*cruel violence*”) which is being released, please pray against hatred and vengeance releasing lawlessness among

those being attacked. God is the only One to whom vengeance belongs and from whom it can be released in cleanness and righteousness (Psalm 94:1; Romans 12:18-19).

Although there is no question that many of the attacks presently taking place in Israel are being prompted by seemingly random motives (e.g. young Muslim teenagers eager to achieve heroic notice on “Facebook”), a recurrent deduction among analysts is that the senior forces fueling the incitement are operating as part of a larger strategy against Israel’s sovereignty and presence on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem (See below).

Ask the LORD to guide you in your prayers. We would here submit for your prayerful consideration a strategy for prayer and proclamation we believe the Lord has released this week among those of us involved in the prayer-room *Succat Hallel*—“Tabernacle of Praise” in Jerusalem. It is written by Rick Ridings, Director of the Prayer Room:

“NOT NOW! TO TERRORISM IN JERUSALEM: HOW TO PRAY

A Prayer Alert from Rick Ridings in Jerusalem, 15 Oct., 2015

To All Our Praying Friends:

I am sure you are aware of the recent wave of terror attacks in Israel, centered in Jerusalem. Since October 1st and until today - October 13th, the number of casualties is: 7 have lost their lives, 99 were injured, among them 10 are in severe medical condition. Many have been asking how we have been led to pray in *Succat Hallel*. Here are a few major points:

1. I Believe We Are to “Re-Enforce” a “Gag and Restraining Order” on Demonic Incitement.

Many who read this will remember that during a similar month of incitement and violence in Jerusalem a year ago October, when most journalists were predicting a long-term uprising, I received a vision concerning a menacing dragon, the Temple Mt. and incitement. For a description of the full vision, go to: <http://www.succathallel.com/category/prayer-alerts/>

In brief, in that vision I saw a huge black dragon that was circling in a menacing manner above the Temple Mount here in Jerusalem. Each time it breathed fire from its mouth, violence was released on the Temple Mount. But I knew this time it was planning something really much larger. Suddenly I saw in the heavens two words: “NOT NOW”. Then a huge foot descended from the heavens and pinned the dragon to the ground. Next, the Lord reached down and put shackles on the dragon’s feet and imprisoned the dragon in the underground mosque on the southeast corner of the Temple Mount. Then, I saw the Lord’s hand put a lock on the door with a timer attached to it, seeming to indicate it would be released to do something quite “big” in the timing of the Lord, but that now was not the time. In a continuation of the vision, I felt the Lord say we were to ask Him as the Judge of the Universe to give a “gag and restraining order” to silence the dragon for this time period. Two days after we proclaimed the “gag and restraining order”, a major Palestinian terrorist who had been jailed, was discovered to be releasing

incitement through recordings smuggled out. He was put into solitary confinement, and within a short time the violence had died down.

As I was crying out to the Lord for revelation whether now was the time that “timer” was finished, and that spirit allowed a greater freedom, I had new vision: I saw that a demonic power had partially bent open the bars of the dungeon, and had succeeded in partially removing the gag over the dragon’s mouth. The dragon was breathing out some fire, and thrashing with its tail, trying to break out of the dungeon. Then I heard the Lord say we were to “re-enforce the gag and restraining” order. As we proclaimed that, I saw two strong angels enter the dragon’s cell, and say “*Heel!!*” Just like a trained dog, the dragon stopped thrashing and sat down. The angels then put the gag back fully over its snout, and bent the bars straight, so that it could not escape.

I would encourage you to join us to keep proclaiming this “gag and restraining order” and “*Not Now!*” until we have seen a fully calming-down of the situation, as occurred last year in November and December.

2. Proclaim that the Lord will “Cut Off Those Who Cut”.

Last Monday evening at *Succat Hallel*, our dear friend, Dr. Gene Little shared a very specific Scripture to proclaim. Almost all of the current terrorist attacks are knifings. Gene shared that the word for the ancient people, the “Cherethites”, basically means “those that cut”.

We felt a strong anointing as we proclaimed **Ezekiel 25:15-17**:

¹⁵ ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Because the Philistines have acted in revenge and have taken vengeance with scorn of soul to destroy with everlasting enmity,”¹⁶ therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I will stretch out My hand against the Philistines, even cut off the Cherethites and destroy the remnant of the seacoast.¹⁷ I will execute great vengeance on them with wrathful rebukes; and they will know that I am the Lord when I lay My vengeance on them.”

We are continuing to proclaim that the Lord will “cut off those who cut” in Jerusalem and throughout Israel.

3. Pray for the Roots of this Incitement to Be Uprooted

We felt strongly that we were to proclaim Numbers 23:23: “*There is no divination against^[a] Jacob, no evil omens against^[b] Israel. It will now be said of Jacob and of Israel, ‘See what God has done!’*” Let us continue to claim over Israel divine protection against witchcraft and sorcery.

In addition, we were reminded of a way the Lord had led me to pray towards the end of the “Second Intifada” when we who were living in Jerusalem had experienced almost four years of suicide bombings. It came out at that time that the primary incitement was coming from “Sheik Yassin”, the Islamic spiritual leader of Gaza. Although the IDF had tried several times a targeted, “pinpoint” assassination of Sheik Yassin, he had narrowly escaped each time. We felt

we were to pray he would either repent; or if unwilling to repent, that his “shield of occult and witchcraft” protection would be removed from him. Within a week, he was “taken out”, and soon after that the suicide bombings stopped, saving hundreds of innocent lives.

Let us pray that terrorists who do not have a completely hardened heart would have a revelation of Jesus like Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus. But if they, like Pharaoh, have fully hardened their hearts, that they would be exposed, lose their occult shield of protection, and be uprooted.

4. Pray that those who have been influenced by the lies of incitement would have a revelation of the Lord and His heart for them.

So many of those who have been carrying out these demonic knifings have been *teenagers*. We felt we were to pray for huge numbers of those who have been under the influence of the lies and incitement to have dreams, visions, and visitations from the Lord. Only the Lord can change hearts, even as He did for Saul of Tarsus.

Last year we had a visit in *Succat Hallel* from an Iranian who had been a Hezbollah terrorist. He shared an amazing encounter with Jesus that had transformed him from hating and killing Israelis, into someone who had the Lord’s heart of love for them. What an amazing testimony of the greatness of the Lord!

Let’s join together for a miraculous turning of the tide in the hearts of this generation here in Israel.

Rick Ridings, October 15, 2015

Founder / Director, Succat Hallel (24/7 worship and prayer overlooking the Temple Mount in Jerusalem)

<http://www.succathallel.com>

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 18-24 October 2015 are called *Lekh Lekha*—“Go Forth, Yourself”:

TORAH: Genesis 12:1—17:27

HAFTARAH: Isaiah 40:27—41:16

This week’s portion hearkens back to the call of Abram in Ur (Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 7:2) and ends with the promise of Isaac and with Abram (his name now changed to “Abraham”) with his household entering into the Covenant of Circumcision. In the course of these chapters he will travel from Ur and Haran (12:4) to Canaan, passing through the land to Shechem, Bethel, the Negev (dry southland), Egypt, back to the Negev, back to Bethel, walking the land “northward, southward, eastward, and westward (13:14), to Hebron, to war north of Damascus, back to Hebron. We cannot hope here to discuss all that takes place in the course of these travels; but ask the LORD to attend you as you travel with the Father of our Faith, “*Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain; When he was but one I called him, then I blessed him and multiplied him.*’ *Indeed, the LORD will comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places...*” (Isaiah 51:1-3a).

***Genesis 12:1-** “*Now the LORD said to Abram: ‘Go you forth out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; BE a Blessing! I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*”

a. “**Now the LORD said to Abram: ‘Go you forth out of your country...**”

Rabbinic Jewish tradition holds that this command came from Haran (in modern-day S/E Turkey) where Genesis 11:31 tells us that Abram’s father Terah had taken Abram and his wife Sarai and Terah’s grandson Lot. But two places in the New Covenant show that this is not true.

Acts 7:2-4: Stephen is preaching to Jewish leaders in Jerusalem: “*Brothers and sisters, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia [the city of Ur was in this region], before he lived in Haran, and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.’ Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living.*” There is nothing in the account to suggest that the religious Jewish leaders to whom he was preaching, were in disagreement with this.

Hebrews 11:8-10. “*By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations whose designer and builder is God.*”

*From these passages we see that God appeared to Abraham. One of the difficulties for many Jews in believing that Yeshua/Jesus is God is their insistence that God could never take on a form and be seen. Yet this shows us that God is capable of taking on just such a form—he “appeared to” Abraham. We will see this “appearing” happening again and again throughout the Torah.

*He appeared while Abraham was still in Ur and commanded him to leave his family and follow Him. This was a new experience for Abraham. There were many ‘gods’ worshipped in Ur. Now He, like all of us today, would have to learn to know and trust this new God. He would make mistakes, but he would nevertheless exercise faith in trusting with the light he had. We have no way of knowing if he erred in telling his father what God had commanded, rather than just obeying and going. But evidently he did tell his father—who then decided to go along. He in fact took control—and led them as far as Haran. In doing so, Terah probably took along his own household gods. As we shall see, these would reappear many years later, creating big problems for Abraham’s descendants. For now, God allowed Terah to go along, though not to the ultimate destination. And so they waited in Haran until Abraham’s father died—and God moved Abram, his wife and Lot on to Canaan.

***Genesis 12:2a. “I will make you a great nation...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”** Hebrew for “nation” is *goy*; “great nation” is *goy gadol*. In Modern Hebrew slang, *goy* and *goyim* (plural) are often used in reference to individuals or peoples who are non-Jews/Gentiles. Scripture most often uses *goyim* to refer to nations other than Israel. However, here God is speaking to an individual human being drawn from one of the nations, who in his descendants would become a *great nation* in which *families* throughout the earth would be blessed. It may be significant that “earth” here is *adamah*—soil (from which *adam*—human beings were formed). God saw and continues to see this people as an individual nation before him of the seed of Abraham...and his blessing through them is on behalf of all humankind.

***Genesis 12:2. “I will make a great nation of you and will give-you-blessing and will make your name great. Be a blessing!”** (Everett Fox translation; emphases ours) In the Hebrew the last three words are clearly a *command/imperative form*. God isn’t saying here that Abraham and his seed “will be” a blessing. Rather, he is speaking a command into that seed, **“BE!”** Indeed, a blessing to all the children of Adam through that seed would be released in the coming of Messiah. But this holy command has never been annulled. The workings of God for all humankind continue to be mirrored in his workings in this People. For those with eyes to see and ears to hear, she continues to “Be a Blessing”. And as Israel, through recognizing and receiving her Messiah, returns to her fullness, her acceptance will be *“life from the dead”!* (Romans 11:15).

***Genesis 12:7-8. “Then YHVH (The LORD) appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your seed I will give this land.’ And there he built an altar to YHVH, who had appeared to him. And he moved/shifted from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent...where he built an altar to YHVH and called on the name of YHVH.”**

Wonderful things happened in Shechem (modern-day Nablus). The God of Glory had appeared to Abram while still in Ur (Acts 7:2). Now after a long and arduous journey, he *appeared* again! Look at the Scripture again. Shechem certainly appeared to be:

- A legitimate destination of God's leading.
- A place of God's revealed Presence
- A place of the releasing of God's prophetic Word
- A place of *established worship* to "the One who reveals Himself"
- An ideal place to settle down.

Yet one verse later Abraham moves to Bethel. The word translated "moved" also means to "take a shift" (Robert Alter translates it "*pulled up his stakes*"). As we saw during the recent *Sukkot* festival, God "makes everything beautiful *in its time or season* (Ecclesiastes 3:11). But he is under no obligation to beautify if the season for our being in a certain place has passed, yet we insist on staying there. Abram took his "*shift*" and a much greater blessing awaited him at Bethel, a place he would return to time and time again...and to which his grandson Jacob would return to find an open heavens with the angels still ascending and descending.

***Genesis 14:5.** *"In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him came and attacked the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim, and the Horites in their mountain of seir, as far as El Paran, which is by the wilderness...And the king of Sodom went out to meet him [i.e. Abraham] after his striking down Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him..."*

Abraham pursued and struck down this king who himself had struck down the *Rephaim, Zuzim, Emim, and the Horites*. It is fascinating to discover how almost 500 years later, in Deuteronomy 2:10, 12, 20, 22; 3:11, descendants of each of these peoples, whose height and cruel renown had paralyzed with fear ten of the twelve spies 40 years before, are dispatched quickly by the children of that generation before their advancement into Canaan. Perhaps Joshua and Caleb had been taught how the God of their father Abraham had given him easy victory over a king who had himself subdued all of these feared peoples.

***Genesis 14:19.** *"Then Melchizedek king of Shalem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of El Elyon (God Most-High).* Just as English *god* comes from an old Anglo-Saxon expression for deity, the Canaanites word for god was *el*, and they had many *elelim*. Soon after Abram entered Canaan, the One who had appeared to him in Ur and Shechem began to reveal aspects of His nature which made clear how *this "El"* differed from all the other "el's" crowding the land. These attributes are reflected in a number of descriptive *names* which began to be used by Abraham and his descendants...*El Elyon* is the *El* (or God) who is "most High"—*El Roi* (16:13) is *El* who "Sees"—*El Shaddai* (17:1) is *El* who is "Almighty and sustains all life". By verse 22, Abram realizes that the God who had appeared to him as YHVH in Ur and Shechem (12:1; 12:7-8) and this *El Elyon* are One and the same, *"I raise my hand to YHVH El Elyon, the possessor of Heaven and earth..."*

***Genesis 15:6.** *"And he believed in YHVH, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."*

***Genesis 16:4b-5a. “And when she [Hagar] saw that she had conceived, her mistress [Sarai] became despised in her eyes. Then Sarai said to Abram, ‘May the wrong done me be upon you!’”**

We must realize that the struggle reflected in Hagar’s actions and Sarai’s response is over an issue of far greater magnitude than either of these women could have been aware. Far from being merely a domestic squabble (although, so it may have seemed to them), *a cosmic spiritual battle was raging over God’s covenant on behalf not only of Abraham’s descendants but of the whole Human Race!* When Sarai speaks wildly to Abram of the “wrong” being done her, she uses the word *hamas*—a word used other places in the Hebrew Bible for “cruel violence” (Genesis 49:5; Psalm 25:19; 27:12). A great Enemy was seeking to divert the line of Covenant which God had determined to come through Sarai’s womb (Genesis 17:21); this covenant-hating Power of “cruel violence” was trying to tear her apart. ***This same battle is still raging!*** The Muslim religion teaches that a divine covenant went through Ishmael, not Isaac. The power behind this falsehood hates Life, and the God of Life, and rules those presently under its dominion with *hamas* (a word which coincidentally is spelled and pronounced the same as the acronym for the terrorist Islamic Resistant Movement). **PLEASE PRAY: That Muslims will be freed from a power of cruel violence which has sought to keep them outside the covenant of God Most High. Pray for dreams and visions...for a powerful working of the Holy Spirit of God who sheds abroad in hearts the Love that the Father has for them. Pray that perfect love from the Most High God will be discovered to come through knowledge of Jesus...and that that perfect Love will cast out fear.**

Genesis 17:4-12. “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations...I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your seed after you. Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God...This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations....”

It is significant that the first two locations where God promised to give “this land” to Abraham’s seed ***Shechem*** (modern day Nablus), Genesis 12:7; ***Bethel***, Genesis 13:14-15 (and probably ***Hebron***, Genesis 15:18, 17:1-14) are located in the area of the “Mountains of Israel”, currently known to much of the world as the “West Bank”. It is this same area which Israel is being constantly pressured to surrender for establishment of a permanent Muslim Palestinian state. We also find it significant that during the past three years, *circumcision* has come under fire in a number of places in the west—including certain areas of the United States and Europe. It must be remembered that although these efforts to ban circumcision are being made under the guise of protecting the rights of children, the ritual they are seeking to ban was given by God to the Hebrews as sign of a covenant, eternally binding them to the land once called “Canaan”—which includes, of course, the furiously contested areas of Judea and Samaria and all of Jerusalem.

Genesis 17:18-22. *“And Abraham said to God, ‘Oh that Ishmael might live before You!’ Then God said, But Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.’ Then he finished talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.”*

After Abraham asks God that Ishmael may “live before Him”, God does not answer “No” (as many English versions translate), nor “Yes” (as the NIV translates). The Hebrew simply says, *“But, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son...”* Ishmael will indeed live before Him, becoming a nation with “twelve princes” (a prophecy which is shown fulfilled in Genesis 25:16). But the important word here is “covenant” (vs. 19, 21). God’s covenants are covenants of *life* for all humankind—and this one must come through Isaac. Here we see the departing of the ways between Judaism and Christianity and Islam. As mentioned above, Islam teaches that Ishmael was the chosen vessel, not Isaac—that it was he who yielded himself to sacrifice. Any covenant which is in opposition to God’s covenant *cannot* be a covenant of Life. **Please Pray** for revelation amongst Muslims, that God’s covenant through Isaac led to the birth of Yeshua (Arabic: *Yasua*) who is the *Way*, the *Truth* and the *Life* for all children of Adam!

***Isaiah 41:8-13.** *“But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, Descendant of Abraham My beloved... You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its remotest parts and said to you, ‘You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you. Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’ Behold, all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonored; Those who contend with you will be as nothing and will perish. You will seek those who quarrel with you, but will not find them, those who war with you will be as nothing and non-existent. For I am the YHVH your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, ‘Do not fear, I will help you.’”*



Martin & Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem

[The readings for next week 25-31 October 2015 are called *VaYera*—“Was Seen”. TORAH: Genesis 18:1—22:24; HAFTARAH: II Kings 4:1-37]

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