

# ISRAEL PRAYER UPDATE

*Glory of Zion International Ministries*



## PARASHAH – VaYeshev



### **1. JERUSALEM THE CAPITAL.**

*“Behold, I will bring to [Jerusalem] cure and healing, and I will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of shalom and truth...I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me. It will be to Me a name of joy, praise and glory before all the nations of the earth which will hear of all the good that I do for them...they will fear and tremble because of all the good and all the shalom that I make for her.” (Jeremiah 33:6-9).*

*“Look, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah. It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured...” (Zechariah 12:2-3)*

**Last Wednesday was the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic UN Resolution 181**, which called for, upon the departure of the British who had overseen the mandate since WWI, a partition of Palestine into a Jewish and Arab state. This effectively paved the way for the creation of the nation of Israel the following spring. At last there would be a Jewish homeland in what had been called Palestine; albeit, one which would lie outside the borders of Judea and Samaria, the heart of its ancient covenant territory. Jerusalem also would be separate, under an international oversight. When just over five months later the Mandate came to its end, and Israel declared her independence, the new state came immediately under attack from the armies of seven Arab states. When the smoke cleared,

she was found to have gained more territory than had been allotted under the UN resolution, and the new nation had control of much of the western part of Jerusalem. The Kingdom of Jordan ruled Judea and Samaria and the Old City of Jerusalem (including the Temple Mount); Syria held the Golan Heights; and Egypt the Gaza Strip, and the Sinai Peninsula. Eighteen years later during the 1967 War, Israel gained control of all of these areas, and in 1980 effectively annexed the eastern part of Jerusalem as part of her capital. This annexation has never been recognized by the international community, nor is Jerusalem generally recognized as the “Capital of Israel”—the reason given, that the leaders of the Palestinian Arabs also demand the city as their capital, so until that conflict is settled, Jerusalem shouldn’t be labeled anyone’s. Although the Israeli government operates with Jerusalem as its capital, all 87 foreign embassies are located in Tel Aviv. In 1995 the US Congress passed a law mandating that Jerusalem be considered the capital of Israel and that the American Embassy be moved back there. However, the law included a stipulation, that an American president, if he felt it in the best interests of security, could every six months sign a waiver postponing the movement. Every president since 1995 has each six months signed the waiver. Meanwhile, the birth certificate of a child born in the city of American parents, will have only “Jerusalem” entered as Place of Birth, not “Jerusalem, Israel”. President Trump promised during his campaign that he would move the Embassy. This has been promised by the other Presidents, none of whom have gone through with their promises. Six months ago, the President signed the waiver, but his office released a statement that the issue of moving was “when” rather than “if.”

***This week, as time for a decision on the waiver again approaches, media sources in the US have reported that the President will make a special announcement regarding Jerusalem on Wednesday, in which he will officially recognize the city as Capital of Israel.*** No details of the recognition—Will it encompass all of the city, or only a portion? —have been released. It is also speculated that Mr. Trump will again sign the six-month waiver—but that the “capital” announcement will in fact mark the beginning of movement towards eventually relocation of the Embassy.

***The announcement has caused a stir here.*** Saeb Erekat, Exec. Sec. of the PLO warned, “Any American recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel will bring about the end of the Jerusalem issue. This issue is weighty and dealing with it is playing with fire.” Hamas has threatened to begin another *intifada*. And, in light of the reports, Palestinian Foreign Minister Malci called Sunday for an emergency meeting of the Arab League.

**Meanwhile, as though to preempt the announcement, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution this week stating, “any actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem are illegal and therefore null and void and have no validity whatsoever.”** 151 states (including all EU members) voted in favor, six (Canada, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, the United States and Israel) voted against. This was one of six anti-Israel resolutions approved on Thursday. Among these was one condemning Israeli settlements and demanding withdrawal to pre-67 lines; including Israel’s vacating the Golan Heights. (Who might be expected to take over from among the warring factions presently battling in Syria wasn’t specified.) Already this year, UN bodies have approved 18 resolutions which were biased against Israel.

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\* That God will lead President Trump in what he declares regarding the Holy City on Wednesday. Pray for godly counsel from Vice President Pence. Pray that Mr. Trump release words which will remain as blessing rather than cursing. The words of one recent President (“Two States, Side by Side”), even though coming from one ostensibly friendly towards Israel, have reverberated like a curse throughout the region ever since; nor have they resulted in blessing to that president’s own country.**

**\* That the US Embassy will be moved to Jerusalem, a gesture which we believe will bring blessing both to the US and to Israel, in God’s perfect timing.**

**\* That Israel and Jerusalem will be protected from violence arising if President Trump declares the city the capital of Israel.**

**\* Peace over Palestinian Arabs, that they not be ignited into violent hatred by Islamic forces which would like to capitalize on such a declaration.** That a message would go out to them of hope and a future in dwelling peaceably with their Jewish neighbors. That the light of the Savior of all flesh will illumine them to His salvation.

**2. A WARNING ATTACK AGAINST THE PRESENCE OF IRAN IN SYRIA.**

*Friday night Israel allegedly carried out strikes against a base being built by Iranians south of Damascus and only 31 miles from the Israeli border.* Some reports stated that the attacks were made by aircraft, others by missiles, including Israel’s ground-to-ground *Jericho*. Although initial reports stated that fatalities in the raid were Syrians loyal to Assad, Arabic media reported Saturday that twelve Iranian military personnel were among those killed in the raid. As the war against ISIS in Syria winds down, and an alliance appears to be strengthening between Iran, Iraq, Syria, Iraq and Russia (with an eye towards Turkey’s Erdogan), Israel has repeatedly stated that it will not allow Iranian military equipment and personnel in Syria. In a video made by Israel’s Netanyahu Thursday before the attack, and published Saturday night, the Prime Minister stated:

Let me reiterate Israel’s policy: We will not allow a regime hell-bent on the annihilation of the Jewish state to acquire nuclear weapons. We will not allow that regime to entrench itself militarily in Syria, as it seeks to do, for the express purpose of eradicating our state.

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\* That “He who guards over Israel” (Psalm 121:4) will protect her and guide her governmental and military leaders as regards response to the “intelligence” she is allowed to uncover from the camps of those nations who would do her harm.** That these leaders—and those whom God is presently raising up to take their places—will be impressed by the Holy Spirit to realize that, in the end, *“It is not by our sword [or military hardware] that we won the Land, nor did our arm [or armies] bring us the victory—it was HIS right hand, HIS arm, and the Light of HIS face, for He loves us”* (Psalm 44:3). That Israel will turn and seek the Face of Her Commander in Chief.

\* **That Intercessors for Israel** whom God has stationed around the world will be alert in their positionings. That they will have divine insight into what is taking place, and know how to pray accordingly. That they will, like Daniel (Daniel 12), when necessary be in a place to be assisted by the angelic when Israel is faced with the Prince of Persia and other demonic powers and principalities over nations.

\* **That God’s voice of encouragement and counsel will lead, encourage, and inform the believing men and women He has placed in the IDF** (Israel Defense Force)—That they will rise in favor and rank—and be a light of salvation to their fellows.

\* **Women Warriors. Psalm 68:11-12:** “*Adonai gives the word, the women who proclaim the glad tidings are a great army: Kings of armies flee, they flee, and she who remains at home will divide the spoil!*”

A headline in yesterday’s *Jerusalem Post* regarding combat positions for women in the Israeli military read, “*Israeli women stepping up as men lose interest in combat roles.*”

**PLEASE PRAY:** That godly believing women in Israel will *step up* into their array, both spiritually and physically, and whether positioned in the field or at home— under their commander *Elohei-Ma’arkhot Yisrael*— “The Army-Arraying God of Israel” (I Samuel 17:45).

\* **On November 22, a picture was released of Turkish President Erdogan and Iran President Rouhani linking hands with Russian President Putin at a meeting place in the Russian city of Sochi to discuss, among other things, plans for a post-ISIS Syria.** As we see an alliance of evil linking Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey (with Russia acting as catalyst for differences)—pray for God’s Remnant in each of these countries, that they will grow stronger and brighter; that they will become themselves “linked” in the Spirit to be led in knowing how to pray and proclaim God’s redemptive purposes for their lands and for Israel in the midst of deepening darkness. **Pray for the Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan who lie in the exact center of this crescent forming over Israel**—that they be protected from the destroyer who senses their end-time redemptive call. Pray that revelation, wisdom and integrity attend their leaders, and that they rise up into their place as an army of God and a light of *Issa* (Yasua/Yeshua/Jesus) to the Muslim world surrounding them. **Pray that their alliance with Israel stay strong and strengthen**, and also their alliances with other countries whom God has chosen to stand with them.

### **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 3-9 December 2017 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.”* (Luke 2:51 tells how Miriam (Mary) similarly “kept, guarded” the prophetically significant words and occurrences which were taking place with her young son Yeshua).

Both the Torah and Haftarah for this week focus upon God’s prophetic gifts for His people, particularly as they are and shall be released upon the godly young (See also Joel 2:28-32). As the Lord returns to Zion with deliverance and an outpouring of His Spirit,

**PLEASE PRAY** for mature instruction in the prophetic amongst 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 who may be 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, the Evil One will do all he can to divert them from their destiny. Pray for a new wave of bold and victorious youth and young adults 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 older sons...leaving a signet, cord and staff as pledge.

In this story, we see many ways in which the righteous Joseph prefigures Yeshua, the coming Messiah. He here 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 will, in fact, later acknowledge his unrighteousness—38:26; 44:16), so as 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) will 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.



**“A Lion has Roared!” The King of Beasts in a Jerusalem Zoo.**

*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?”*  
(Amos 3:7-8).

**\*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 of 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 most of Israel is still behind a veil regarding their Messiah. It is this gift and office which brings clarity, understanding, instruction and encouragement to the Body regarding “*what the Spirit is saying to the congregations.*” **We rejoice to report that we see this gifting beginning to manifest in a powerful and clean way among Jewish and Arab young adults in the**

**Land. Pray Joel 2:28-32 over this young eager generation:**

***“...I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughter shall prophesy...For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as YHVH has said, among the remnant whom YHWH calls.”***



***Martin & Norma Sarvis  
Jerusalem***

**[The readings for next week (10-16 December 2017) are called *MiKetz*— “At the End Of”. TORAH: Genesis 41:1—44:17; HAFTARAH (Hanukkah): Zechariah 2:10—4:7.]**

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