

## PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (May 9, 2011)



*Menorah in front of the Knesset, Jerusalem.  
(The menorah forms the center-piece of the National Emblem of Israel)*

### **1. THE MONTH OF IYAR, ISRAEL'S 63<sup>ST</sup> AND FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE.**

This past Thursday was the first day of the second Hebrew month, *Iyar*. This month is specifically mentioned (using the Canaanite name *Ziv*) in I Kings 6:1, 37. It was during this month that Solomon “*began to build the house of the LORD*” and “*the foundation was laid.*” And it was on the fifth of *Iyar* in 1948 that the “foundation” for the modern state of Israel was laid, when David Ben Gurion read the Declaration of Independence, proclaiming that the new nation be called by the name “Israel”. That day will be celebrated this Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. It is preceded by a 24 hour period of memorial for the almost 23,000 who have fallen in modern Israel’s wars, and some 2,500 who have been murdered at the hands of terrorism. Sirens will sound throughout the nation for one minute Sunday evening and for two on Monday morning. As *Yom HaZikharon*, the Day of Remembrance, draws to an end, Jews will turn out to celebrate modern Israel’s **63<sup>rd</sup> BIRTHDAY**. There will be revelry in the streets, food, fireworks, and a civil holiday the following day. With this birthday, Israel’s population has hit 7.7 million, with a growth of 2%--155,000 new citizens since this time last year. Just over 75% of her citizens are of Jewish descent, 20.5% are Arab, 4.2% other lineage. Today 70% of citizens are “Sabras”—Israeli-born, compared to 1948, Israel’s first year, when only 35% of the population had been born here.

#### **PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*Thanksgiving that God has brought His ancient people back into their land of heritage according to His Word, and established and prospered them in that Land for 63 years.**

**\*Grace upon from the God of all Comfort over those who have been bereaved. Pray for revelation that He is also a God of Hope who loves them and has a Future and a Hope.**

**\*Protection for Israeli Jews during this day of celebration.**

**\*Many Arabs in Israel and the contested territories commemorate this day on 15 May, calling it a “Day of Catastrophe”. Please pray for Muslim Arabs to come to Salvation in “Ya’suah” (Jesus)—and for God to grant them His council, wisdom and peace regarding His purposes for both Jews’ and Arabs’ placement in His Land. Pray that the power of evil spirits assigned to nurture racism be broken in Israel. Pray for righteousness and fairness in Israeli law for all her citizens.**

**\*That all “foundations” which need to be laid during this month, both in the government, in relations with our allies, and in the Body of Messiah in Israel be accomplished. “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Yeshua the Messiah!” (I Corinthians 3:11).**

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## **2. A PACT IN CAIRO.**

***“For they have consulted together with one consent; they form an alliance against You...” (Psalm 83:5).***

***“Mashaal [Senior Hamas leader] spoke at the Cairo ceremony, saying: ‘We are prepared to pay any price for reconciliation...The only campaign we have is against Israel...Our common enemy is Israel. Israel must be fought through force and diplomacy.’ (Reported in “Mashaal: Palestinians’ common enemy is Israel”: *The Jerusalem Post* (JPOST.com); 17:09 IST; May 4, 2011).***

This past Wednesday leaders of Palestinian factions Fatah and Hamas met in Cairo for an Egyptian-brokered meeting which ended in a signed agreement ostensibly ending four years of bitter conflict between the two. In 2007, after winning a majority in Gaza elections (in what analysts saw as a “protest” vote against the corruptions permeating the Fatah leadership), Hamas proceeded to forcibly take over the entire government, crushing any opposition. It has since conducted a tyrannous reign in the Strip, forbidding any public displays supportive of its rival, while continuing to fire thousands of missiles/mortars/rockets into sovereign Israeli territory. It has also greatly increased its persecution of Christian Arab believers during this time. Hamas (whose name is an Arabic acronym for “Islamic Resistance Movement”) has never altered its founding charter, which calls for destruction of the Jewish state. On Monday a deputy of Mashaal was quoted as saying that forming of the unity government would not result in Hamas recognizing Israel’s right to exist: *“Hamas has a principled position regarding this issue. We won’t recognize the Zionist entity. Our rights are still usurped and it’s illogical for us to recognize the Zionist entity because that would be at the expense of our stolen lands and our people in the refugee camps [camps which Hamas has itself chosen to retain for propaganda purposes]”* (“Hamas, Fatah agree to maintain Gaza truce with Israel”: JPOST.com; 12:56 IST, May 3, 2011).

Israeli PM Netanyahu, on a trip to England when the news broke, commented, *“Three days ago, terrorism was dealt a resounding defeat with the elimination of Osama bin Laden. Today in Cairo it had a victory when Abu Mazen [the western-backed “moderate” Palestinian President and Fatah leader] embraced Hamas, an organization that condemned the American action against bin Laden and praised him.”* In response to the deal, Israel has suspended transference of tax funds it collects on behalf of the PA, and requested the international community to do likewise until it is certain that their funds will not end up in the hands of Hamas. The UN has criticized Israel for this move, and two days after the signing of the agreement, the European Commission approved transfer of 85 million Euros to the Palestinian Authority at the request of its prime minister. In the US, even as the Palestinian President stressed that he would not pressure Hamas to recognize Israel, former President Jimmy Carter called for the world to support the agreement. On the other hand, this Friday 29 Democratic senators sent a letter to President Obama urging him to bring a halt of US aid to the PA (there is reportedly already \$550 million marked out by the US Administration for 2011) should Hamas join its government. In their letter, they reminded the president that Hamas officially condemned the recent killing of Osama bin Laden, noting that “this is emblematic of Hamas’ policy.”

**PLEASE PRAY:**

***\*That “He to whom belong Wisdom and Might; Who changes the times and the seasons, removes kings and raises up kings, Who gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding, Who reveals deep and secret things—Who knows what lies in darkness, and Light dwells with Him” (Daniel 2:20-22), will***

**test this new alliance, bringing to light what is True and False, what can be trusted and what must not be trusted; that anything working within it which stands against *Elohei Yisrael’s* (the God of Israel’s) good plans and purposes for both Jews and Arabs in His Land will be brought into confusion; that no weapon being forged against God’s purposes for Israel by this alliance will prosper (Isaiah 54:17).**

***\* “YHVH breaks off the counsel of the nations; He hinders the plans of the peoples—but the counsel of YHVH will stand forever, the thoughts of His heart from generation to generation!” (Psalm 33:10-11).***

**\*For Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to be given the counsels of the LORD and grace to stand in those, however much the tide of international approval may be trying to surge him and the nation he leads in a different way. On May 24<sup>th</sup>, he will deliver a speech before the joint houses of Congress in Washington, D.C. (On that day he is also scheduled to confer with President Obama.) Pray that he look to God for guidance in preparation for this opportunity...that he receive a Word of truth and awakening which he will deliver with courage and power...that it will cut through political fog and reach the hearts of Senators and Congressmen in America, awakening in them the fear of the Lord regarding what is at hand regarding Israel, and what is their responsibility.**

**\*For an awakening in members of parliaments and congresses in governments around the world— That in those with a capacity in their consciences for righteous judgment there rise**

**an awakening of revelation and courage to realize that a set time of decision is rapidly approaching in which their choices, relative to Israel, will have telling import, not only for their or their parties' futures, but for the very movement of their nations into or out of the call of their destinies.**

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### **3. "AN INDEPENDENCE DAY GIFT FROM CANADA."**

Thus read the headline of one Israeli commentary regarding Stephen Harper's sweeping re-election into the office of Canada's Prime Minister last week, and of his Conservative Party winning, for the first time in his three terms of office, an absolute majority in the Parliament. Although the article focuses on the closeness of the present relation between Israel and Canada, the author begins by saying, "*The vote, of course, had nothing to do with Israel: Harper's Conservative Party won...mainly due to his economic stewardship, under which Canada suffered far less from the global economic crisis than most other Western countries*" ("An Independence Day gift from Canada": By Evelyn Gordon; JPOST.com (Premium Zone), 08/05/2011). As believers we would see just the opposite to be true—we see Canada reaping the physical benefits of her leader's having led her in ways of blessing for God's covenant land and people (Genesis 12:3). Today, Israel considers Stephen Harper as one of her very closest friends amongst national leaders worldwide. Through his leadership Canada has in recent years "repeatedly cast the sole vote against anti-Israel resolutions in the UN Human Rights Council" (Ibid). She was the first country to announce a boycott of the 2009 UN Durban II conference on racism, apprehending ahead of time it's shaping up to be essentially an anti-Israel fest.

The article continues, to note that perhaps of even more importance has been Harper's ability through his position to actually change attitudes towards Israel in his country, "Before he took office, Canada's policy on Israel was identical to Europe's—meaning lots of lip service about being 'a friend of Israel' while in practice opposing it in every international forum and lavishly funding its enemies" (Ibid.). His influence has extended out beyond his own party lines. An example here given took place last year when the provincial legislature of Ontario voted unanimously to condemn "Israel Apartheid Week" on grounds that it "serves to incite hatred against Israel, a democratic state that respects the rule of law and human rights, and...diminishes the suffering of those who were victims of a true apartheid regime in South Africa." At the time, Harper's Conservative party which introduced the bill held only 24 seats against 71 of the opposition Liberal Party—yet it passed unanimously! "In the few short years since he entered the Prime Minister's Office in 2006, Harper has managed to make being pro-Israel politically respectable in Canada—so respectable that politicians on both sides of the political fence are willing to take pro-Israel positions even when powerful interest groups oppose them." The writer concludes by pointing out the humiliating rejection seven months ago of Canada's bid for a UN Security Council seat. The defeat was almost certainly influenced by Harper's pro-Israel policies alienating him from the support of Muslim countries. Yet the sting of that defeat did not stop his voters at home from reelecting him this past week with an even stronger majority (Ibid.).

Prime Minister Harper is a committed Christian. There is a warm relationship between him and Prime Minister Netanyahu, who called to congratulate him this past Thursday and to expressed a desire to meet with him again soon. It was with Harper that Netanyahu was meeting when he received news last year of the attack on Israeli forces boarding the Turkish “Gaza Flotilla” as it crossed into restricted waters. And it was Harper who would stand with Israel when, following the confrontation’s violent aftermath, much of the world quickly drew away. For a short video which brings out with startling clarity many aspects of this man, and his convictions so far as Israel is concerned, we would refer you to <http://youtu.be/AUfDhIOoQM>.

It is our opinion that Mr Harper (His middle name is Joseph) presents a wonderful, living example of God’s purposes to raise up his children to displace the powers occupying the high places controlling and influencing governments and societies.

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*Grace over PM Stephen Harper, his wife Laureen and their two children, Benjamin and Rachel—God’s protection over and nourishment of their marriage, their family life, their personal close and pure relationship with Himself.**

**\*That PM Harper will completely and successfully “*serve the purpose of God in his own generation*” (Acts 13:36)—God’s purposes for Canada, Israel and other nations through his obedience and faithfulness.**

**\*That the relationship between Canadian PM Harper and Israeli PM Netanyahu would deepen. That at God’s leading Mr Harper may be a means of counsel and wisdom into Mr Netanyahu’s spirit. That going beyond politics and polite protocol, theirs may be a relationship of Truth influenced and informed by the Holy Spirit.**

**\*That during this present period of grace and goodwill between their country and Israel, Canadian Jews will hear and respond to any call from above, drawing them back to the ancient homeland of their Fathers (Jeremiah 31:3,17).**

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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.

The reading for this week May 8-14 is “Behar”—“At Mount (Sinai):

**TORAH: Leviticus 25:1—26:2**

**HAFTARAH: Jeremiah 32:6-27**

**\*Leviticus 25:2, 23:** *“When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD...for the Land is Mine, for you are but aliens and sojourners with Me.”* The land in which Elohim ordained that the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob should dwell is precious to Him. Last week’s readings spoke of His causing that land itself to spit out inhabitants who defiled it with gross sin. In this chapter Israel was commanded to grant it regular times of rest, a command which she would unfortunately ignore. When Judah was eventually carried away captive in Babylon, the LORD said that for 70 years the land would now finally receive the rests which it had been denied. **Please pray that Israel will deal wisely with the land to which God has returned her, coming to realize that it is a holy charge as well as gift. That she will come into a relationship with her God which will enable her in His timing to be entrusted with *all* of the land He has promised to return to her oversight (Ezekiel 36:4-8 teaches of a time when the very land currently under contention in Judea and Samaria will “put forth its branches” to bear fruit for the returned children of Jacob).**

**\*Jeremiah 32:15, 17** *“For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land.’... ‘Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You...’* **Please pray for believers in Israel to have means and favour to be able to purchase property—so as to truly “put down their roots” into the land for themselves and their descendants. That, as impossible as this often seems, we would realize that NOTHING is too difficult for our God to do on our behalf, who has promised again to root us and grant us ‘houses, fields and vineyards’ in His Land.**



*Martin and Norma Sarvis  
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 15-21 May will be: “B’Chukkothai”—“In My Statutes”: TORAH: Leviticus 26:3—27:34; HAFTARAH: Jeremiah 16:19—17:14.]

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