

## *Prayer Update From Israel (March 29, 2012)*



**Red Sky over the Mount of Olives**

***“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet  
before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.”  
(Malachi 4:5 See *Shabbat haGadol* under Torah Portion below.)***

### **1. THE ATTACK IN TOULOUSE**

Last week Al Qaida terrorist Muhammad Marakh, after having murdered three French paratroopers the week before, drove up to a Jewish school in Toulouse, France, and methodically executed three children under the age of ten, and the father of two of the children, 30-year-old Rabbi Yonatan Sandler, a teacher from Jerusalem—for no other reason than that they were Jewish. Marakh captured the killings on a video which he then sent on a memory stick to the Paris office of the Qatar-based television station *al-Jazeera*. In the background of the tapes Marakh can be heard shouting “Allah is Great” in Arabic as he fires the shots. Marakh was eventually killed when he came out firing after 30 hours under siege in his apartment. As with US President Obama after the November 2009 massacre of soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas by Army Major Nidal Hasan (in which Hasan was also heard to yell “Allah is Great” as he fired his weapon), one of French President Sarkozy’s first public responses was to assure the world that the incident “had nothing to do with Islam”.

Later on the same day, as Israel was reeling from the calamity, European Union Foreign Affairs Chief Catherine Ashton, speaking at a conference on Palestinian youth in Brussels, made a shocking statement, “...when we think of what happened in Toulouse today, when we remember what happened in Norway a year ago, when we know what is happening in Syria, when we see what is happening in Gaza and in different parts of the world—we remember young people and children who lose their lives.” In other words, she was equating the frightful pre-meditated massacre of 77 people, mostly children, in an Oslo campground last summer, and the execution-murders of the three children in Toulouse with Arab children occasionally hit inadvertently when Israel’s attempts to stop rocket fire from Gaza into its territory. Prime Minister Netanyahu

responded, “It is unthinkable to compare a massacre and the Israeli army’s surgical, defensive actions against those who use children as human shields.” Israel’s Foreign Minister Liberman added, “the children Ashton needs to focus on are the children of south Israel who live in constant fear of Gaza rocket attacks”.

As the bodies of the children and the Rabbi were flown back to Israel for burial, Israel went into mourning. Thousands attended the funeral in Jerusalem. After giving a call of condolence to Eva Sandler, who had lost her husband Jonathan and her two sons, Arie, 5, and Gabriel, 4; and the family of seven-year-old Myriam Monsonogo (whose father is principle of the Toulouse school), the Israeli Prime minister, said: *“I saw the depth of the grief and pain of a young mother who is feeding a baby, who lost her husband and two of her little children, the agony of life cut short and hope which was crushed, and I think to myself: what cruelty, what barbarity can cause a man to do an act which is so inhumane. For these murders, wherever a Jew walks, every centimeter of land he walks on, is occupied territory. From their perspective, Jews have no place in the world. They want to murder Jews wherever they are, and for that reason the state of Israel was established”* (Emphases ours).

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*To the Father of mercies and God of all comfort (II Cor. 1:3) on behalf of Eva Sandler and the parents of Myriam Monsonogo. Pray for light of life and truth and goodness to shine into the darkness of their lives.**

**\*Against a renewed sense of victimization which would seek to settle on Jewish communities in Israel and around the world. Pray the words of assurance from last weekend’s *Haftarah* portion (Isaiah 43:21—44:22):**

*“This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise” (43:21);*

*“Yet hear me now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel whom I have chosen, Thus says the LORD who made you and formed you from the womb, who will help you: ‘Fear not, O Jacob My servant; And you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring” (44:1-3);*

*“Remember these, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me! I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, and like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you” (44:21-22).’*

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**2. “ASK THE LORD FOR RAIN IN THE TIME OF THE LATTER RAIN. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, Grass in the field for everyone” (Zechariah 10:1).**

As we write, it is snowing and raining again in the north, and is forecast to shower in Jerusalem this evening. What a blessing this is! For the first time in seven years the water level in the Sea of Galilee has risen two meters during a single rainy season. This season has also greatly

improved the level of water in the large underground mountain aquifer. The other aquifer which runs along the coast is still low, and the Sea of Galilee is still three meters from full—but we are so grateful that things are getting back to normal.

In Israel, the “Former Rains” usually come between October and the middle of March. The so-called “Latter Rains” come from around Passover until early or middle May.

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*That as we enter the time of the Latter Rains, they will be poured out in abundance. This is not an extravagance; the Lord has invited us to ask—especially during the time of the Latter Rains!**

**\*That the rains will benefit our neighbors...even those considered our enemies, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt.**

**\*That Israel would take such measures as she will need both to preserve her water, and supplemental measures such as desalination. She has finally begun to make advances in this; today half of Israel’s drinking water comes from three desalination plants (which retrieve potable water from the salt-water of the Mediterranean); two more plants are planned to come on line within two years. God knows how much may be necessary in the future.**

**\*Grateful offerings of praise for God’s mercies upon us so far this year!**

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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.*

This week’s Portion is called *Tsav*—“Command”:

**TORAH: Leviticus 6:8—8:36**

**HAFTARAH (SHABBAT HAGADOL): Malachi 3:4—4:6**

**In this week’s Torah Portion Moses is told to command Aaron and his sons concerning the offerings they will shortly begin making before God. Careful instruction is made concerning each of these—with emphasis on the holiness of their activities. Then Aaron and his sons are consecrated, clothed in their holy garments and anointed, and atonement is made for them before they began their duties on behalf of the people.**

**SHABBAT HAGADOL**

The Sabbath preceding Passover is called *Shabbat HaGadol*—the “Great Sabbath”. It takes its name from the “**Great and dreadful day of the LORD**” (*Yom Yehovah haGadol v’haNorah*), found in Malachi 4:5 of the special *Haftarah* which is read on this occasion. It is an important time for soberly “taking account” of the Day which is coming “burning like an oven”...but also for taking heart from God’s promise that “*to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings!*”

**\*Malachi 3:16-18.** “*Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name. ‘They shall be Mine,’ says the LORD of Armies, ‘On the day that I make them my jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.’ Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.*” This passage shows that believers who spend time with other believers in conversation characterized by the Fear of the Lord, and who also spend time meditating on the attributes signified by His name—these will be ones who are granted discernment so as to be spared the deception which will prevail more and more until the Lord’s return (Matt. 24:4, 11, 24; Daniel 8:25).

**\*MALACHI 4:1.** “*For behold, the Day is coming, burning like an oven...*”

Over fifty years ago Bob Gibson and Hamilton Camp wrote a folk song which, whatever may have been their intended meaning, expresses to us powerfully the call and the warning of this passage about the coming Day of the LORD:

**WELL WELL WELL \***

(Chorus)

*Well, Well, Well / Who’s that callin’ / Well, Well, Well / Hold my hand  
Well, Well, Well / Night is a-fallin’  
Spirit is a-movin’ all over this land*

**1.** *God told Noah, build Him an ark / Build it out of hickory bark  
Rain started fallin’ / Waters start to climb  
God said a Fire, not a Flood, next time*

**2.** *My Lord said fire comin’ Judgment Day / All mankind gonna pass away  
Brothers and Sisters, Don’t You know  
You’re gonna reap just what you sow*

**3.** *World’s not waiting for the Lord’s command / Building a fire that’ll sweep the land  
But thunder out of Heaven, Coming Gabriel’s Call  
And the sea’s gonna boil and the sky’s gonna fall*

*Well, Well, Well / Who’s that callin’ / Well, Well, Well / Hold my hand  
Well, Well, Well / Night is a-fallin’  
Spirit is a-movin’ all over this land*

As darkness gathers (John 9:4; Daniel 12:1-3) we must as believers hold to each other, listening, “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...as we see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:24-25). As the world refuses to wait on God’s command, drawing instead the fire of His wrath, another voice will be calling—“**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the congregations . . .**” (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 13:9). He will “send Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful Day of the LORD” (Malachi 4:5). “Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy...For the testimony of Yeshua (Jesus) is the spirit of prophecy” (I Cor. 14:1; Rev. 19:10);

\* *Well Well Well-- Bob Gibson/Bob Camp* © Warner Bros. **NOTE:** There is a gripping performance by Peter, Paul & Mary as well as by the authors available for viewing on YouTube)



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Jerusalem*

**[Passover begins Friday evening of next week (6 April), when God’s deliverance of the Children of Israel from bondage in Egypt will be recounted. The regular readings in the cycle through the Torah will continue with the week of 15-21 April.]**

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