

Prayer Update From Israel (May 30, 2012)



1. THE PRIME MINISTER CALLS A BIBLE STUDY

“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter”
(Proverbs 25:2).

“Give the king your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king’s son” (Psalm 72:1).

“Also it shall be, when he [i.e. a king in Israel] sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book...and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear YHVH his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel” (Deuteronomy 17:18-20).

Last Wednesday afternoon, as negotiators from the US, China, Russia, France, Britain and Germany were sitting down with Iranians in Baghdad in yet another effort to negotiate a settlement to the nuclear crisis; as closer to home in Tel Aviv violent conflict continued between native Israeli residents and thousands of illegally infiltrated asylum/residence-seekers from Africa; as still closer (in fact, right down the street from his official residence) over 100 Ethiopian immigrants participated in a loud anti-discrimination demonstration—Israel’s Prime Minister chose this time to draw away for a while from national and domestic concerns and host a Bible study in a courtyard of his home in Jerusalem. In doing so, he was re-convening a tradition begun by Israel’s first Prime Minister Ben Gurion and continued years later by Menachem Begin. On this occasion, the crowd of rabbis, academics, Biblical scholars, archeologists and linguists were gathered together at the invitation of Israel’s leader to discuss the *Book of Ruth*, which would be being read in synagogues throughout the world the following Sunday as part of the *Shavuot* observance. What was supposed to be a one-hour meeting ended up being extended to two. The Prime Minister’s wife Sara sat beside him, his two sons were also present at the meeting. His introductory comments included the following:

“Ben-Gurion and Begin believed that the Bible should be the heritage of the entire nation – secular and religious, young and old, men and women. The Bible is the foundation of our existence. It unites the Jewish people, as it has throughout the generations. It also serves not only as a foundation but also as a map and compass... The Bible is always relevant vis-à-vis today’s problems and challenges. It inspires, it is a source of life for our people and I think that it is important to expand Bible study and love of the Bible among all parts of the nation. This is also the goal of this circle... The Bible is a parable for humanity. If the Jews are able to cross the river of time, and in their vast odyssey cross the chasm of annihilation and come back to their ancestral home, that means there is hope for humanity”

Rabbi Yehuda Ben-Yishai, whose daughter Ruth was killed with her husband and three children in a terrorist attack in Itamar last year, later continued in the Prime Minister’s line of thought, commenting that the Bible is a chronicle of how – despite it all – “we came out of it all right.” He called the Bible a “*chronicle for finding the light*” in very complicated and complex situations (Emphases ours). The Prime Minister (who has stated in the past his personal endeavor to set aside time each Saturday for Bible study with his son) plans that these public gatherings to study the Bible will continue to be held several times a year at his residence (**For the article from which much of the information for this prayer point is drawn, see “Reporter’s Notebook: Studying Bible with the PM” by Herb Keinon: *JPOST.com*, 05/25/202 02:49).**

PLEASE PRAY:

***That the LORD will encourage and bless Mr. Netanyahu’s endeavor with a release of genuine hunger after His holy Word; that the Prime Minister would be guided by God’s Holy Spirit into a deeper understanding of that Word...and would continue to encourage Israelis to read it.**

***That, whatever may be the various motives of those attending, the Spirit of the God would fall upon these formal meetings, awakening a new level of holy reverence for the Word of *Elohei-Yisrael*—the God of Israel. That a new awareness of the greatness, the awe, the holiness, the loving-kindness of this God would awaken a glorious knowledge transcending their own learning and reputations.**

***That through deeper attention to the Hebrew Bible, that “*chronicle for finding the light*” to which Rabbi Ben-Yishai alluded, a revelation of Him who is the Light of the World would come to these leaders, and to our Prime Minister and his family.**

2. THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL

“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it” (Isaiah 2:2).

“The sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, and all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet; And they will call you the city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 60:14).

Recently a British newspaper *The Guardian* issued a “correction” to a caption it had printed beneath a picture of Israeli’s observing Holocaust Remembrance Day: *“The caption on a photograph featuring passengers on a tram in Jerusalem observing a two-minute silence for Yom HaShoah, a day of remembrance for the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust, wrongly referred to the city as the Israeli capital. The Guardian style guide states: ‘Jerusalem is not the capital of Israel; Tel Aviv is’ ”.* After an official complaint was submitted to the United Kingdom Press Complaints Commission, to the effect that Israel has identified its capital as Jerusalem, the Commission responded, *“While it is correct to say that Israel classes Jerusalem as her capital city, this is not recognized by many countries and those nations enjoying diplomatic relations with Israel have their embassies in Tel Aviv. As such, the Commission was of the view that the newspaper was entitled to refer to Tel Aviv as the capital of Israel. There was no breach of the Code in this instance.”*

After Israel in the 1967 War took the portions of Jerusalem occupied by the Kingdom of Jordan, subsequently annexing them to the city, nations, under pressure from oil-rich Arab countries began quickly to remove their embassies to Tel Aviv. There are presently no embassies in the capital city. Although by an act of Congress, the US Embassy has by law been required to return to Jerusalem, for many years now, no President has chosen after entering office to enforce that law. Although the British Foreign Office did not itself explicitly label Tel Aviv as Israel’s capital, its ruling that *The Guardian* is entitled to call it so is a worrying precedent, perhaps opening a doorway encouraging other media to participate in the delegitimization before the world of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. It is God who “builds up” Jerusalem; it is He who establishes her, and it is He who will one day reign in her midst as the “capital”, as it were, of the whole world.

PLEASE PRAY:

***On Jerusalem’s behalf to Him who is a righteous “Guardian”—Who strengthens her gates, blesses her children within her, makes peace on her borders, and satisfies her hunger (Psalm 147:13-14).**

***On behalf of our individual nations, that God would reveal ways of influence amongst citizens, that their countries will not be set up to be among those for whom Jerusalem becomes a cup of drunkenness, a very heavy stone which seriously incapacitates those who attempt to remove her from her God-given positioning (Zechariah 12:2-3).**

***For courage amongst national leaders to honor Israel with the honor afforded other countries of the world, that embassies be located in her declared capital, Jerusalem.**

3. THE RUN-OFF IN EGYPT

Two weeks ago we wrote of how Muslim Brotherhood Egyptian presidential candidate Dr. Mohamed Mursi, while attending a rally in Cairo, nodded approval as a Muslim cleric called for him to establish an “Islamic Caliphate”, a “Capital of the United States of the Arabs,” to be located “not in Cairo, Mecca or Medina” but in Jerusalem. We wrote further, “Mursi, as of this writing, is not a front-runner in the polls [in fact, with less than 10% of the vote]; however, given the immense power and influence wielded by the Brotherhood in Egypt, his status could quickly change.” Such has in fact proven to be the case—Mursi soared in last week’s election to actually receive more votes than any other candidate. He will face Ahmed Shafiq, a former prime minister under Hosni Mubarak, in a runoff in June. A new leader is supposed to be inaugurated by July 3rd.

Since the fall of Mubarak, the Muslim Brotherhood has gone to great lengths to try and soften its image as a hard-line Islamist group (Gaza’s ruling Hamas faction is in fact a branch of the Brotherhood). This continued Tuesday, with its candidate Mursi reaching out to Egypt’s Coptic Christians, “Our Christian brothers, let’s be clear, are national partners and have full rights like Muslims.” He also vowed to respect women’s rights to “work in all areas, and to choose the way they dress”, promising that there would be “no imposition on women to wear the veil [Islamic covering for women].” This is in marked contrast to his associated Hamas operatives in Bethlehem who have boasted that before it’s over there, they will have forced all Christian women there to “wear the veil.”

PLEASE PRAY:

***God’s mercies over Egypt in the up-coming run-off—that radical Islam and those who would seek to bring a religious Islamic system into rule over Egypt and who would come against God’s covenant people and land will not be allowed to gain rulership.**

***That the treaty between Egypt and Israel will not be severed.**

***For the Christian Body in Egypt...unity in the Holy Spirit, courage and direction, anointed ascending in Praise so as to come into God’s strategy and array for the warfare ahead.**

***That God’s Kingdom come for Egypt...that groundwork in the Body of Messiah continues to be brought into place for the future “Highway” linking Egypt, Israel and Assyria mentioned in Isaiah 19.**

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.

The reading for this week 27 May—2 June 2012 is *Naso*: “Raise up” heads (i.e. take a census)

TORAH: Numbers 4:21—7:89

HAFTARAH: Judges 13:2-25

Numbers 6:22-27. *And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ‘Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, “This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

‘YHVH bless you and guard you

YHVH make His face shine upon you and grace you

YHVH lift up His face to you and give you Shalom.’

“So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.”

With this blessing the LORD's holy name YHVH was placed over the Israelites by the priests as a covering and protection. No other name would have true power to bless them, to be their guard and keeper, to release grace upon them, or to guard their hearts and minds with true *shalom*. Twice this blessing refers to the LORD's *face*. The absolute necessity of being in the light of that face permeates the Hebrew Bible from beginning to end. Without God's face (sometimes rendered “presence” in English translations) Moses prayed that God not bring himself and the people up to the Promised Land (Exodus 33:14-15). Three times in Psalm 80 the minstrel Asaph equates the face of God shining on Israel with her “salvation”, while in Psalm 44:3 the sons of Korah attribute Israel's winning of the Land to YHVH's “*right hand, His arm, and the light of His face, because he loved them*”. There is a voice, sang David, crying out on God's behalf within every man, “***Seek My face!***” His response, whenever He recognized it, would be “*Your face, LORD, I will seek...do not hide Your face from me*” (Psalm 27:8).

So this was the blessing which would attend the Children of Israel when the LORD placed His name YHVH over them. Sometime during her captivity, after the Glory had departed Jerusalem, Israel lost the pronunciation of that Name. Today, when the blessing is recited, it is replaced by *Adonai* (Lord/Master). However, the Name is hidden within *Yeshua*, the original Hebrew name for Jesus. *Yeshua*, a contraction for *Yehoshua*, means *YHVH Saves!* **He** is “*the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word*” (Hebrews 1:3). **He** is *Sar Shalom*...the Prince of Peace. **As members of a Holy Priesthood (Rev. 1:6), we would encourage you as an act of intercession to pray this blessing over the Jewish people, placing *The Name* conjoined with *Salvation—Yeshua—***

over them. Pray for the veil to be removed from Jewish eyes through the power of the Holy Spirit that they may know their LORD face-to-face. *“And I will not hide my face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out my Spirit on the house of Israel,” says Adonai YHVH—the Lord GOD*” (Ezekiel 39:29).

***Judges 13:6.** “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome...” In this recounting of the coming of the angel/messenger of God to Manoah’s wife to herald the conception of Samson, at least five times he is referred to as a ‘man’. Two of those times he is called a “Man of God”...which, interestingly, could just as easily be translated from the Hebrew “The God-Man” (*Ish ha-Elohim*). Later in the story he refuses to give his name, since it is ‘wonderful’—and at the end Manoah is convinced that he and his wife must die, *“because we have seen God.”* Of course, at this time Yeshua/Jesus had not yet taken on human flesh. It appears, nonetheless, to be an instance of a pre-incarnate manifestation of the One who was to come. **PLEASE PRAY for the understanding of Jews who read or hear these words next weekend to be opened, that they may comprehend the identity of the One who came to Manoah and his wife and ascended in the flame—of the One who was seated on the throne of the chariot in Ezekiel Chapter one—of the One who came down in flame onto the mountain in Exodus 19 (Luke 24:44-45)—of the One who has come in the flesh once before, and Who is coming again!**



*Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 3-9 June will be B’ha’alotcha—“Light up” the lamps: TORAH: 8:1—12:16; HAFTARAH: Zechariah 2:10—4:7.]

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