

## *Prayer Update From Israel (May 1, 2012)*



*Tomer Appelbaum*

**Netanyahu and his wife Sara with father Benzion in 2006 at memorial commemorating 30 years since Operation Entebbe, in which Yonatan, brother of the Prime Minister, was slain while leading the rescue of hundreds of hostages held by terrorists in Entebbe, Uganda..**

### **1. BENZION NETANYAHU, FATHER OF OUR PRIME MINISTER DEAD AT 102**

Yesterday morning Prime Minister Netanyahu's father Benzion passed away at the age of 102. He was born in Warsaw in 1910 and gained recognition as a historian, author and, as with his father before him, an ardent activist for the Zionist cause. (His name Benzion means "Son of Zion".) He was a key figure in the Revisionist Zionist Movement in the United States, serving as secretary of its famous founder, Ze'ev Jabotinsky. As a scholar, he wrote a groundbreaking book *Origins of the Inquisition in Fifteenth Century Spain*; while living in Israel, he served as chief editor of the *Encyclopedia Hebraica*. In his later years he was noted for his knowledge of and scholarship in the Hebrew Bible.

Benzion Netanyahu is also known for the warnings he issued to the Jews before WW II; and he has displayed remarkable prescience regarding the state towards which things have drawn as regards militant Islam in modern times. He has long been presumed to held great influence over the world-view of his son Benjamin, who greatly loved and respected his father, often quoting him or mentioning principles he learned from him. Both of these are reflected in a speech the younger Netanyahu made two years ago on the occasion of his father's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday:

*"We are very simply in danger of extermination today. Not just existential danger, but truly in danger of extermination. They think the extermination, the Holocaust, is over, it isn't, it goes on all the time. I have always said that a necessary condition for the existence of any living body, and for a nation, is the ability to identify a danger in time, a characteristic which our nation lost in the Diaspora. You taught, me, Father, how to correctly view reality, how to understand what it contains within it and draw the necessary conclusions. It certainly wasn't an easy thing for*

*you, because there were always those who did not see as you did, ridiculed, laughed at or belittled your conclusions. But I believe that in this, as well, you taught me to distinguish between the important and the unimportant, and concentrate on the important. The same foresight led Father to say dozens of years ago that the threat to world peace would emerge from the same parts of the Muslim world where oil, terrorism and nuclear go together. And it is also what led him to tell me in the early 1990s that the Muslim extremists would not rest and would attempt to bring down the Twin Towers in New York, a prediction that I included in one of my books in 1995. And Father is a smart man, very smart. This wonderful ability allowed him to see time after time what others didn't. Even if they ignored his diagnoses and warnings, over time his ideas and diagnoses spread and became the common wisdom, without the collective knowing where they came from. Because for Father it was never important to get ownership or credit for his forecasts. He was interested in contributing to the security of his people, not in his own reputation.” (See: “Benzion Netanyahu, Father of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, dies at 102”: HAARETZ.com, 07:58 30 Apr 2012).*

Netanyahu added, *“I learned from you to look into the future.”* Much of that future appears to be “up in the air” this week as roiling issues have polarized factions within the government: decisions to expand some settlements, to dismantle others; legislation which could force ultra-Orthodox to serve in the military or other government service; public attacks by former security chiefs on the integrity and fitness of the Prime Minister and his Minister of Defense; declarations by a former Prime Minister and others that there exists no danger warranting an Israeli attack on Iranian nuclear sites. In fact, a number of political parties were poised to call a vote of no-confidence on Monday morning before withholding their motion out of respect for the Prime Minister’s bereavement. The Prime Ministers term is not up until a year from this fall—but suddenly the air is filled with anticipation that within a week the Prime Minister may feel obliged to dissolve his government and call for new elections—perhaps as soon as this autumn.

Should the government come down and go to new elections? At this point it is impossible to tell. Some polls indicate that Prime Minister Netanyahu’s *Likud* party might roar back with more seats than it presently has and with the shuffling of other party numbers, allow him more lee-way in forming a new government than he has had. On the other hand, should there be perceived to arise a critical window of time in which action must be taken regarding the Iranian nuclear threat, there needs to be a government in place. We believe that the Lord has miraculously kept Benyamin Netanyahu in office—given the disparity within the coalition, it is truly amazing that it has held together this long. Nor do we believe that his time has yet come to an end.

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*For Prime Minister Netanyahu and his relatives and loved ones during this time of bereavement. That Sara his wife be granted special grace to be a strength to him. II Corinthians 1 teaches that the God of Israel is also the Father of Mercies and the God of *all* Comfort. Pray that the Prime Minister will seek the God of his Fathers during this time of grief.**

**\*It is almost certain (and has been speculated in print over the years) that the Prime Minister has to a strong degree been influenced in his decision-making both out of respect**

for his father's opinion and out of a desire not to anyway hurt or displease him. By an interesting coincidence, his father's age (102 in Arabic numerals) in Hebrew letter-numbers *kuuf-vet* actually spells the word *kav*—"crutch". The support granted Benjamin Netanyahu in his living father has now been withdrawn. Pray that he will stand on his own in the LORD—and not discard any principles of truth and integrity in which he walked and was guarded (Proverbs 1:8-9) while Benzion still lived.

**\*That Benjamin Netanyahu will fulfill the days divinely ordained for him to lead the nation of Israel.**

**\*That the government will only be dissolved or shifted in the timing of the LORD.**

**\*That armed conflict with any other country will be divinely withheld until a proper and strong government will be in place...with leaders who will be able to moved and positioned in their decisions by *Elohei-Ma'arkhot Yisrael*—the God who arrays—puts into order—the armies of Israel (I Samuel 17:45).**

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## 2. THE *60 Minutes* STORY ON "CHRISTIANS OF THE HOLY LAND"

A recently-aired *60-Minutes* episode hosted by Bob Simon focused on the flood of Christian Arabs leaving Bethlehem, a town, which until only a few years ago was considered to be (at least nominally) Christian. We have not had opportunity personally to view the story, but reports we have received are in agreement that the overwhelming import of its message is that the exodus of Christians is best attributed to Israel's "occupation" and the presence of "the Wall" (an Israeli-erected barrier which was built to stem the tide of suicide-bombers pouring into Israel after Israel's military forces completely pulled out of Bethlehem in December of 1995). What is not focused on, and what we have received first-hand testimony to here in Jerusalem, is that the majority of Christians are leaving, not because of anything having to do with the Israelis, but because of severe Muslim persecution, about which the Church is intimidated from testifying for fear of reprisal. A recent Op-ed in a secular Israeli news service entitled "Bethlehem's last Christians?" (which may be accessed by *Googling* that name) corroborates this: "*Veteran CBS News anchor Bob Simon just reported on the Palestinian Christians, indicting Israel's "occupation" as responsible for their dramatic disappearance. The 60 Minutes story caused Israel tremendous PR damage. Yet largely ignored by Western media, a systematic campaign of Muslim persecution against the Christians is taking place in Palestinian areas. It's a religious and ethnic cleansing campaign silenced by the global churches.*" (Meotti, Giulio. "Bethlehem's last Christians?": YNETnews.com, 28 April 2012)

A brilliant presentation of the real "rest of the story" as regards to the *60 Minutes* episode was written by CBN News Middle East Bureau Chief Chris Mitchell. We would strongly recommend your reading this insightful analysis, especially if you viewed the news cast. It may be accessed by *Googling* the title, "Bob Simon and Bethlehem Christians."

### **PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*For those Arab believers who live in Bethlehem, and throughout Judea and Samaria and Gaza—for encouragement and love and heavenly guidance. These are amongst the most persecuted of our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. Pray Daniel 12:3...that they move in wisdom and that their light lead many to righteousness.**

**\*That truth regarding the plight of believers in the Middle East find its way into the media...that falsehood and perverting of the truth be exposed.**

**\*For insight and spiritual discernment in the Body of Messiah around the world in dividing truth from falsehood in the News Media, especially as related to Israel.**

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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 *Emor*—"Speak" (to the priests):

**TORAH: Leviticus 21:1—24:23**

**HAFTARAH: Ezekiel 44:15-31**

This week's portion focuses first upon the importance of priests in being clean in their service to the LORD and in the picture they present before the people. In their work on behalf of life and wholeness, they are not to defile themselves with that which is dead or deformed or impure. Chapter 23 presents in detail the Holy Convocations, the LORD's "appointed times" for His people Israel. These begin with the weekly *Shabbat*—then in the Spring: *Pesach* (Passover), the Week of *Matzot* (Unleavened Bread), the presenting of *First Fruits*, 49 days later *Shavuot* (the Feast of Weeks/Pentecost); and in the Autumn: *Yom Teruah* (the Day of Sounding the Shofar), *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement) and *Succot* (The Feast of Tabernacles). Meditation on the contents of this chapter we find to be especially enlightening regarding the LORD's redemptive purposes over Israel, which through these also present a picture of His working in time on behalf of all humankind.



*Martin and Norma Sarvis  
Jerusalem*

**[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 6-12 May will be: *Behar* (“At Mount”—Sinai): TORAH: Leviticus 25:1—26:2; HAFTARAH: Jeremiah 32:6-27.]**

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