

Prayer Update From Israel (November 18, 2013)



*“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. PRAY FOR FRANCE AND ISRAEL

Sunday afternoon French President Francois Hollande arrived for his first visit to Israel since taking office. He will meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Peres and address the Knesset. He will also visit Ramallah and confer with Palestinian Authority President Abbas. Hollande is scheduled to make a number of symbolic gestures during this first visit—laying a wreath on Theodor Herzl’s grave (Herzl is considered the founder of modern political Zionism), visiting the grave of assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, visiting French priests in a church in the Old City bequeathed to France by the Ottomans during the 19th century. On Tuesday, he will visit the graves of four of the seven Jewish victims of an Al-Qaeda-linked Islamist gunmen in Toulouse last year.

Although Mr. Hollande has seen a steady decrease in popularity in his home country, he is being greeted with great warmth in Israel, fueled by the perception here that his country is responsible for Iran’s backing off from a deal with the P5+1 (five permanent members of the UN Security Council: Britain, China, France, Russia, the US, plus Germany) in Geneva last weekend. Israel was vehemently opposed to concessions it understood to be suggested for that deal. Reports of the meeting indicated that things were thought to be virtually “in the bag” when France expressed reservations about the heavy water reactor Iran is building at Arak and its stockpiles of 20% enriched uranium. These reservations were then taken up by other powers, causing Iran to draw back and last week’s negotiations to end in a deadlock. Although the US officially blamed Iran for the failure, both Iran and Russia blamed France. France presently maintains close ties with both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, both sworn enemies of the Iranian regime. With the meetings in Geneva set to resume this Wednesday, the *Sunday Times* in London reported a source as saying Saudi Arabia is furious about the proposed Iranian nuclear deal which may now be signed over the coming week—and is now prepared to give Israel “all the help it needs” if it feels compelled to attack Iran’s nuclear stations alone.

Prime Minister Netanyahu is pleased to welcome a leader who appears to be standing against a weak decision in these talks. He has continued to receive strong criticism around the world for his own dogged stand against easing sanctions, and allowing Iran to keep the important parts of its nuclear program intact while giving up very little else. Saturday's *New York Times*, in an editorial labeled "Not the Time to Squeeze Iran", declared that "*a rare opportunity for a diplomatic resolution to the dispute over Iran's nuclear program is at risk because many lawmakers, urged on by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, are insisting that Congress impose tougher economic sanctions...if talks fail now, Mr. Netanyahu and the hard-line interest groups will own the failure, and the rest of us will pay the price.*" ("NY Times' and Jerusalem battle over Iran policy": *JPOST.com*; 16/11/2013 10:52 IST). Actually, the US Congress has itself been poised to increase sanctions, but these are being fiercely resisted by the Obama administration, which claims that the easing of sanctions and continued allowance of supposed 'low-level enrichment' of uranium can all be rolled back later if Iran fails to fulfill agreements made at the present negotiations.

So, the crisis with Iran tops the agenda of Hollande's visit. Prime Minister Netanyahu is expected to encourage France not to yield in opposing Iran's nuclear threat, citing her courage a few months ago when in the end she alone stood prepared to engage in a punitive strike against Syria after that nation used poison gas on civilians. Another issue (apart from obligatory remarks related to the stalled Middle East peace process) is a desire by France to build stronger trade ties with Israel. Mr. Hollande arrived in Israel with a huge delegation—seven ministers, almost 200 business leaders, aids and journalists.

Israel's friendship with France has had its major ups-and-downs over the years. At a time when relations with powers once considered among her staunchest allies appear to be weakening, Israel is desperate for an ally standing with her against the threat from the east; she is thus hopeful in viewing this present week's meetings with the French president.

PLEASE PRAY:

***That the ties between Israel and France will be strengthened.**

That the French President Hollande will be protected during his visit to Israel. That he be supernaturally influenced by the Lord in guiding his nation to deepen its relationship with Israel. Proverbs 21:1: *"The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes."

***For the Body of Messiah in France. We are acquainted with large streams of believers there with a love for Israel who are moving ahead on behalf of their nation and its divine call. This past week saw a large multi-day conference in southern France with believers coming from all over the land to worship and to receive counsel on setting up houses of prayer and worship across the nation. Pray for more revelation and understanding in this.**

***For openings among those French believers whom God has raised and is raising up into places of influence in their government.**

***For the Jews living in France—that they be protected and the message of Messiah Yeshua the Savior be spread among them. Pray for the French believers who love and seek to bless the Jews living there. France is the nation containing the third largest number of Jews—after Israel and the U.S. But growing persecution from the Muslim sectors has awakened many to the possibility of *aliyah* to Israel. (There are already around 150,000 French Jews presently living in Israel.) Pray that those whom God is calling back to the Land will hear the call and go.**

***That the French delegation to the P5+1 negotiations in Geneva this week will be guided in the way it is to stand. Pray that the One who reveals deep and hidden things; Who knows what lies in darkness and Light dwells with Him (Daniel 2:22) will not allow an agreement of deception and danger for Israel (or France) to be signed.**

2. ISRAELI DELEGATION TO PHILIPPINES TREATS HUNDREDS OF PATIENTS

As it has done in other natural disasters (such as the devastation of Haiti several years ago), Israel has been in the vanguard of the many coming to the aid of victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. After sending in a scouting party, last Thursday Israeli Defense Force (IDF) teams of the Medical Corps and Home Front Command completed setting up a field hospital in the city of Bogu, a remote area lacking in medical facilities. It has since become the “central medical facility in this part of the typhoon-torn region, serving a population of 250,000 and treating upwards of 300 patients per day” (“Israeli hospital treats hundreds a day in Philippines”: *The Times of Israel*; 17 November 2013 8:12 p.m.). Before it was even completed, the hospital had on the first day already treated around 370 patients, including 150 children. The Israeli team includes doctors, paramedics and nurses. (Israel has also sent in maintenance and construction professionals to assist in repair of locale facilities which sustained damage.) The field hospital’s assistance thus far has included performing surgeries and delivering children. By Sunday night, 12 babies had been born at the facility. In fact, one of the first women whom the Israelis helped with her delivery has decided to name her newborn “Israel”. (“IDF delegation to Philippines treated 370 patients thus far”: *ynetnews.com*”; 11/17/13 00:14).

PLEASE PRAY:

***For protection and guidance for the Israeli team in its work in the Philippines. Pray for the spirits of the workers to be strengthened in the midst of such overwhelming misery.**

***For angelic assistance in saving lives and releasing hope to the hopeless; for mercy and compassion and professional integrity among the Israelis in the decisions which must be made.**

***For the Israeli workers to seek and recognize divine assistance in their work of mercy.**

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 17-23 November 2013 are called *VaYeshev*—"And He Settled":

TORAH: Genesis 37:1—40:23

HAFTARAH: Amos 2:6—3:8

This week we begin the story of Joseph and his brothers

***Genesis 37:11.** *"His brothers were jealous of him [Joseph's prophetic dream], but his father kept the matter in mind" (NKJV). A more literal rendering of the Hebrew might be: "but his father guarded the word."* As the Lord returns to Zion with deliverance and an outpouring of His Spirit, **PLEASE PRAY** for mature instruction in the prophetic among Israelis—when and how to share prophecies and dreams; how to "guard" and save a Word of the LORD until its time comes to fruition; also how to guard against giving place to the flesh which can awaken jealousies towards those more gifted in certain areas than we are.

***Genesis 39:8-9.** *"But he refused [his master's wife's seductive advances] and said, 'Behold, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house...he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?'"* **PLEASE PRAY** for clean minds and hearts and the Fear of the Lord in believing Israeli youth who are under constant temptation to compromise their integrity and sexual purity. Revelation 14 speaks of 144,000 who will not have defiled themselves. Perhaps there are some of that army already alive in the land! If so, of course the evil one will do all he can to divert them from their destiny. Pray for a new wave of bold and victorious ones governed by godly integrity—who would like Joseph have hatred of the very thought of sinning against their neighbor and their God.

***Genesis 40:8.** *"And they said to him, 'We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it.' So Joseph said to them, 'Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please.'" Joseph's rhetorical question is answered centuries later by another godly young Hebrew captive, Daniel, "But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets..." (Daniel 2:28).*

***Amos 2:6.** *"Thus says YHVH, 'For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because they sell the righteous for silver..."* This is the usual reason given for the choice of this passage as the week's *Haftarah*, the connection being the selling of the righteous Joseph by his brothers to Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver

(Genesis 37:28). Yet in a strange way, the following verses also make a connection: ***“A man and his father go in to the same girl, to defile My holy name. They lie down by every altar on clothes taken in pledge...”*** Genesis 38 relates how a most *un*-righteous Judah would (unknowingly) go in to the same woman as had his eldest son...leaving a signet, cord and staff as pledge. In this story we see many ways in which the righteous Joseph prefigures Yeshua, the Messiah. Here he remains pure in the face of temptation, even though it will mean suffering. On the other hand, Judah, through whose seed the Messiah will someday come, is immediately seen as one enslaved to desires of his fallen human nature. God would work sovereignly through even his sinful failures (Judah would, in fact, later acknowledge his unrighteousness—38:26; 44:16), to guard the passage of the seed He had promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to bless. Over 800 years later, a blessing over Naomi (Ruth 4:12), would be ***“May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this [Ruth] young woman!”*** That “offspring” would eventuate in David the King...and finally Yeshua, the Hebrew Messiah and Savior of the World.

****Amos 2:11-12; 3:7-8. “I raised up some of your sons as prophets, and some of your young men as Nazirites. Is it not so, O you children of Israel?’ Says the LORD...Surely the Lord YHVH does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to his servants the prophets. A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord YHVH has spoken! Who can but prophesy?”***

PLEASE PRAY for the raising up sons and daughters in Israel who move confidently and soundly in the prophetic giftings. Pray for the restoration of the office of “Prophet” in the Land. Satan hates this—because the spirit of prophecy involves *“the testimony of Yeshua”* (Revelation 19:10b), and so much of Israel is still behind a veil regarding their Messiah. It is this gift and office which bring clarity, understanding, instruction and encouragement to the Body regarding ***“what the Spirit is saying to the congregations.”***



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[The readings for next week (24--30 November 2013) are called *MiKetz*—"At the End Of": TORAH: Genesis 41:1—44:17; HAFTARAH (Hanukkah): Zechariah 2:10—4:7]

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