

PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (November 22, 2010)



Judean desert between Jerusalem and Jericho

“Elohim, You are my God; at the dawning I will seek you; My soul thirsts for you, My flesh longs for You in a dry and weary land where there is no water” (Psalm 63:1).

1. THE WAY OF A LIVING COVENANT AND *EID-UL-ADHA*

In last week’s Torah Portion (Genesis 33:20), Jacob, who had returned to Canaan and been given a new name Israel, erected an altar and called it *El Elohei-Yisrael*—God the “God of Israel” (or the “Israel-God”). The release of this Name for God is significant, for not only is Israel (Jacob) here identifying himself with *Elohim*, but from here on God will often Himself make use of this name “*Elohei-Yisrael*” (see, for example, Ezekiel 9:3 or 43:2) identifying *Himself* with Jacob/Israel *the son of Isaac!* This is extremely important, because God’s covenant of merciful salvation extending to all humankind *had* to come through Isaac—not Ishmael (Genesis 17:21). Since Satan is the enemy of all the sons and daughters of Adam, one of his schemes has been to divert them into following a different, false covenant. The fastest growing religion in the world, which after some 1300 years is again reaching out to encompass the whole planet holds as a major tenet that *it was Ishmael, not Isaac*, whom Abraham prepared to offer up to his God. An annual affirmation of this belief was celebrated by Muslims around the world last Tuesday in their festival of *Eid-ul-Adha*. There were parties, animals were slaughtered and the meat divided up amongst relatives and the poor. This coincided with the end of the annual *Hajj*, or pilgrimage to Mecca. For the occasion President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle extended “*greetings for a happy Eid-ul-Adha to Muslims worldwide and wish [for] safe travels to those performing Hajj...This year, nearly three million pilgrims from more than 160 countries-including the United States-have gathered in Mecca and neighboring sites to perform Hajj rituals and stand together in prayer...Muslims around the world will commemorate Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son, and distribute food to those less fortunate—a reminder of the shared values and the common roots of three of the world’s major religions.*” His address closed with the traditional “*Eid Mubarak and Hajj Mabrouh*”—“May yours be a blessed festival and a pilgrimage which is accepted [by Allah].” Secretary of State Clinton added in her own address that “*Whether around a dining table in Bagdad, Arizona, or Iraq, families will share meals together and celebrate Eid-ul-Adha.*”

We are in no way ridiculing the millions who took part in this festival. Nor are we casting aspersions upon Ishmael or those who may have within them something of his lineage. But neither can we in good conscience bless that “way”—it is a way whose adherents invariably find themselves subservient to a spiritual power which stands in opposition to the God of the Covenant—*Elohei-Yisrael*. For all of us, submitting (we remind you that Islam means “submission”) not to Israel but the GOD of ISRAEL is the way to the One who is the *Way, the Truth and the Life*.

PLEASE PRAY:

***For dreams and visions, for divine revelation amongst Muslims of the Living Way.**

***For mercy from the God who searches all hearts—who will not douse a smoldering wick.**

***Rescue from angels in the heavenlies who are sent to minister on behalf of those who will inherit Salvation.**

***Courage amongst believing former Muslims...a spirit of Power and Love and Sound Thinking (II Timothy 1:7) and heavenly guidance. Pray that the God of Israel reconcile their hearts to the truth that it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who through Yeshua/Yasua/Jesus is reconciling the whole world to Himself!**

***For world leaders who will allow God’s counsel to control their rhetoric—that they may bless all peoples without placing their blessing on ways which are not ways of Truth and Life.**

2. RAIN

We have often asked you to pray with us for rains. Things are getting critical. We are well into the time of the *former* (early) rains...and it has only rained once and that not much. Last August came some of the hottest days for that month on record. Many plants were severely injured; now many which should be ripening are gasping. Although things are not yet dire, there are troubling signs beginning to manifest in the markets. A few weeks back tomatoes suddenly quadrupled in price, and there was talk of seeking to import them. Now other fruits and vegetables are beginning to be effected—citrus is often dry when opened; cabbages have brown spots within. An article last week revealed that bakeries are beginning to hoard butter (making it difficult to find in the markets) because the cows are not giving much milk. Last Thursday the Chief Rabbis called a day of fasting and repentance and to cry out for rain. Isaiah 41:17 speaks of a time when in Israel the poor and needy will seek water, but there will be none—that their tongues will fail for thirst. In Psalm 63:1 the psalmist lives in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water; his soul and flesh have begun to long for God—he now gets up at the dawning to seek Him. Israel is not there yet—perhaps neither is the believing remnant itself, really. We are getting a little worried, but still figuring things will work out as in the past. God has promised (Isaiah 41:17b-20; 51:3) to hear and answer and release waters from unexpected places...but it will come “*that they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel (i.e. Yeshua/Jesus) has created it.*” We must realize and know our need and call out to the one Who is the “hope of Israel...the fountain of living waters” (Jeremiah 17:13). **PLEASE PRAY: for physical and spiritual waters to come to our land. Please pray for those with an ear to hear to awaken their voices in prayer and supplication.**

3. TO FREEZE OR NOT TO FREEZE

Yesterday (Sunday) tens of thousands of settlers from Judea and Samaria are gathered outside the Prime Minister's office to protest what appears to be an impending agreement for a new US-brokered building freeze to take effect in their territories. This freeze would be for three months (as opposed to the Prime Ministers recent 10-month freeze) to try and hammer out an agreement through direct talks regarding establishment of a Palestinian state. For agreeing to the extension, the U.S. is offering Israel an additional squadron of its most advanced jets, and a number of promises regarding Israel's security. There are other promises, including no further demands for a freeze. During the last freeze, the Palestinian Authority did absolutely nothing to take advantage of it until it was almost over. And although there is presently supposedly nothing in the agreement which relates to East Jerusalem, the Palestinian leader Abbas today vowed not to negotiate unless all building is stopped there (i.e. in all portions of Jerusalem captured from Jordan during the '67 War). Meanwhile, a U.S. poll released today in all the Israeli newspapers reports that while a majority of Palestinians support direct talks and a two-state solution, their desire is that ultimately the entire area between the Jordan and the Mediterranean will become one Palestinian state...that there is be no place for a Jewish one.

PLEASE PRAY:

*That *Elohei-Yisrael* will oversee the talks between Prime Minister Netanyahu and his cabinet, and Prime Minister Abbas and his associates this week. That nothing will be agreed upon, no pacts signed or no governments dissolved which will endanger the work God is desiring to do during this season to draw both peoples towards Himself.

*For members of the Cabinet and Knesset to come into line with God's counsels for this hour.

*We would remind you that although we must pray regarding the "Land"—that its borders come into line with God's plan, and Israel come into a place to be capable of governing what He allots to her—the soul of the people is an ultimate concern. Daniel 12 speaks of a time coming upon us which is "*a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.*" During that time Michael will fight for her and Israel shall be delivered—but not all— "*...everyone who is found written in the book.*" (vs1.b). Please pray for the Word of Salvation to be going out as never before—*while there is time*; pray the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers into the fields which are white to harvest. Pray for the gift of evangelism to be released amongst Messianic Jews and Christian Arabs in Israel. Pray that the veil be lifted from Jewish hearts and for Israelis to have their names written in the *Lamb's Book of Life*.

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 *VaYeshev* (Had sojourned):

TORAH: Genesis 37:1—40:23

HAFTARAH: Amos 2:6—3:8

***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 is *“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; 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 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.’”* The answer to 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 2:11-12; 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. 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 Torah and Haftarah portions for next week (28 November–4 December “Miketz”) will be:
TORAH: Genesis 41:1—44:17; HAFTARAH: I Kings 7:40-50]