

# ISRAEL PRAYER UPDATE

*Glory of Zion International Ministries*



## *Battlements, Ramparts and Archery Slits behind the wall surrounding Jerusalem*

**This week, Jews around the world will be hearing Exodus 13:17—17:16 read in their Synagogues.** It is an incredible passage, beginning with YHVH's mighty deliverance of Israel from Pharaoh's army through the Red Sea, continuing with one of the great prophetic songs in the Bible, and concluding with victory over the Amalekites in their first major battle on the road towards Canaan. This week, rather than leading with our usual prayer points regarding "current events" in or related to Israel, we sensed the Lord would draw our focus to a vital principle of spiritual warfare to found in both the beginning and ending of this famous passage. **We pray the following teaching may be used by the Holy Spirit to encourage us as we cover—and value—the "positionings" our Captain entrusts to each of us. *And the battle is the LORD's!***

### **POSITION YOURSELF!**

#### **GUARDING YOUR STATION FOR SEEING**

*We are in a decade of "seeing"* (5770's the Hebrew letter-number for "70" is pronounced and spelled the same as the word for *eye*.). What *we* see is of course very important for other believers as well as ourselves, because the perspectives from which we see will always be different. This is why it is essential that we each be in *our* right location...that we be "positioned" correctly. In the spiritual battles which we face, each of us is given a personal

position or “station”—it may be changed from time to time, but it is placement which our Commander in his wisdom and watchfulness has assigned for us. He has chosen to depend upon *us* for the sight and guard necessary from our “place on the rampart”.

### **EXODUS 14:13-14**

#### **IN AN “IMPOSSIBLE” SITUATION, WE EACH HAVE AN ASSIGNED STATION**

In Exodus 14:13-14 the children of Israel are leaving Egypt. Before them lies an un-crossable expanse of water, closing in from behind a vast and mobilized hostile army. Suddenly out of Moses bursts an astounding word: ***“Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today...The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace”*** (NKJV). The people are admonished not to fear and to SEE the LORD’s salvation. But first let us focus on the phrase “stand still”. At face value this translation could be taken to imply a kind of passive “standing to the side and watching.” But that is not all which lies within the Hebrew. There are other words for “standing”—but here is used a form of the infinitive *lehityatzev* (Root: *yatsav*; Strongs 3320/5324). In every-day Hebrew, the word may mean “to stabilize”. But in a military setting, and often, as here, in Scripture it means ***“to SET yourself”*** (NASB), or ***“to TAKE your STATION”*** (Robert Alter)—not merely “to stand”, but ***“to TAKE your stand!”*** From that position of “setting yourself,” you would then be positioned (*stabilized*) to obey the next order, to ***“SEE the salvation (Hebrew: yeshuah) of the LORD!”*** These commands are in the plural; *EVERYONE* has a ‘placement’ within which to set themselves!

***Take Your Station!***—but did individuals in Israel already have a station? When they came out of Egypt, they likely did not even realize that they were an army yet. But their Commander in Chief did!

***“And it came to pass at the end of the 430 years, on that very day, it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt...” “The LORD brought the children of Israel out of the Land of Egypt according to their armies.” “And the children of Israel went up in martial array/ orderly ranks/ armed.”*** (Exodus 12:41, 51; 13:18)

### **EXODUS 17:8-16**

#### **ON THE HILL— “BENEATH ARMS”— “BEARING ARMS” IN THE VALLEY**

This is all very quickly and graphically illustrated a few chapters later in Exodus 17:8-16, where the Israelites find themselves in the thick of battle with the *Amalekites*, an enemy whom they will be required to face repeatedly in one form or other, from that day right down to the present. But Moses knows *his* station— ***“Tomorrow I will STATION MYSELF on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand”*** (17:9 NASB; same root, *yatsav*). During the battle, Aaron and Hur were evidently at their stations, perhaps as observers, also on the hill. But they soon found themselves required to be *repositioned* (more on this later) to stations on either side of Moses holding up his arms. Meanwhile a number of other Israelis had been chosen by Joshua (whose name means “the LORD is Salvation”) to take *their* positions on the battlefield down in the

valley. Victory depended upon each one manning *his* position. When they became thus arrayed, the miracle banner (*nes/Nissi*) of YHVH was released over His army and they carried the day!

## I SAMUEL 17

### GOD OF THE ARRAYING

We had all best realize that we are in a war, and, as Bob Dylan memorably observed in his 1979 song “When He Returns”, “*that there’ll BE no peace, that the WAR won’t cease, until HE returns.*” And we’d best also recognize that our enemies will be “positioning” themselves! **Psalm 36:4** says “*The wicked...devises wickedness on his bed...He sets himself in a way that is not good.*” In **I Samuel 17** we have the confrontation between David and Goliath. In verse 16 we read that “*The Philistine came forward morning and evening for forty days and took his stand*” (NASB). A form of the same Hebrew word *lehityatzev* as was used by Moses at the Red Sea!

***So who is responsible for assigning our ‘placement’?*** When David faced Goliath and the giant bragged of what he would do, David answered, “*You come to me with a sword, a spear and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted*” (Vs 45). “LORD of Hosts” is *YHVH Tzevaot*— (literally *Yehovah-Armies*). Yet “God of the armies of Israel” uses a different word for armies, *ma’arkhot*. In everyday Hebrew the verb form of this word is used for *placing something in order*—such as setting a table. As a matter of fact, this is the word used in Psalm 23... “*He prepares (or sets/orders) a table before me in the presence of my Enemies.*” But in a military context, it is best translated by the English word “arraying” or “array”. It is used several times earlier in this chapter to describe the two armies arraying themselves. David here comes in the name of the “***Arraying--God of Israel***”. How important is this Name to remember when praying for Israel! And of course, He is also the One who brings members of *all* of His armies into array as One—He is “***Captain of the Army of the LORD***” (Joshua 5:14). As such, He knows ALL of the soldiers whom He has called, exactly what each one is fitted for, ready for, not-yet ready for; the best places and timings for positioning in groups. And He knows each of his soldiers individually and intimately by name—and where his or her positioning will be optimum for each battle. **He knows how to order His army—and He knows how to order you within it!**

## HABBAKUK 2:1

### TAKING OUR STATION ON THE RAMPART

Standing our watch, taking our station, maintaining a lookout, seeing what we need to see—it’s all brought into marvelous focus in the first verse of **Habakkuk 2**, “***I will stand my watch, and take my station (yatsav) on the rampart. And I will be on the lookout to see what He will say to me—and how I will respond on being sharply corrected.***” Here we examine one more use of the Hebrew *yatsav*. In standing our watches, we are to position ourselves, to take our specific stations “on the rampart”. A rampart was a place behind the wall where supplies and weapons could be wheeled in to the soldiers standing at their positions. Just behind the battlements of the wall surrounding the Old City of Jerusalem runs a long walkway upon which soldiers would

stand, but also along which reinforcements, weapons and refreshment could be brought to those manning the battlements and archery slits. Obviously there must have been many different sorts of positions along these ramparts—those for lookouts, archers, commanders, those providing supply. God has an assigned *place* for every one of us upon His ramparts. You have a position which He has sovereignly chosen to entrust to *your* oversight. His strategy, including the safety and effectiveness of your fellow brothers and sisters in arms, will depend upon your manning it effectively. There is a perspective of the battle that no one but yourself can see! He hasn't made a mistake—He is *Elohei Ma'archot*—He knows exactly what you can and cannot see from your station. During the battle, His *will* being perfectly released “*on earth as it is in heaven*” requires you being there! He is your Positioner. You are—Each of us is—a unique soldier!

### **A CAUTION...**

Our security and sense of worth lies in the love and oversight of our Commander, *not in our “position!”* Don't find your identity in *where* He has placed you—He may need to reposition you at *any* moment!! And to arrest our attention, especially in early training, He may have to speak very sharply to us (Habakkuk 2:1b). Our flesh loves to “get used” to things and doesn't like to be told to change, much less in a sharp or rebuking tone of voice. Zechariah 2:13 says, “*HUSH! all flesh before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation.*” God knows the possibility of this interference from the flesh inside of us—so, in addition to standing his watch and setting himself in his place on the rampart to guard the *outside*, he also has Habakkuk “*watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected*” (NKJV). “Watch” here is not merely ‘keeping an eye on’—its root is related to “*mitzpe*”—a lookout point, and to “*tzophim*”—scouts or rangers. We are to “keep a lookout” to see what He will say to us. Lookouts must be “all eyes & ears” at the same time. So we keep a lookout, as it were, for God's voice within us (The Hebrew literally says, “what He will say *in me*”). He may desire quickly to alter my view from Southwest to South-Southwest, which will almost certainly require a refocusing. And there will not be time to argue with or be hurt by the voice—however sharp it may have had to sound if I have hesitated. *So as we watch from the wall, we maintain an alertness for His inner voice of instruction, all the while keeping a weather-eye out over our flesh.*

**He has not left us as orphans—nor as blinded confused rag-tag troops out on the battlefield.** Each of us has a place of assignment to man when He calls us into array—whether on the wall, on the mountain, in the field, in the kitchen, in the office, in the truck, in the ditch, in the bathroom—and when we set ourselves in it he will instruct us from there. *Trust Him!* Our individual concepts of ourselves—our ages, our strengths, our past woundings, our weaknesses, our experience--these have been carefully taken into consideration for our positioning. Ask the Lord to bring you “into array”—to clarify the place of *your* station, the place to set yourself, to take your stand. It is there and waiting for you. No one can fill it but yourself—*And you will!!*

### **PSALM 41:12**

*“As for me, You support me in my integrity and you SET me in your presence forever.”*

### **EPHESIANS 6:13**

*“And having done all, to Stand!”*

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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. The Haftarah, unless otherwise noted, will be that read in Ashkenazy synagogues around the world. The references for all texts are those found in English translations of the Scriptures.*

The readings for this week 5-11 February 2017 are called *B’Shalach*— “In the Sending”.

**TORAH:** Exodus 13:17—17:16

**HAFTARAH:** Judges 4:4—5:31

Exodus 15:1-18 contains one of the most exalted, beautiful and truth-filled victory songs in any language:

***Shirat haYam—The Song of the Sea***

**\*15:2.** *“My strength and song is YAH; and He is become to me salvation (yeshu’ah); He is my God, and I will adorn Him with praises.”* **PLEASE PRAY:** That present-day Israel will recognize that the LORD is indeed become her Salvation (The name Yeshua (Jesus) is a contraction of a compound Hebrew name combining the Covenant name of the LORD (YHVH) with “He will Save” (*yoshia*).

**\*15:3.** *“YHVH [the LORD] is a man of war; YHVH is His name.”* In this verse, the LORD YHVH is literally referred to as an *ish*— “man”. We do not believe this to be merely metaphorical. How could the *Most High* call Himself a man—unless He would actually become one? **PLEASE PRAY:** That the Holy Spirit will shine divine illumination onto his written Word—that minds will be opened to comprehend what is written about Yeshua in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms (Luke 24:44-45).

**\*15:11.** *“Who is like You, YHVH, among the gods? Who is like You, sublime in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?”* **PLEASE PRAY:** that these wonderful attributes of the LORD will be released in new understanding in His congregation throughout the world—1.

Sublime HOLINESS; 2. PRAISES in spirit and truth which nurture GODLY FEAR in His servants, terror in His enemies. 3. A release of signs and WONDERS in the name of His “holy servant Yeshua” (Acts 4:30).

**\*15:17.** *“You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, in the place, O YHVH, which You have made for Your own dwelling, the sanctuary, Adonai, which Your hands have established. YHVH shall reign forever and ever.”* This is a prophecy regarding what, many hundreds of years later, would become the “Temple Mount” in Jerusalem. Since 1967, Israel has claimed sovereignty over this mountain. Yet non-Muslims are only allowed to ascend for a few specified hours on certain days of the week. It has been said that “the Last Battle will be fought over who will be worshipped on this mountain.” Over the interior doors of the Dome of the Rock is a passage from the Muslim holy book proclaiming that that religion’s deity “has no helper (son)”. The Second Psalm of the Hebrew Bible says that the LORD (YHVH) not only has a Son, that Son will reign as King on that Mountain. In Ezekiel 20:40 the Lord GOD (Adonai YHVH) declares that *“On My holy mountain, on the mountain height of Israel, there all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, shall serve Me; there I will accept them...”* At that time, it will truly be said that Israel has been *“brought in and planted in the mountain”*. But at present, she is only a wary custodian of a highly disputed area inhabited by structures of desolation. **PLEASE PRAY:** that God’s Kingdom come and His will be done on the “mountain of His inheritance” in Jerusalem. We know teams of believers who ascend the mountain weekly to walk round it, praying this. Also, please pray for divine wisdom and guidance over our nation’s leaders in how best to administer Israel’s present sovereignty of this holy site.

**\*Exodus 15:26b.** *“For I am YHVH (The LORD) who heals you.”* **PLEASE PRAY:** For release, revelation and progression concerning the healing gifts in the Body of Messiah in Israel!

**\*Exodus 16:8b.** *“Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD.”* A similar rebuke and warning is echoed in the New Covenant in Acts 5:4, *“You have not lied to men but to God.”* **PLEASE PRAY:** That the fear of the Lord would be on the Body of Messiah in Israel regarding their honor and conduct towards God’s appointed leaders.

**\*Exodus 16:23, 29.** *“Then he said to them, 'This is what YHVH has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath, a Holy Sabbath to YHVH...' "See! For YHVH has given you the Sabbath...”* (Emphases ours). “Sabbath” (Hebrew: *Shabbat*) comes from a verb meaning “to cease work”. The first place in the Bible where the word “holiness” is used relates to this word, *“Elohim blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy”* (Genesis 2:3a). Yeshua taught that *“The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath”* (Mark 2:27-28). **PLEASE PRAY:** For Israel to be freed from the legalistic structures of man, and enter into the true Rest given by God. Pray especially for leaders in the Body of Messiah to not ignore the necessity of availing themselves of the rests from normal work which God has ordained for His children.



*Martin & Norma Sarvis*  
*Jerusalem*

**[The readings for next week (12-18 February 2017) are called *Yitro*— “Jethro”. TORAH: Exodus 18:1—20:26; HAFTARAH: Judges Isaiah 6:1—7:6; 9:6-7.]**

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