

Prayer Update From Israel (November 13, 2013)

9 Kislev 5774



*“Exalt the LORD our God, and worship towards His footstool—He is Holy...
Exalt the LORD our God, and worship towards His holy hill; For YHVH our God is holy”
(Psalm 99:5,9)*

1. KRISTALLNACHT—THE ATMOSPHERE THEN AND NOW

This past Saturday evening marked the **75th** anniversary of “Kristallnacht”.

“On the night of November 9, 1938, the sounds of breaking glass shattered the air in cities throughout Germany while fires across the country devoured synagogues and Jewish institutions. By the end of the rampage, gangs of Nazi storm troopers had destroyed 7000 Jewish businesses, set fire to more than 900 synagogues, killed 91 Jews and deported some 30,000 Jewish men to concentration camps’ (pbs.org). This was Kristallnacht or the Night of the Broken Glass. It was also a night of terror, of death and of destruction. It was a night when racial hatred spewed forth and a night when the Jews were stripped of their dignity, their safety, their human rights and their livelihoods.” (“Kristallnacht's Aboriginal hero”: The Australian Jewish News, p.12; 8 November 2013.).

We reprint below a blog from our friend Tomas Sandell, Director of the *European Coalition for Israel* which appeared in last Friday’s *The Times of Israel*. We believe it is important in equipping our intercession to be aware of some of the parallels currently developing in Europe with what prepared the way for that infamous occurrence 75 years ago last weekend:

As Europe prepares to mark the 75th Anniversary of Kristallnacht this weekend, there will be a certain sense of déjà vu in the air. Earlier memorials have been characterized by emotional speeches and complex analysis as to how Kristallnacht could have come about in the first place. This year, the 75th Anniversary of the pogroms against Jews, their homes, their businesses and their synagogues, will be marked by – you guessed it – new calls to boycott Jewish businesses!

But do not expect to hear anything about it in the commemoration events, which follow a well-known pattern. The mistakes of past generations will be condemned in the harshest words possible, but anyone who dares to draw a parallel with today's situation will automatically be dismissed. You can state whatever you wish, so long as it is not relevant to today. These are the unwritten rules of the endless memorial events in national parliaments and city halls across Europe.

This year however, it will be rather difficult to pretend that anti-Semitism belongs only to the past. In one parliament after another, neo-Nazi parties are gaining ground. This is also true of the European Parliament in Brussels, where extreme right wing parties are expected to score new victories in the upcoming spring election, and where the European Commission is busy preparing for new guidelines to boycott Jewish business in the disputed territories. When the new guidelines come into effect, on January 1st, 2014, any Israeli entity located "on the wrong side of the 1967 lines" will be facing a financial embargo from the EU, as they forbid EU grants, prizes and loans from going not only to Israeli entities located beyond the Green Line, but also to Israeli entities that have any activity beyond the post-1967 lines.

Other measures are already in place to start marking Israeli goods produced in the disputed territories. Once the EU starts implementing the new guidelines and marking Israeli goods, life will become increasingly difficult for any Jewish person, I mean "settler", who chooses to stay on in the territories, as they will now be considered international outlaws.

The lessons from Kristallnacht should not be forgotten. It all started with boycotts and demonstrations against Jewish businesses, academia and culture, but it did not stop there. Today's campaigns of the de-legitimization of Israel have all the same ingredients as the events leading up to Kristallnacht.

The EU guidelines, which in fact pre-determine where Jews can and cannot live, have been issued, despite the fact that they are in clear breach of Article 15 of the Mandate for Palestine which state that "No discrimination of any kind shall be made between the inhabitants of Palestine on the sole grounds of race, religion or language. No person shall be excluded from Palestine on the grounds of his religious belief."

International law does not stipulate where citizens of a particular ethnicity can live. It seems as if the Jews are the only exception to this rule, as Mahmoud Abbas has declared that "there can be no Israelis living in a future Palestinian state." Brussels, hello?!

Nothing much seems to have changed in Europe since 1938. Yes, the EU has sworn never again to let down the Jewish people, but since the Yom Kippur war of 1973, the European Union has consistently taken the side of the Arabs. One month after the war, the European Community issued a declaration recognizing "the legitimate rights" of the Palestinians and calling for an Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. What international law could not settle, the combined weapons of Arab oil and the threat of Palestinian terrorism could determine once and for all. As a consequence, the EU is now forcing the Jews out of the disputed territories, using financial instruments as their main weaponry.

Having concluded that by and large, the European political class has long abandoned Israel, it would be nice to state that this is not the case for European civil society. Romantic perceptions would have it that, at the very least, ordinary European citizens would be on the right side of history. Sadly, this is not the case. In parallel with their political leaders, much of European civil society, consisting of trade unions, academia, churches and other non-governmental organizations, has stepped up its diplomatic war against Israel and is pressing for more sanctions and boycotts. When the World Council of Churches met recently for its annual meeting in Geneva, there was little concern for its persecuted Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East; but there were four workshops on the issue of – you guessed it – the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The problems in Europe in 2013 are the same as in 1938. When the boycotts and singling out of the Jewish people began, the good people chose to look the other way. It is now high time to look in the right direction. (“Europe marks 75th Anniversary of Kristallnacht with new calls for boycotts”: OPS & BLOGS-Tomas Sandell; *The Times of Israel*, November 8, 2013, 9:11 PM).

PLEASE PRAY:

Psalm 129:5. *“Let all those who hate Zion be put to shame and turned back.”

***For the remnant of believers in European countries to rise up to protest the boycotts which are being placed against the descendants of Jacob who are dwelling and working in the land of their fathers to which God has returned them.**

***Pray for believers in those nations to be unified in God’s strategy to quell the rising tide of anti-Semitism (often cloaking itself under the name anti-Zionism) in their countries.**

***For the light of the living Word (John 1:1-6) to shine into the hearts of the Jews living in Judea and Samaria. Only that Light can protect them and guide them in a righteous way ordained for them.**

***For Jews living in Europe who God is calling to return to Zion, to leave what needs to be left, and come while there is time. That a strong and mature Messianic remnant be among them.**

***That believers in whom God has lifted into high places in European government circles come out and speak what needs to be heard against the growing tide of de-legitimization of Israel.**

***Wisdom and courage for Israel’s political leaders in steering Israel through the darkening times.**

***That God’s kingdom come and His will be done in Judea, Samaria, Gaza and all Israel—that the saving grace of Yeshua (Hebrew)/ Yasua (Arabic) permeate these lands.**

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 10-16 November 2013 are called *VaYishlach*—"And He Sent":

TORAH: Genesis 32:3—36:43

HAFTARAH: Obadiah 1:1-21

***Genesis 32:3.** *"Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom." The word translated "messengers" is the same as that translated "angels" two verses earlier. Angels is an English word used to designate "heavenly" messengers; these are messengers of Jacob.*

***Genesis 32:9-10.** *"O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD [YHVH]...I am not worthy of the least of all the lovingkindnesses and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies." As we have often mentioned, "Lovingkindness and Truth" (Hebrew: *chesid* and *emet*) form a pairing of divine attributes and blessings which appear many times throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. A Modern Hebrew translation of John 1:17 reads (English paraphrase), "For the Torah was given through Moshe, *chesid* and *emet* [lovingkindness and truth] came through Yeshua the Messiah." Please pray for discovery, revelation and understanding among the Jewish people of the presence of Yeshua (Jesus) throughout their holy writings (Luke 24:44-45)—a recognition that He was Himself present with the Patriarchs and throughout all of the history of the Hebrews! Nor will He ever leave them nor forsake them (I Corinthians 10:1-4; Hebrews 13:5).*

***Genesis 32:24, 28.** *"Then Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of day...So he said to him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Jacob' And he said, 'Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.'" There are no upper/lower cases in Hebrew, so "man" and "he" are not capitalized as they appear in many Christian Bibles. This Genesis passage says that Jacob struggled with a "man" (Heb: *ish*). The Hosea passage printed below calls the being an "angel" (*mal'akh*). But remember, *mal'akh* means "messenger" and need not always refer to a created heavenly being. Since verse 24 can be interpreted to mean that this particular struggle took place*

with God (*Elohim*), the Church has traditionally held that Jacob was here struggling with a pre-incarnate form of the God-Man *Yeshua* (Jesus)—a Messenger from the Father. “Israel” here means “*He struggles with God*”—while “Jacob” is related to struggle with man. The names are used interchangeably throughout the rest of the Hebrew Bible—and Israel and his seed have continued to struggle, both with God and man. Yet when Jacob was allowed to “*prevail with God*” it was not on behalf of his old desires, but for the favor of sanctification which would change what he could not change himself. In using this incident as an aid to prayer for Israel today, we would encourage you to use the following related passage from Hosea 12:3-6:

“He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and in his strength he struggled with God. Yes, he struggled with the angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from him. He found him in Bethel, and there He spoke to us—that is, the LORD God of armies. YHVH is His memorable name. So you, by the help of your God, return; observe mercy and justice, and wait on your God continually.”

****Genesis 33:18-19. “And Jacob came safely (Hebrew: “whole”) to the city of Shechem...and he pitched his tent before the city. And he bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem’s father, for one hundred pieces of money.”*** As we mentioned a few weeks ago, those places where the Patriarchs and David purchased land tend to be centers of fierce spiritual contention to this day. From the rape of Dinah in the following chapter and the bloody massacre which follows, through the dreadful events of Judges 9, to King Rehoboam’s decision there to discipline his subjects “with scorpions” (I Kings 12:14 NASB), to the days of Hosea (Hosea 6:9: “As bands of robbers lie in wait for a man, so the company of priests murder on the way to Shechem; surely they commit lewdness”), the city of Shechem (modern-day Nablus) has long been associated with violence. In very recent years it has been a hot-bed for terrorism against Israel. Yet it is also the first place where Abraham is recorded as having stopped after arriving in Canaan (Genesis 12:6). The LORD (YHVH) appeared to him there and promised the land to his seed, “and there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.” It would be the location where Joseph’s bones would be brought and buried (Joshua 24:32); and where *Yeshua* Himself would have a meeting with a woman at a well Jacob had dug there (John 4). Presently it is a Palestinian city (Nablus) with several Jewish settlements nearby. In the early days of the 2nd *Intifada*, Jews were driven out of the site of Joseph’s Tomb, which was desecrated and burned. Almost certainly this city and the settlements will be a big issue in any proposed peace settlement in the future. **PLEASE PRAY: That the power of violence be broken over Shechem/Nablus—and its inhabitants brought into the Kingdom of the Prince of Peace. Pray that the altars of Abraham and Jacob to the LORD be restored there—and that the wells of living water that *Yeshua* spoke of there would spring up to Arab and Jew alike. Psalm 60:6 and 108:7 prophecy “*God has spoken in His holiness; ‘I will exult, I will portion out Shechem . . .’*”**

****Genesis 33:20. “Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohei Yisrael.”*** We have found many names of God revealed thus far in Canaan—*El Elyon* (God Most High), *El Shaddai* (God Almighty), *El Roi* (The God who Sees), *Elohei-Avraham* (the Abraham-God). But this name...*Elohei-Yisrael*, the “Israel-God” is the one which will be used most hereafter. God Himself has chosen sovereignly to identify His name with Israel (Jacob) and his descendants. Muslims identify their deity with Ishmael, thus cutting themselves off from the

Covenant which the Most High God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel). He is the LORD (YHVH) God of Israel, and it is to Him that all of us, whatever our lineage must come. **PLEASE PRAY: grace for revelation and humility among both Jews and Muslims in Israel to bow to the one true God, who has Himself chosen to be identified with Israel (Jacob) and his seed.**

***Genesis 35:2,5.** *“And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, ‘Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments...And they journeyed, and the terror of God was upon the cities that were all around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.”*

Jacob came “in wholeness”—a new man with a new name, to Shechem (see Gen. 13:18-19 above)...but his “house” was not whole...there were hidden gods smuggled from Aram (perhaps brought originally by Abram’s father from Ur?), and obviously various other gods used as jewelry. The presence of these idols had caused a great breach in the protection of the family, occasioning violation (Dina), cruel and senseless violence (Shimon and Levi) and perhaps even eventually resulting in death (Rachel). For the “Family” of Israel to be made “whole”—for the family’s *armor* to be made sound, all of this had to be dealt with. Only the God YHVH (Yehovah) had been a shield for Abraham in this spiritually dark and violent land (Genesis 15:1)—and only the same God would be protection for Israel and his seed. The same holds true today. **PLEASE PRAY: For the conviction of the Holy Spirit in Israel to turn from idols and turn to the Living God for cleansing and clothing in righteousness. Pray especially for holiness in leadership in the Body of Messiah here—Clothed in that, the Terror of God will cause darkness to flee as they advance through the Land!**

***Genesis 35:16 (ESV).** *“Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor...so Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is Bethlehem), and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb.”*

The Hebrew, which plainly has Rachel’s tomb “some distance from” Bethlehem, has been explained away by religious Jews who insist that a building adjacent to the edge of the town is her resting place. That place has become a place of pilgrimage, and much superstitious and occult tradition amongst ultra-Orthodox Jews. I Samuel 10:2 clearly implies that in Samuel’s day, Rachel’s tomb was assumed to be “in the territory of Benjamin” a number of miles to the north, but “on the way [from Bethel] to Ephrath (that is Bethlehem).

ESAU, EDON, AMALEK AND THE SPIRIT OF ISLAM

***Genesis 36:12.** *“Now Timna was the concubine of Eliphaz, Esau’s son, and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz. These were the sons of Adah, Esau’s wife.”* Chapter 36 is dedicated to the genealogy of Esau, “father of the Edomites” (vs. 9). Central in that race would be the descendants of Amalek (36:12, 16). As has been mentioned, Amalek in Scripture typifies a *Covenant-hating spirit which is the root of anti-Semitism*. It would be “Amalek” who would first attack Israel after she came forth out of the Red Sea (Exodus 17:8), and against whom God would swear continual war until he was blotted out from under heaven (17:14); it would be Amalek who would pick off stragglers in Israel’s rear when they were tired and weary

(Deuteronomy 25:17-18). When Saul refused to follow God’s commandment and spared the Amalekite Agag (I Samuel 15:9), he would be severely rebuked by Samuel, lose his Kingship, and eventually according to one report, be killed by an Amalekite (II Samuel I:8, 13). And in the book of Esther, we see that the architect of a proposed Holocaust of the Jews in the Persian kingdom was Haman, the Agagite, a descendant of Amalek. **The *Haftarah* reading for this week is the *Book of Obadiah*...** a grim prophecy of judgment on Edom, “for violence against your brother Jacob.” (Ezekiel 35:5 attributes this violence to “an ancient hatred” of the children of Israel). God is not willing that any should perish. But He stands forever against that which opposes his covenant with Jacob/Israel—because that Covenant is ultimately a covenant of life for all Humankind. He cannot grant quarter to death, because he is *Elohim Haim*—the Life God! Because Islam claims that its god chose Ishmael (thereby choosing for itself a different covenant than the Life-Covenant which God gave through Isaac), the spirit behind that religion proves itself a Covenant-hating spirit, bringing all in its bondage under the judgment of the God of Life. God forever hates the power behind Esau/Edom/Amalek (Malachi 1:3; Obadiah 1:2,18; Ezekiel 35; Deuteronomy 25:19; Exodus 17:14-16)...**but He loves those captured within that system; to those who will come out of that darkness, He offers life, hope and a future!**



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[The readings for next week (17-23 November 2013) are called *VaYeshev*—“And He Settled”: TORAH: Genesis 37:1—40:23; HAFTARAH: Amos 2:6—3:8]

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