

Prayer Update From Israel (March 1, 2016)



Sunset last week on a hill above the Sea of Galilee.

1. "... WHERE CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE ARE FOUND."

*"Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, **So are the children of one's youth**" (Psalm 127:4).*

*"Sound the shofar in Zion...gather the people...gather the children and the nursing infants...let them say, '**Spare Your people, YHVH, and do not make Your inheritance a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they among the peoples say, 'Where is their God?'**'" (Joel 2:15-17).*

*"Do not be afraid, for I am with you; **I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'** Bring my sons from afar and my daughte4rs from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." (Isaiah 43:5-7).*

*"But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, **and the children who were shouting in the temple, "Hoshanna! to the Son of David!!"**, they became indignant and said to Him, "Do You hear what these children are saying?" **And Yeshua said to them, 'Yes; have you never read, "Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies You have prepared praise for Yourself?"'**" (Matthew 21:15-16).*

"Over the dead of the desert will come the river's flow/Into the cover of darkness the brightest light will show/Out of the womb of the morning will come your youth like dew/After the pain and the groaning comes celebration news/This is the time...this is the day/The past behind,

new life embraced/No longer desolate, Let this be fertile ground/Where Children of the promise are found.” (From *Fertile Ground* © Godfrey Birtill & Martin Scott)

The final chapter of the Book of Daniel does not foreshow a latter-day picture of peace, prosperity and tranquility in Israel. Rather, it speaks to a time of distress (12:1) greater than any endured “*since there was a nation.*” (In a just over two years, the period since modern Israel became a nation will reach 70 years). Yet in the midst of that coming time of trouble, there will be in Israel a people of Light, trained and true, victoriously battling the powers of darkness. Michael their warrior-watchman will have arisen on their behalf (His name *Mi’kha’El* means, “Who is like God!”) and there will be deliverance for all who come to the Light (vs 1). Among this army will be those who have keen insight and understanding (3, 10). The light of their truth will pierce the darkness—and lead many to righteousness (3).

We believe that a first-fruits of that army may have already been born! Although there are many believers in the nations whose eschatologies will not allow them to understand this, we believe that, although still tiny, still in its infancy, that army is awakening, is being trained, is entering preparation to come into array today! *God is preparing children in Israel.* It is He who places the “armies of Israel” in array (I Sam. 17:45). We are speaking of young adults, of teenagers. But we are also speaking of 12-year olds...and much younger. Believing Israeli children who are not only being well-behaved kids who honor their parents—but little ones who have believed personally in their Messiah and Savior Yeshua, have been anointed by *Ruach haKodesh* (“Holy Spirit/Wind”), are sharing with their friends at school, having dreams and visions, writing songs of praise and worship, forming worship bands and ministering before the Lord each week, are, like Joshua “a young man” (Ex. 33:11) developing such a hunger for the presence of God that they will stay behind, even when their elders have departed (Ex. 33:7-11; It was this which prepared him carrying the army of God into the battles of the Promised Land forty years down the road.). Something is calling to the young people in Israel—and like Samuel, they are aware that He knows them by name—and are responding.

A few examples from our own neighborhood here in Jerusalem:

*** The 10-year old daughter of our friends across the street recently shared the Lord with five of her friends in her public school. Two of them responded by placing their trust in Yeshua! To one of these she gave a *Brit Ha’da’sha* (New Testament) to take home. Her friend returned *three days* later having devoured the whole thing! She proudly informed our neighbor (the mother of the girl who’d given it to her), “*I read the whole book...and I love the end!*”**

*** In the *Succat Hallel* house of prayer here, one afternoon/evening each week “worship watches” are now led by young people. One is led by kids 9-13, before that there is one for 4-8 year olds, and the watch afterwards is led by older teens 14 to 18 years. A “worship watch” is an hour or two devoted to ministering to the Lord—it may be playing and singing praises and worship, interspersed with prayer, or reading a Scripture...or singing a spontaneous song—or simply waiting in God’s presence. The 9-13 year watch is called *Dor Haba*—“Next Generation.” They meet ahead of time, often at a neighbor’s house for lunch**

as they prepare songs and picking out Scriptures. Some play instruments, some sing. More and more children are coming to join.

* **One Israeli couple (friends of ours), who oversee the younger watches wrote a week ago, *“We have always had a mandate from God to encourage and build up youth in Israel. Yet, recently, He keeps drawing us to children also and to His purposes for them. God seems to be calling young ones to live radical lives of prayer at an earlier age than in previous generations. He is calling them at a young age to press deep into His purposes through worship and prayer.”***

* **A new cd (of what will eventually be a double-album) by Israeli young adults and teens incorporating different forms of praise, worship and intercession in both Hebrew and Arabic is currently in the mixing stage. Some of the children mentioned above were recently assembled to contribute to the end of one of the songs. They sang in Hebrew, *“We are the generation that seeks your face, O God of Jacob. The generation who sings to You—All the Honor, All the Glory!!”* As our friend commented, *“I believe this is a prophetic chorus. It tells of what God is going to do (and has already begun) here in this land, with these kids and others as well.”***

These are only isolated instances, but we believe they exemplify something new and significant which is beginning to stir in our land.

Two years ago our friend Rick Ridings sensed the Lord releasing a word regarding the children in Israel, which we printed in this Update. We have witnessed “seedlings” of that Word germinating and beginning to come up. Please pray for these little plants to break ground, and begin to grow and to thrive all over Israel!

Rick’s Word:

“Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Mark 10:14).

I believe this year we will see the beginning of a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit on very small children (ages 2-10). They will be prophesying things that are beyond their natural ability to understand at that age. They will be awakened in the middle of the night to hear the Lord as did the child Samuel. They will receive key visions and dreams that will bring direction not only for their own lives, but for adults. They will operate in a surprising way in words of knowledge, healing and miracles. It is important that we do not quench, but gently pastor this move of the Lord among children. We must pray to help give birth to, and to protect, this move of the Holy Spirit upon children.

PLEASE PRAY:

* **That the Lord continue to water the seedlings and shoots of the current generation of children in Israel with His Holy Spirit.**

*** For believing parents of young or yet-to-be-born children in Israel, that they be granted grace to call humbly on the LORD like Manoah, “O my Lord...teach us what we shall do for the child(ren) who will be born.” (Judges 13:8).**

*** For wisdom, courage and strength to “train up a child according to his/her way” (Hebrew sense of Proverbs 22:6). The thrust here is that each child has a unique pathway for which God has prepared each boy or girl; It is for parents to be watchful and sensitive to the Holy Spirit so as to discern and strengthen each of their children in those unique and personal giftings and inclinations (while, of course, not neglecting the more general love, nurture and discipline necessary for all children).**

*** For male and female leaders in the Body in Israel to watch over this upcoming generation of children—guiding them, honoring them, being attentive to what God chooses to release to the greater Body through them, while being wisely attentive to the timings and disciplines of the Lord.**

*** For children throughout the Middle East...that their angels (Matt. 18:10; Heb. 1:14) guard their spirits from destruction, and lead them to life and truth. A prophetic vision recently released here related to the terrible destruction in Syria, saw seedlings springing out of the rubble which would be children who would turn from the paths of their predecessors and call on the name of the Lord.**

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 28 February—5 March 2016 are called *VaYa’k’hel*—“And He Assembled.”

TORAH (Shabbat Sh’kalim): Exodus 35:1—38:20

Exodus 30:11-16

HAFTARAH: II Kings 12:1-17

NOTE: The normally-read *Haftarah* is Jeremiah 34:8-22; 33:25-26 (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 1st of Adar Bet (11 March), an additional Torah portion Exodus 30:11-16 and a different *Haftarah* which mentions “each man’s census money” (II Kings 12:4) will be read in synagogues.

In this week’s readings, Moses gathers together the congregation of Israel and relates to them what God has instructed regarding the construction of the Tabernacle. In effect, Exodus 35:4—39:43 carefully repeats what was recorded earlier in Chpts. 25-28 (T’rumah) and subsequent passages. But here certain details have been clarified. For instance, unlike the earlier passages, this one makes specific mention of **women. Verses 35:25-26 refer to “Each woman who is a gifted artisan” and “whose hearts stirred with wisdom.” Verse 29 is careful to mention both “men and women” whose hearts moved them to volunteer materials and to labor as a freewill offering for building the tabernacle. In 36:6, this had in fact been done with such generosity and cheerfulness that Moses was forced to issue a command, “Let no man or woman any longer perform work for the contribution of the sanctuary!”*

Please pray for hearts of Israeli believers to be moved to offer up their craftsmanship and creative energies as a free-will offering to the Most High. Pray for women and men to be equally valued and recognized in their talents and giftings. Pray for “cheerful” giving from the heart (II Cor. 9:7) on the part of Israeli believers, both of physical resources and of talents and time, not merely as a *mitzva* (an obedience to gain favor)—but at the moving of the Holy Spirit within their hearts.

****Exodus 35:1-3. “...These are the words which YHVH has commanded you to do: ‘Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to YHVH. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day.’”***

Attempts to observe the prohibition related to fire in the last verse of this passage continue amongst many observant Jews today, in some cases reaching extremes which, to our understanding, go far beyond the original intent of the prohibition. From the time the Shabbat Lights are lit just before sundown on Friday until candles are again kindled at *Havdalah* following sundown on Saturday, no lights are to be kindled by Jews. Electric timers are placed on light switches and stoves so that the owners will not be guilty of lighting a fire (i.e. initiating an electric spark by flipping a switch). This is also the reason religious Jews don’t drive on Shabbat (starting a car involves making the battery produce a spark to ignite the engine). Pressing a button at a streetlight in order to cross the street also initiates a “spark”, as does pressing a button in an elevator (Kosher hotels and many fancy apartment buildings in Israel are equipped with “Shabbat elevators,” which are set to unceasingly go up and down automatically throughout the Sabbath. We do not mock the earnestness of those who genuinely feel it to be God’s will, and who are trying to please Him by observing these strictures. But we do believe them to be misguided; that in some instances, such prohibitions slip into a category which Yeshua condemned in Matthew 23:4—that of heavy burdens not intended by God being laid on people’s shoulders by religious leaders, rules which often become mere works for show.

The context for this lone passage about lighting a fire on the Sabbath is God’s instructions for the construction of a place for His habitation among His people—the Mishkan, Dwelling Place, the Tabernacle. It was a construction of craftsmanship requiring all the creative, “artistic” gifts, energies and skills of which humankind (made in the image of God) is capable. ***Yet the fashioning of this Holy place with all of its Holy furnishings was not to cancel out the pattern set by the Master Artist when He Himself fashioned the universe.*** He worked for six days, then ceased work and was refreshed on the seventh (Genesis 2:3; Exodus 31:17). Much of the work being described in these chapters would require building a fire to smelt and fashion the metals—melting, bending, shaping and forming everything, from Cherubim of gold, to tools, to ornaments, to bolts and pins of brass. Making the fire involved a lot of work—finding, gathering and chopping the wood, then kindling the flame with a friction method involving much exertion (The one record we have of judgment coming on an individual for breaking this law is found in Numbers 15:32, where the offense was specifically for gathering wood on the Sabbath) . ***The joyous sacrifice of yielding up one’s gifts and skills to God for “holy work” must also include respect for His “times and seasons” in exercising those gifts, chief amongst them being what He first called “holy”—the Seventh Day (Genesis 2:3).***

Exodus 35:36.** ***“And He has put it in his heart the ability to teach, in him and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.” Last week we read of *Betzalel* (a descendant of Judah) and *Aholiav* (of the tribe of Dan)—artisans whom God had filled with all wisdom and grace for performing and overseeing the intricate workmanship required in preparation of the Tabernacle. In this later passage it is mentioned that He also put it in their hearts *“to teach.”* Indeed, 36:1 mentions others whom the LORD had filled with artistic grace to work under them (36:1), subject to their wise instruction.

PLEASE PRAY: that those released in the artistic skills in the congregations in Israel will focus not only on the work allotted to them for their own times—but will be stirred in their hearts with a desire and ability to pass on their wisdom and skill to the men and women of the generation rising after them.



***Martin & Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem***

**[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 6-12 March 2016 are called : *P'kudei--*
“Accountings Of”: TORAH: Exodus 38:21—40:38; HAFTARAH: I Kings 7:51-8:21]**

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