



Israel Prayer Update: Understand Og in this Season!



Monday, June 10, 2013

Dear Friends of Israel:

I am so grateful for the work that Martin and Norma Sarvis, as well as so many others, do to encourage us in praying for the people and land of Israel. On June 20-23, we will be hosting ***Jump in the Refreshing River: A Time of Multiplication and Empowerment!*** However, the night prior to our gathering, on **Wednesday, June 19**, we will be hosting **A NIGHT TO HONOR ISRAEL**. I have asked Martin and Norma to be our special guests in leading us forth during a time of worship, prayer and teaching to focus our hearts and minds on Israel. All of you are invited to join us here at the Global Spheres Center or by webcast at 7 PM (CDT). At a time of such great uncertainty in the Middle East, this could be a kairos time to press in for the agreement of Heaven and Earth.

Blessings,
Chuck D. Pierce

Prayer Update From Israel (June 10, 2013)



Here is a picture of a waterfall in the Golan Heights. This is the ancient domain of Og King of Bashan (the “Last of the Rephaim/Giants”); This area was taken by Moses and later granted as part of the inheritance of Menashe (See Torah Portion below).

1. NEW THREATS IN THE FIELDS OF BASHAN

“From the family of the half-tribe of Menashe the sons of Gershon were given Golan in Bashan with its common-lands...” (I Chronicles 6:71).

It is interesting that this week’s Torah Portion (see below) ends on the Golan Heights with God instructing Moses, regarding the ruling power there, *“Do not fear him, for I have delivered him into your hand, with all his people and his land...”*

Bashan was the name in Biblical times of a high land rising east and north-east of the Sea of Galilee, before ascending more steeply still in the north along the rocky slopes of Mt. Hermon. *Og* was the name of the king who reigned there. He was gigantic, the last of an ancient breed of giants known as *Rephaim* (Deuteronomy 3:8-14; the name also refers to spirits of the dead). He was, in fact, the *last* giant to be overcome before entering Canaan by the children of Israel before entering Canaan, the land their parents had refused to enter 40 years earlier for fear of giants there. Bashan was then as now a rugged place (Psalm 68:15) used for grazing cattle (Jer. 50:19; Ezek. 39:18; Mic. 7:14). Psalm 22:12 uses “strong bulls of Bashan” as a metaphor for the powers of darkness pressing in upon Yeshua as he hung on the cross. The land eventually became part of the inheritance of the tribe of Menashe (Deut. 3:13-14). *Golan* is mentioned several times in Scripture as the location of a “city of refuge” in Bashan—and that is the name by which the region is known today, the Golan Heights.

With the fall of the Ottoman Empire in WW I, the area came under French oversight until 1944 when it became part of the newly established nation of modern Syria. In 1967, after years of serving as a staging-ground for conflict with the newly awakened Israel, the Heights were wrested from Syria in the Six Day War. After a failed attempt by Syria to retake them in 1973, a disengagement agreement was reached between the two countries in May 1974, which included establishment of a demilitarized buffer zone between the two nations to be patrolled by a United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). In December 1981, without ever specifically using the word “annexation” the Israeli Knesset voted to apply “Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration” to the Golan Heights—an administration which has never been recognized by the international community, who view the Israelis living there as “settlers.” Although at least three Prime Ministers have actively explored the possibility of “giving the Heights back to Syria” in exchange for a peace agreement—this has never been allowed to succeed; Syria remains in a technical “state of war” with Israel. Yet, for almost 40 years now, a relative peace has reigned on the Heights, which have flourished, with over 20,000 Israelis presently make their homes there.



“Bulls of Bashan” grazing in the modern-day Golan Heights

That “peace” may be soon coming to an end, as waves of the tumult enveloping Syria lap closer to the borders. Intelligence reports released this week revealed that over the last few months operatives affiliated with al-Qaeda and Global Jihad have been infiltrating the Syrian-held portion of the Heights, laying groundwork for occupation by the rebel forces fighting the army of Syrian President Assad. Those forces invaded the UN buffer zone this week, briefly taking over the border-crossing town of Quneitra before being driven back by government forces who brought tanks and armored personnel carriers into the zone. The Syrian tanks presence within the demilitarized zone (DMZ) are in blatant violation of the 40-year-old ceasefire. Israel complained to the UN and also reportedly warned Syria that if the tanks remained, they might come under fire from Israeli forces. Syria said the armor was only there to drive back the rebels. Yet earlier in the week, in a strongly-worded speech, President Assad had warned that Syria itself was considering opening a new front in the Israeli Golan. So the situation remains extremely volatile. Israel has restated its position of not becoming involved in the Syrian struggle unless fired upon. But already shells from both sides have fallen across our borders. Aware of what the conflicts might burgeon into, Prime Minister Netanyahu recently instructed the release of \$350 million to insure that each of Israel’s residents is equipped with a gas mask.

PEACEKEEPERS FROM OUTSIDE?

MEANWHILE, dismayed at the fighting between the Syrian army and the rebel factions, Austria early Thursday decided to evacuate its 380-soldier contribution to the 1000-member UNDOF forces presently assigned to the DMZ. At present UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is scrambling to find peacekeepers to take the Austrian soldiers’ places, realizing that credibility of the UN’s use of such forces in the future is at stake. As one diplomatic official put it this week, *“If at a time when a few bullets are fired, these forces run away from where they are needed to keep the peace, then what is it worth?”* ***Seeing UN “peacekeeping” forces evaporate when conflict arises isn’t particularly new for Israel.*** It occurred in the Sinai in 1967 when Nasser was preparing to “drive the Jews into the Sea”; nor has their continued presence in southern Lebanon since Israel’s pullout in 2000 kept war from breaking out in the summer of 2006, nor Hezbollah from obtaining tens of thousands of new missiles during the seven years since . This

all comes at a bad time for US Secretary of State John Kerry who is scheduled to return to the Middle East this week for the fifth time since being sworn in on February 1. One of his most recent proposals includes placement of a UN “peacekeeping force” along the Jordan border to keep terrorists from crossing, so that the Palestinians could build an airport near Jericho and take control of the north-south road currently controlled by Israel. Is it any wonder that Prime Minister Netanyahu declared, at his weekly cabinet meeting Sunday-morning, that the disintegration of the forces in the north illustrates why Israel cannot rely on international forces for its security? What he failed to mention was how she can neither depend totally upon her own strength and prowess (Psalm 44:3-5).

PLEASE PRAY:

***That God will set angels at Israel’s borders in the Golan Heights, to protect the inheritance of Jacob there. Pray that this territory will remain under Israeli sovereignty.**

***For wisdom and discretion to govern the leaders of Israel’s government and military—that we will not be drawn into a conflict which is a trap from the enemy.**

***For believers in the Golan Heights (there are quite a few, including at least two ‘houses of prayer’) and throughout Israel, to be guided strategically in their prayers for this situation.**

***For a young generation of Israelis to rise who have the courage and spirit of Joshua and Caleb to battle fearlessly in God’s power against the giants which have arisen among us.**

THE FOLLOWING VERSES HAVE BEARING UPON ISRAEL’S BORDERS AND THE ISRAELI PRESENCE IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. MAY THE LORD GRANT ILLUMINATION AS WE PRAY HIS WILL ON EARTH IN THIS PART OF ISRAEL!

“You have feared the sword; and I will bring a sword upon you,’ says the Lord YHVH. ‘And I will bring you out of its midst, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and execute judgments on you. You shall fall by the sword. I will judge you at the border of Israel. Then you shall know that I am YHVH...for you have not walked in My statutes nor executed My judgments, but have done according to the customs of the Gentiles which are all around you’” (Ezekiel 11:8-10, 12).

PLEASE PRAY: For conviction of sin through the Holy Spirit among Israelis. That we realize that returning to God rather than relying upon and trying to become like the nations is our only hope to avoid war and the breaching of our borders.

“And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; and they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; and this One shall be peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land, and when he treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princely men. They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, and the land of Nimrod at its entrances; Thus He shall deliver us from the Assyrian, when he comes into our land and when he treads within our borders” (Micah 5:4-6, emphases ours).

“LORD, You will establish peace for us, for You have also done all our works in us. O YHVH our God, masters besides You have had dominion over us; But by You only we make mention of Your name... You have increased the nation, O YHVH, You have increased the nation; You are glorified; You have expanded all the borders of the land” (Isaiah 26:12-13, 15, Emphases ours).

“Praise YHVH, O Jerusalem! Praise your Gold, O Zion! For He has strengthened the bars of your gates; He has blessed your children within you. He makes peace in your borders, and fills you with the finest wheat” (Psalm 147: 12-13, Emphases ours).

PLEASE PRAY: Clarity in the Holy Spirit regarding “Who is” the Prince of Peace who protects our borders and brings lasting peace within them.

“Arise, shine; for your Light has come! And the glory of YHVH is risen upon you...Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; but you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise”
(Isaiah 60:1, 18).

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 9-15 June is called *Chukat*—“Ordinance” (regarding the Red Heifer):

TORAH: Numbers 19:1—22:1

HAFTARAH: Judges 11:1-33

40 YEARS IN THE DESERT

Because of the dead who would be constantly in their midst as an entire generation passed away, Chapter 19 deals with a special ‘decontamination’ procedure with which to cleanse away the defilement left by death. Then 38 years silently pass—there is little more that the Holy Spirit chose to pass on to us regarding that rebellious generation “with whom He was angry for 40 years...whose corpses fell in the desert” (Hebrews 3:17). By Chapter 20, with the death of Miriam, those years are already drawing near to a close. In this week’s reading Moses and

Aaron themselves enter into a rebellion which will bar them from entering the Land. After the passing of his mantle to his son Eleazar, Aaron dies on Mount Hor. Shortly thereafter a further remnant from the complaining generation are slain by serpents—but the new generation begins to move into warfare and to prevail against the giants barring their way into their inheritance.

***Numbers 19: Ordinance of the Red Heifer.** With the death of those offering incense in Korah's rebellion, the 14,700 who died by plague in the uprising shortly thereafter, and the prospect that hundreds of thousands would pass away in the wilderness wanderings, *death* hung over the camp continuously. There was need for an especial cleansing for those who came in contact with a dead person. "*The wages of sin is death*"—In Hebrew the very word for "purification" or "decontamination" (vs. 12) bears the word for sin *chet* within it. A cow, perfect and never yoked, was burned in totality outside the camp, with cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet fed into the burning. Then the ashes were stored outside the camp. When needed, they were mixed with "living water" (vs17, Hebrew: *mayim haim*) and used as a decontaminant (literally, "water kept apart to expel, serving as a sin offering", vs. 9b) for those who had come into contact with death.

PLEASE PRAY: *from the letter in the New Covenant written specifically to Jews of the First century: "For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the Living God?" (Hebrews 9:13-14).*

***Numbers 20:10, 24: MOSES:** "*Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?"* **YHVH:** "*...because you both (i.e. Moses and Aaron) rebelled against My word at the water of Meribah.*" A great leader of courage, compassion and humility, Moses nevertheless appears to have had a 'blind spot' regarding anger. One sees it quietly alluded to or mentioned a number of times during his life (Exodus 2:12, 11:8, 32:19, Lev 10:16, Numbers 11:10, 16:15). Although there is a place for anger, if it is released in the flesh or outside of God's timing, it will "*not produce the righteousness of God*" (James 1:19). In the end, it triggered in him the very rebellion against God's command which he accused the people of when he spoke to them (20:10) rather than to the Rock. Titus 1:7 speaks of the necessity that God's stewards be "not quick-tempered".

PLEASE PRAY: *For leaders in the Body of Messiah in Israel to be trained by the Holy Spirit in self-control. Pray that we will deal with issues which the Spirit discloses, which otherwise could cause us, in moments of critical decision under intense pressure, to operate out of our emotions or woundings.*

***Numbers 21:9 (Alter):** "*And Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it on a standard, and so then, if the serpent bit a man, he looked on the serpent of bronze and lived.*" The word *ness* here translated "standard" happens also to be a modern Hebrew word for "miracle". **John 3:14-15:** "*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*" **II Corinthians 5:21:** "*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*"

***Numbers 21:34-35:** *“Do not fear him (i.e. Og, King of Bashan), for I have delivered him into your hand, with all his people and his land...So they defeated him, his sons, and all his people, until there was no survivor left him; and they took possession of his land.”* **Deuteronomy 3:11:** *“For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of the giants.”* As Israel arrives 38 years later at the border of Canaan, only one of the fabled “giants” which had terrified their fathers remains. God gives them exactly the same directive he’d given their fathers...and this time they take Him at His word and destroy him. The significance of defeating this Og was huge—he is mentioned many times in Deuteronomy, Joshua, I Kings, Nehemiah and the Psalms.

The territory which this text says God Himself “*delivered into Israel’s hand*” would eventually become part of the territory allotted to the tribe of Manasseh. It is this same area which modern Israel took from Syria in the 1967 War—the Golan Heights. The territory southward to the Arnon River was taken from King Sihon of the Amorites and eventually became territory of the tribes Reuben and Gad. This area is presently occupied by the north-western part of the Kingdom of Jordan. **PLEASE PRAY:** *That the “different spirit” of Caleb and Joshua which motivated this younger generation of Israelites would awaken again in Israel—that we would come to trust God for defeat of the many giants which have arisen again in the land to which we have returned.*

***Judges 11:23-24:** *“And now YHVH Elohei-Yisrael (Yehovah, the Israel God) has dispossessed the Amorites from before His people Israel; should you then possess it? Will you not possess whatever Chemosh your god gives you to possess? So whatever the LORD our God takes possession of before us, we will possess!”*

Jephthah (Hebrew: Yiphtakh) has regrettably come by many to be dismissed (when thought of at all) because of an unfortunate vow he made regarding his daughter. But this has not always been so. The Bible remembers him as a heroic warrior (*gibor-hayil*) who, although born of a harlot, despised and dispossessed by the rest of his family, rose nevertheless to command the respect of both friends and enemies. He was a leader who trusted in the LORD for victory (**vs. 9**); a wise judge who made his agreements and pacts in the Presence of the LORD (**vs. 12**). He was intimately acquainted with the history of his land (**vss. 14-29**), acknowledging the LORD’s hand in that history, and bringing it to bear in reasoning with his enemies so as to avoid conflict if possible. For Jephthah, judgment rested with the LORD. So highly respected was this man before both God and man, that he is included in the chapter of Heroes of Faith in Hebrews 11. **PLEASE PRAY:** *For warriors like Jephthah to be raised up in Israel in the Last Days. Pray for God’s oversight of those from broken families (there are so many)—that seeds of grace and faith will be sown which will catch and germinate in fertile soil! Pray for God’s Kingdom to come in Gilead, that section of land (a western portion of the present-day Kingdom of Jordan) where the action in this chapter took place. It was from this land that the Prophet Elijah “who is coming first and will restore all things” (Malachi 4:5; Matthew 17:11) came forth—and from whence he was taken up into Heaven. Under the power of the Spirit of God, the prophet Zechariah foretold a day (Zech. 10:10) in which Gilead would one day be among the areas to which the houses of Judah and Joseph would be returned.*



*Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 16-22 June will be *Balak*:

TORAH: Numbers 22:2—25:9; HAFTARAH: Micah 5:7—6:8]

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