

## **PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (November 22, 2011)**



*Hodu l'Adonai ki tov! Give Thanks to the Lord, He is Good!  
The wonderful rains in Israel have continued this week!*

### **1. UPHEAVAL AND DARKNESS GROWING UPON THE ISAIAH 19 HIGHWAY**

EGYPT. It is a week before the first free parliamentary elections in Egypt in decades are scheduled to take place; on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November a staggered vote will begin to elect a new parliament. This week, however, the ruling military indicated that elections for a president might not take place until 2013 or thereafter, and it would hold onto its “presidential power” until that happens. Last Friday the Muslim Brotherhood sent demonstrators into Cairo’s Tahrir Square to protest continued military power. These and other Islamists swelled overnight to tens of thousands, and in the course of the weekend they gave way to the youth whose activism brought down Mubarak in the spring. Yesterday evening police backed by army officers charged the demonstrators, firing tear gas and beating with batons. The protestors are claiming that live ammunition has been used against them. By Monday afternoon over 30 are said to have been killed and hundreds have been wounded.

As explained in a New York Times article November 18<sup>th</sup> (“Egypt Islamists Demand the End of Military Rule”), the rally represents “the beginning of a new battle between Egypt’s two most powerful political forces, the military and the once-outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, that leaves Egyptian liberals and leftists anxious and divided on the sidelines...Many liberals are torn between their fears of military rule and a religious takeover.”

SYRIA. Meanwhile, in Syria far to the north an eight-month uprising against the regime of President Bashar Assad continued to intensify. Dozens of protestors were reported killed by government forces on Friday and at least 14 on Saturday. On Sunday Damascus for the first time felt the effects of the uprising when rocket-propelled grenades hit the headquarters of the ruling Baath Party there. There has been widespread international condemnation of what is seen as Assad’s strong and brutal measures to quell the uprising. The League of Arab States has suspended Syria’s membership, threatening sanctions if Assad doesn’t end the violence. And

non-Arab Turkey has begun voicing disaffection with the Assad regime, issuing veiled but increasingly sharp warnings. Although President Assad gives voice service to elections in February or March in which Syrians may vote for a parliament to create a new constitution, through which a new president might be elected, he was quoted in Britain's Sunday Times as saying, "The conflict will continue and the pressure to subjugate Syria will continue. However, I assure you that Syria will not bow down and that it will continue to resist the pressure being imposed on it."

GAZA. This Thursday Palestinian authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas is scheduled to meet with Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal in a new bid to reconcile the differences between the two Islamic factions. On Saturday it was reported that Fatah and Hamas have reached an agreement that the next Palestinian government will be located in the Gaza Strip, which if proven true would mean that the next head of the Palestinian government would be from Gaza. Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement is a militant wing of the Muslim Brotherhood founded in 1987. After gaining power in elections in Gaza in 2007, Hamas proceeded to violently take over the entire government; it has held an iron rule there ever since.

If Assad's regime in Syria falls, should the present military rule in Egypt also fall, a vast sea of Sunni Islamization—dominated and ruddered by the Muslim Brotherhood is waiting in the wings to rise into the vacuum. The Brotherhood's most famous slogan is, "Islam is the solution." Its credo remains, "Allah is our objective; the Quran is our constitution, the Prophet [i.e. Mohammed] is our leader; Jihad is our way; and death for the sake of Allah is the highest of our aspirations."

This Muslim path, Egypt-Gaza-Syria would roughly follow a pathway prophesied some 2700 years ago by the Prophet Isaiah, "In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians" (Isaiah 19:23). Yet this prophesied highway will be one of holiness and blessing, "In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying 'Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.'"

### **PLEASE PRAY:**

\*That God's Kingdom come along the way extending from Egypt through Israel and northward through Syria and Iraq.

\*That grace and truth will be ministered to many during these days of turmoil and upheaval—that many would come to a knowledge of Jesus.

\*That radical Islam will not be able to consume Egypt. Pray for the Christians in each of these lands—Egypt, Gaza and Syria. We know of houses of prayer which are forming along this Isaiah 19 route. Pray that communities of Believers will connect and be encouraged, mature in their faith and bear up under persecution. Pray that the way will be prepared for God's future work there.

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## 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 Toldot (Generations):

**TORAH: Genesis 25:19—28:9**

**HAFTARAH : Malachi 1:1—2:7**



*Well at the site of ancient Be'er Sheva*

“Then he [Isaac] went up from there to Beersheba. And YHVH appeared to him the same night and said, ‘I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham’s sake.’ So he built an altar there and called on the name of YHVH, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac’s servants dug a well. Genesis 26:23-25.

**\*Genesis 25:22.** *“If this is so, why then am I . . .?”* So she went to inquire of the LORD.” Please pray for believers in Israel...that when faced with the perplexity of inexplicable conflicts (of which there are many in Israel), we would be quick to “go to inquire of the LORD” rather than leaning to our own understandings as to how to respond.

**\*Genesis 26:18.** *“And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them.”* Isaac’s life is much associated with “wells”—from when his future wife Rebekah was revealed at one (24:45) and he came from another to meet her (24:62), to the reopening of old wells and the digging of new ones recorded in chapter 26. PLEASE PRAY for the reopening of ancient sources of truth and blessing and song in returned Israel—as well as discovery of new reservoirs of understanding reserved for latter days (Daniel 12:9). Pray for rediscovery and proper identification of the well of “Righteousness through Faith” (Genesis 15:6); that Israel will find and open again her true “Well of Salvation”...and His Name. *“Behold, God is my salvation (Heb: Yeshu’ah), I will trust and not be afraid; for YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation. Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of Salvation.”*

**\*Genesis 26:19-22.** *“Also Isaac’s servants dug in the valley, and found a well of running water there. But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled...so he called the name of the well ESEK (“Exploited”, “deprived of”). Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also, so he called its name SITNAH (“Sataned”, “Accusation”, “Enmity”, “Adversary”). And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name REHOBOTH (“space”, “widenesses”), because he said, ‘For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.’”*

For over a hundred years the returned Hebrews have faced quarreling, exploitation, and deprivation over the land God has promised to them. As they have attempted to become rooted, and to re-dig the “wells” of their ancient homeland, they have continued to be accused by the world and to be surrounded by enemies and adversaries. PLEASE PRAY that more and more of returned Israel will come to realize that we will never “make room for ourselves” in this Land. Alone, we have no idea how to come into such a relationship with those already dwelling in the land as will quell the quarreling. We must turn in faith to our LORD, Who alone can “make room for us” (and those yet to come) to become permanently rooted and “fruitful in the Land”.

**\*Malachi 2:7.** *“For the lips of a priest should preserve and guard knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of armies.”* Revelation 1:6 says that the One who loves us and washed us from our sins in His own blood has made us into a kingdom of priests. As such, our *mouths* are of exceptional importance—guarding knowledge for release to those seekers with whom God will bring us into contact. The Hebrew word for “messenger” here is exactly the same as that often translated “angel”. Angels are heavenly messengers sent to “minister to those who will inherit Salvation”. As priests before God we are often called to work hand in hand with these supernatural beings. PLEASE PRAY for a keen understanding of our responsibility as priestly messengers of God to His people—and that in the power of the Holy Spirit we move in step with His angels--while keeping a close guard on our tongues.



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[The readings for next week (27 November—3 December 2011) will be called VaYetze (Went Out) . TORAH: Genesis 28:10—32:2; HAFTARAH: Hosea 12:12—14:9]

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