

Prayer Update From Israel (April 9, 2012)



Resurrection Day—Ceremony of Firstfruits
Sunrise over the Mount of Olives, April 8, 2012

1. CHOL HA'MOED.

We have entered *Chol ha-Mo'ed* (the 'ch' pronounced as that in "Bach"). *Mo'ed* is a 'set or appointed time'. While *chol* is sometimes translated 'profane', it more often refers to that which is 'common' or 'everyday' as opposed to that which is *kadosh*—'set apart'—"holy". So *Chol ha Mo'ed* refers to the more-common days during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, those separating the beginning and the ending (which are 'set apart' as Sabbaths to the Lord, Numbers 28:17, 25). This means that not only last Saturday but this coming Friday are Sabbaths (In effect, there will thus be two Sabbaths at the end of this week!). In between are normal workdays, although there is no school, and many businesses close early each day. It is a relaxed and restful time in Israel—the parks are overflowing, people are enjoying the lovely spring weather (while continuing to eat matzo!). Ezra 6:22 and II Chron. 30:21 speak of times when returned exiles celebrated these seven days with great joy "*for the LORD had caused them to rejoice*", and "*the Levites and priests praised the LORD day after day with loud instruments to the LORD.*"

PLEASE PRAY: that the Spirit of God brood over Israelis during this week; that during our "time off", thoughts of holiness and stirrings of His Love would work in our hearts. Pray that the LORD would cause *this* generation to rejoice with His Joy. And please pray against any structures of violence which the enemy would set against Jewish families during this week of rest and fellowship together. Lastly, please pray that Believers in the Land will be freshly anointed to "*praise the LORD day after day with loud instruments to 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. All texts are those of English translations of the Scriptures.

DAILY READINGS CONTINUE IN SYNAGOGUES THROUGHOUT THIS WEEK OF THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD. WE RETURN TO THE REGULAR CYCLE THROUGH THE TORAH ON SATURDAY:

Day 3 (Monday, 9 April): Exodus 13:1-16; Numbers 28:19-25
Day 4 (Tuesday 10 April): Exodus 22:24—23:19; Numbers 28:19-25
Day 5 (Wednesday, 11 April): Exodus 33:12—34:26; Numbers 28:19-25
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Day 6 (Thursday 12 April): Exodus 9:1-14
Numbers 28:19-25
Day 7 (Friday 13 April): Exodus 13:17—15:26; Numbers 28:19-25
II Samuel 22:1-51

It is customary in many places that the SONG OF SONGS (Song of Solomon) be read during the Passover season, sometimes in the synagogue, sometimes in homes after the Seder meal or preceding the beginning of Shabbat.

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This Sabbath (14 April 2012) the readings are called *Shemini*—the “Eighth Day”:

TORAH: Leviticus 9:1—11:47
HAFTARAH: II Samuel 6:1—7:17

***Leviticus 10:3b:** *“By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored.”*

***Leviticus 11:44-45:** *“For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean...For I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

This week's readings center upon the Holiness of Israel's LORD—including the consequences to his children for their not honoring that holiness. In Leviticus 10, Nadav and Avihu offer “*strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them*”, and fire comes out from God's presence and consumes them. In the corresponding II Samuel passage, Uzzah touches the Ark which was being carried improperly, and “*the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for the irreverence, and he died there by the ark of God.*”

Malachi 3:2-3 says that “*He is like a refiner’s fire*” and will “*purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness.*”

PLEASE PRAY: for a sense of the ‘holy’ in the Body of Messiah in Israel—that we will not be presumptuous in our worship, yet will at the same time yield ourselves to the refining, that the offerings which we offer up will be done in righteousness, in spirit and in truth.



*Martin & Norma
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week (15-21 April) are a “double reading”:
1. *Thazria*—“Quicken with Seed”—“Conceive”. TORAH: Leviticus 12:1—13:59;
HAFTARAH: II Kings 4:42—5:19. 2. *Metsora*—“One with
Leprosy”: TORAH: Leviticus 14:1—15:33; HAFTARAH: II Kings 7:3-20.]

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