

## *Prayer Update From Israel (February 24, 2014)*



### **Almond Blossoms in Jerusalem**

*“I am ever wakeful over my Word to bring it to pass!”*

#### **1. UKRAINE**

We are joining believers around the world in praying for the Ukraine. Although major issues have revolved round whether the country should be economically aligned with Russia or the EU, reports from citizens in the street repeatedly display disillusionment with the rampant corruption sensed to be binding virtually every echelon of society, and a hopelessness that it can be changed. We are praying for the believers there for courage and hope and guidance; for protection and supply, and for the power of the Holy Spirit to be present in breaking through spiritual strongholds of darkness. That citizens will be granted grace to be drawn to seek the Face of the Lord first.

We are also aware of the estimated 360-400,000 Jews still living in Ukraine. There are a number of Messianic congregations and schools. But there is a sense of the ancient anti-Semitism which has plagued this country taking occasion through the upheaval currently taking place. (Among other reports, a synagogue was firebombed this week, and several Jewish communities in Kiev have felt to strengthen security arrangements during the riots.)

#### **PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*For the Jewish Body of Messiah in Ukraine.**

**\*Pray Jews whom God is calling to return to their ancient Homeland would be drawn into “making *aliyah*” (immigrating to Israel) while there is still opportunity.**

## **2. “AND THE LIGHT SHINES IN DARKNESS”: JORDANIAN SHEIKH CLAIMS ISRAEL BELONGS TO THE JEWS, BASING HIS ASSERTIONS ON THE KORAN.**

Ahmed Aladoan, a sheikh from the prominent Adwan tribe in the Kingdom of Jordan recently loosed a storm of controversy in the Arab media with his remarks claiming that “Allah is the protector of the Children of Israel.” The Muslim cleric, who lives in Amman, based his authority on the Koran itself, quoting Surah Al-Ma’ida; v21, “*Allah gave the Holy Land to the sons of Israel until the Day of judgment.*” He questioned the origins of the word “Palestine,” asserting that Palestinian Arabs’ claims to the territory are without substance, false. Sheikh Aladoan further maintained that since this land is not called Palestine in the Koran, Arabs therefore shouldn’t be fighting for it. He accused Palestinian Arabs of violence, of killing children, women and the elderly and hiding behind human shields. Last year the Sheikh visited Israel, conferring with a Safed rabbi, and allowing himself to be filmed (“Jordanian sheikh causes stir...” *HAARETZ.com*; 21 Feb 2014, 1:10 p.m.). Uneasy with the upheaval, the Adwan tribe has reportedly issued a statement distancing itself from the sheikh’s assertions.

### **PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*For more revelations of truth to break forth among the religious leaders throughout the Muslim world—regarding the land of Israel, its destiny, and the custodians God has by holy covenant assigned for its oversight.**

**\*For protection for Sheikh Aladoan, and for further revelation. *Allah* is the Arabic word for deity. Pray for more light as to who is the true God of the universe, as opposed to the Moon-god from Saudi Arabia worshiped by Muslims. Pray the Light of the Son (Who is One with the Father) to be released, which, when it sets men and women free, they are free in deed!**

**\*For God’s Kingdom to come in Jordan as it is in Heaven. Actually, as the Sheikh suggests, what is now the Kingdom of Jordan was all part of what was called Palestine at the time of the Balfour Declaration in 1917. Presently, Palestinians make up the vast majority of its citizens.**

## **3. “ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK”**

***“Do not let those who are wrongfully my enemies rejoice over me; nor let those who hate me without cause wink maliciously. For they do not speak peace, but they devise deceitful words against those who are quiet in the land”*** (Psalm 35:19-20).

This week posters have gone up on many college campuses across the US and UK proclaiming “Israeli Apartheid Week 2014”. Most of these posters bear somewhere on their faces a depiction of the “wall” (some with an Israeli flag waving atop) which separates Israel from parts of the contested territories of Judea and Samaria. Taking its cue from the “state of being apart” enforced by the ruling party in South Africa during much of the latter half of the last century, the term “Apartheid is today used generally to describe *“every kind of segregation, established by the state authority in a country, against the social and civil rights of a minority of citizens, due to*

*ethnic prejudices*” (Wikipedia). Throughout the week, on campuses from Oxford to Michigan, students will be invited to attend anti-Israel lectures, films and demonstrations. In some cases this cause appears to be supported by the administrations themselves. The London School of Economics’ International History department reportedly actually used the term “Israeli Apartheid” in an e-mail sent out to students inviting them to an event organized by the local Palestine Society. After being confronted by an Israeli graduate student for forwarding an official e-mail to the entire student body using the words “Israeli apartheid”, in effect presenting it as a “fact” which would be commented upon at the forum, the department was forced to send out a clarification stressing that the positions and opinions of the e-mail did not represent those of the department (“Israelis abroad prepare to battle Israel Apartheid Week”: *Ynet.com*, 23 Feb 2014, 01:06).

Of course, Israel is not an apartheid state, nor does the “wall” set apart a people on a basis of race or creed. Over 20% of Israel’s citizens residing within its internationally-recognized borders are Arab, most of them Muslim. Nor was the wall built by “*state authority...against the social and civil rights of a minority of citizens, due to ethnic prejudices.*” Rather, it was built after Israel had withdrawn its military presence from cities in Judea and Samaria, rendering up governmental autonomy to the Palestinian Authority, an authority which then sanctioned the preparation and sending forth of terrorist murderers to prey unprovoked upon Israeli citizens. Hundreds of civilians, men (women, children, Jew and Arab) were slain, and multiple thousands seriously wounded. The wall was built as a defense against these attacks. But today propagandists are using its presence as a tool to demonize Israel, banking on the ignorance or forgetfulness of the public at large as to why it was constructed in the first place. (This past Christmas season, a prominent church in the heart of London infamously spent a reported 30,000 British Pounds to construct a 30 meter long, eight meter high replica of the “wall”, presumably (for all of their written disclaimers) to focus attention upon the heartless callousness of an Israeli entity against the poor citizens of “O Little Town of Bethlehem.”) Ironically, the very Palestinian leaders who support the “Israel Apartheid Week” have on numerous occasions declared that there will be no Jews allowed to live within the borders of any future Palestinian State.

#### **PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*That falsehood related to Israel will not be allowed to multiply in deceiving students in the universities where this delegitimization effort is being observed.**

**\*For courageous men and women of integrity and spiritual insight to arise to counter the lies with truth.**

**\*Psalm 129.5: “Let all those who hate Zion be put to shame and turned back.”**

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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 23 February—1 March 2014 are called *P'kudei*—"Accountings Of (the Tabernacle)"

### Torah

Exodus 38:21 – 40:38

(*Shabbat Sh'kalim*) Exodus 30:11-16

### Haftarah

II Kings 11:17—12:17

(*Machar Chodesh*—"Tomorrow begins the New Month") I Samuel 20:18, 42

**NOTE:** The normally-read *Haftarah* is I Kings 7:51-8:21 (Which we recommend reading, because of its relation to the Exodus portion). However, since the day for traditionally honoring the giving of a "Shekel Tax" for the Tabernacle/Temple falls this year on the Sabbath preceding the 1<sup>st</sup> of Adar II, an additional Torah portion Exodus 30:11-16 and a different *Haftarah* which mentions "each man's census money" (II Kings 12:4) are read in synagogues.

Also, because the day following this Sabbath will herald the beginning of the celebration of *Rosh Chodesh* (Head of the Month) for Adar II, the passage from I Samuel is also read in many synagogues.

**\*THIS TORAH PORTION** carefully describes the concluding stages of constructing the Tabernacle, even down to itemizing the amount of precious metals used. It is noteworthy that neither in this account of finishing the work, nor in last week's account of beginning it, are the *Urim and Thumim* (Exodus 28:29-30) mentioned. This suggests that they were not "fashioned" by the creative skills of men, but given by God to be placed in the Breastplate of Judgment. The Portion then ends with the completion of the work of the Tabernacle (39:32), its erection (40:17), and the coming of the *manifest Presence of the LORD to fill it with His Glory*—that He might dwell among His people in their travel to Canaan. **SIMILARLY, THE HAFTARAH** (I Kings 7:51—8:21, which is usually read with this Torah Portion) ends with the Ark of the Covenant being brought up from the City of David to the new Temple built by Solomon, with its being

placed in the Temple's inner court, and with the *cloud of God's glory filling the House of the LORD* (I Kings 8:11).

**\*I Kings 8:8.** This takes care to point out that in Solomon's Temple, the poles used to transport the Ark of the Covenant were so prominent that they extended out of the Inner Sanctuary of the Temple so as to be visible in the Holy Place. The LORD's instructions in the Torah for carrying the Ark had evidently been viewed as 'lesser details' by David when he sought to bring it up to Jerusalem from Kiryat Yearim (II Samuel 6:3), resulting in the death of one of his men when the ox pulling the cart stumbled. **PLEASE PRAY that we be attentive to the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27)—realizing that details are just as critically important as what seem to be the 'big pictures.'**

### Shekinah

Both of the readings this week have to do with preparing for the coming of God's Presence to dwell with His people. Although it does not appear in Scripture, a Hebrew word sometimes used for the manifestation of the glory of His Presence on Earth is *sh'khinah*, or in English: "**Shekinah**". It is related to the infinitive *lishkon*—"to dwell, to 'neighbor.'" *Mishkan* (Tabernacle) is the dwelling *place*. *Shekinah* is a manifestation of the Presence itself! It is God's intense desire and purpose to "dwell" among or "near to" His people.

*"I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am YHVH their God" (Exodus 29:45).*

*"And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of Hosts has sent Me to you." (Zechariah 2:11)*

*"Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land." (Psalm 85:9)*

*" 'For I,' says the LORD, 'will be a wall of fire all around her [i.e. Jerusalem], and I will be the glory in her midst.' " (Zechariah 2:5)*

**PLEASE PRAY:** for an awakened longing in Israel for the Presence of the LORD to return to His Land. Pray for grace among us as Believers in preparing the way for His Glory. And pray for revelation among Israelis that preceding Messiah's physical return to the Land, it is possible for His glorious Spirit to take up residence within the individual hearts of all of His people—to commune with them and encourage them, and to lead, even as did the cloud and the fire of His presence in the wilderness.



*Martin & Norma Sarvis  
Jerusalem*

**[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 2-8 March 2014 are called *VaYikra*—  
“And He Called”: TORAH: Leviticus 1:1—6:7; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 43:21—44:23]**

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