

Prayer Update From Israel (June 19, 2012)



1. ELAV—“UNTO HIM” JULY 7-9 TEL AVIV

Exactly three weeks from this past Saturday evening, a powerful youth/young adult conference will begin at “Hangar 11” in Tel Aviv. It is called *Elav*—Hebrew for “Unto Him”. This is a unique annual gathering in Israel which we have seen increase in the intensity and power of the Holy Spirit each year. The young people include Israeli Jews, Israeli Arabs and Palestinian (i.e. living in Judea or Samaria) Arabs, as well as visiting youth and young adults from the nations. Last year saw well over 500 Jewish Israelis and 150 Arab youth worshipping, praising, praying and learning (as well as just ‘hanging out’!) together! The worship bands are both Jewish and Arab Israel and from the U.S. as are the powerfully motivating speakers. In recent years we have seen God anoint this event in wonderful ways, drawing these young people to Himself while crossing racial and cultural barriers for a new oneness of love and purpose between each other.

Elav is an outworking of *Succat Hallel* (Tabernacle of Praise), a 24/7 worship and intercession ministry in Jerusalem. To catch something of the spirit of what we are describing, we would recommend looking up the following sites into your browsers. The first <http://succat.us.endis.com/Group/Group.aspx?ID=1000089668> contains a clip of Rick Ridings (Founder and Director of Succat Hallel) describing the event; then <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QK6B58f8ng> is a short promotional clip for this year’s festival. Alongside is the same in both Hebrew and Arabic, plus clips from previous Elav conferences.

As we move through this summer with more roiling turbulence amongst nations surrounding Israel than we have ever seen, the future distressing and dark to natural eyes—especially amongst the young:

PLEASE PRAY:

*That the Holy Spirit of God would prepare the way for Elav-12 in Israel. That the Love of God in Salvation, Equipping, Encouragement and Understanding will be released into those attending—while at the same time, *through them the High Praises of God will be released over Tel Aviv!*

*That all youth and young adults who are meant to attend will be able to:

- That those under 18 will receive the required permission from both parents.
- That Jewish and Arab congregations throughout Israel will stand behind their young people attending.
- That Arab youth and young adults from outside Israel's presently recognized borders would be granted the required legal papers to come into Israel and attend the conference. There has been a strong increase in persecution against Palestinian Arabs in these territories over the past year.
- For safe passage and blessings for those young people from the Nations who will be attending—plus a new understanding of and love for their Jewish and Arab brothers and sisters in the Middle East.
- For Angelic enablement amongst this generation of Jewish and Arab young people "*who will inherit Salvation*" (Hebrews 1:14) to be able to come, to be protected (nightly accommodations are outside in a park under the stars!), and to return home safely.

*For the staff and workers involved in mounting the conference to be granted divine wisdom and grace in attending to the myriad details and challenges which are involved.

*For protection of all worship bands and speakers—that God grant them health, and joy, and exactly the sounds and words which he wishes to release!

* That all of the formidable costs for mounting this conference and enabling all the young who wish to attend would be met. It costs close to \$130,000 to rent the venue, provide transportation, for security services, and to subsidize the costs for the hundreds of youth who cannot afford to come on their own. (For those who would wish to contribute to this critically important event, please go to www.jerusalempraise.com/Giving for more information.)

2. ISRAEL BEGINS DEPORTATION OF SOUTH SUDANESE MIGRANTS

Sunday evening a plane carrying 120 South Sudanese migrants departed from Israel for South Sudan. There are thought to be between 700 and 1500 migrants from that land presently in Israel. Many fled the strife in Sudan during the past decade seeking asylum and also jobs in Israel. An Israeli court last week ruled that with the establishment of the new nation of South Sudan, the migrants would not be in physical danger if they were returned there, and that they should therefore return. For a limited time Israel has offered the Sudanese 1000 Euros and a free flight back if they do so voluntarily, otherwise they will be rounded up and deported by force. This is only the beginning of a new initiative to deal with the over 60,000 illegal immigrants in Israel as described in our 5 June Prayer Update.

At his weekly cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Netanyahu pledged an orderly deportation process which will as much as possible "preserve the dignity" of those being returned to their lands of origin. Still, there have been heart-rending scenes as arrests have begun. A

delegation from the South Sudan Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Israel last week to seek to encourage and facilitate the migrants from his country to voluntarily return. Outside a meeting called in a church (many of the Sudanese are Christians), a spokesperson said their mission was “to encourage our citizens-South Sudan citizens-to voluntarily register and go back to South Sudan because we are in need of our citizens to participate in development, and thank God that they were willing to go voluntarily without forcing them...”

PLEASE PRAY:

***That the Sudanese being returned to South Sudan will be find hope and a future in their homelands.**

***That they will be healed of the trauma and wounding of spirit experienced first in their flight from war-torn Sudan and now, when they are required to leave Israel. We know of many who have experienced love and kindness and physical assistance while in Israel, some through Messianic Jewish ministries in the Land.**

***That Israel will be guided in wisdom and compassion in dealing effectively with the huge illegal alien crisis.**

3. MORE GAS AND OIL AT THE FEET OF ASHER

“Asher is most blessed of sons; Let him be favored by his brothers, and let him dip his foot in oil. Your sandals shall be iron and bronze; As your days, so shall your strength be” (Deuteronomy 33:24).

Last Sunday an Israeli company announced discovery of yet another potentially vast gas and oil field off the coast of Haifa. The new Pelagic fields, near to the two other large fields discovered over the past two years, are estimated to contain as much as 1.4 billion barrels of oil and 6.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. It is hoped that drilling may begin here as early as the fourth quarter of this year. The fields of petroleum in this part of the eastern Mediterranean Sea are quickly becoming recognized as among the richest in the world. Since being cut off from its gas supply with Egypt, Israel is working at top speed to overcome the formidable obstacles to harvesting this vast treasure, which, as we have mentioned before, has a potential for supplying Israel’s petroleum for decades to come, while at the same time providing a lucrative export market. The Israeli government must soon make important decisions regarding a means of defending the extremely exposed and vulnerable platforms which will retrieve the oil and gas. All of these fields lie off the coast of the area allotted in Biblical times to the tribe of Asher. Might these “defenses” be the “sandals of iron and bronze” alluded to in Deuteronomy 33:24?

PLEASE PRAY:

***That Israel and the companies she is working with in these fields will have wisdom, favour and the expertise necessary to harvest this blessing as soon and in as expedient way as possible.**

That that which God is allotting to Israel will be protected...that *“as her days, so will her strength be!”

4. EGYPT'S NEW PRESIDENT

Yesterday morning the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt declared their candidate Mohammed Morsi winner of the presidential elections held there over the past several days. If proven true, it will mean the first victory for an Islamist as head of state since the beginning of the so-called Arab Spring last year. However, on the eve of voting the military-controlled Supreme Constitutional Court ruled that the democratic elections which last January filled the lower house of parliament with Islamists were invalid, and ordered that that parliament be dissolved. This means that Egypt is still effectively under martial law, that the generals are Egypt's lawmakers, and that they are in control of the budget and determining who will draft a permanent constitution defining the country's future. Although the Brotherhood has rejected the military's move, calling it a coup, Morsi has avoided publically denouncing the move. Well aware of the fears among many Egyptians that the Brotherhood would seek to begin imposing stricter religious laws over the nation, Morsi in his victory speech made no mention of Islamic law and asserted that he desires "*stability, love and brotherhood for the Egyptian civil, national, democratic, constitutional and modern state*" of Egypt. He vowed to be a servant for "*men, women, mothers, sisters, laborers, students...all political factions, the Muslims, the Christians.*" Perhaps alluding to his own imprisonment under the Mubarak regime, he said, "*We are not about taking revenge or setting scores. We are all brothers of this nation, we own it together, and we are equal in rights and duties.*" ("Islamist claims victory in Egypt presidential vote": ynetnews.com; 06:36, 06/18/12).

PLEASE PRAY:

- *For the new President to follow through in honoring the promises of his victory speech.
- *That a form of government will come into place which will not allow Egypt to descend into a radical Islamic state.
- *That believers in Egypt will be strengthened spiritually, and granted vision and strategy for the future spread of God's Kingdom there.
- *For houses of prayer to flourish and reproduce throughout Egypt.
- *For godly young Egyptian men and women will be positioned to gain favour and to rise in all arenas of Egyptian society.

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 17-23 June is called *Korach*—“Korah”:

TORAH: Numbers 16:1—18:32

HAFTARAH: I Samuel 11:14—12:22

This week’s Portion focuses on the rebellion of Korah.

***Numbers 16:3; 16:7b: Korah and His Followers to Moses:** *“You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?”* **Moses:** *“Take censers, Korah and all your company; put fire in them and put incense in them before the LORD tomorrow, and it shall be that the man whom the LORD chooses is the holy one. You take too much upon yourselves, you sons of Levi.”*

One sees here perhaps one reason for the severity with which the LORD dealt with Miriam and Aaron in Chapter 12. If those in the *office* of Prophet and Priest are discontent with their place in regard to the positions of others whom the LORD has chosen and appointed, will not their behavior be seen as license by those following to do likewise. Moses had not appointed himself as leader over Israel, God had. Ironically, Korah was speaking a truth when he claimed that *“all the congregation is holy, everyone of them”*—the congregation as a whole *was* holy (i.e. “set apart”) from the other nations, and within that congregation individual tribes and families and individuals were also “set apart”. Setting-apart implies boundaries both from without and from within which must be respected by those set apart to other responsibilities. **PLEASE PRAY: for unity amongst believers in Israel—for humility, respect and honour towards the gifts and callings of each. For realization that it is the Holy Spirit who makes these distinctions; it is ‘taking too much upon ourselves’ when we criticize or envy them. PLEASE PRAY for Godly discipline in the love and fear of the LORD within the Congregations. It may be helpful to read the Book of JUDE in this respect (especially vss 8-11) which prophecies how “rejection of authority” and “speaking evil of dignitaries—the “rebellion of Korah”—will resurface in latter days, and the spirit in which it must be addressed when it does.**

***Numbers 16:48:** *“Then Aaron took the censer as Moses had commanded, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and already the plague had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people. **And he stood between the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped.**”* Even in the midst of a rebellious people, the LORD is longing to find those who will “stand in the gap” on their behalf and on behalf of His land (*“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found no one. Therefore, I have poured out My indignation on them...”* —Ezekiel 22:30). **PLEASE PRAY: For sensitivity and readiness on behalf of God’s Intercessors—willingness, surrender and resolve to share His burden, so as to be**

released at just the right time to “stand between the dead and the living” (and to be able to differentiate between the two)—to “make a wall” and stand in the gap so that plague will be stopped.

***Numbers 17:10.** *“And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Bring Aaron’s rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die.’”* “Rebels” is literally *b’nei-meri*—“sons (or children) of bitterness”. Lest we be too quick to distance ourselves from those who fell in Korah’s rebellion and the mutinous disruptions which followed, we would note that in the Hebrew translation of Ephesians 2:1-3, exactly the same words *b’nei-meri* are used to translate “sons of disobedience”—*“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God...”* (Emphasis ours).

***I Samuel 12:21-22:** *“You must not turn aside, for then you would go after futile things which cannot profit or deliver, because they are futile. For the LORD will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the LORD has been pleased to make you a people for Himself”* (NASB). The word “futile” or “emptiness” is in Hebrew (“*tohu*”) the same word used of the state of the earth (Genesis 1:2) before Elohim began breathing His Life into it (Psalm 33:6).

PLEASE PRAY: For Israeli believers and those who intercede for her, that our faith not be distracted into reasonings which are emptiness and void—but rather that we base our hope and prayers on God’s faithfulness to honour His Name, that we be encouraged in the knowledge that it is “His pleasure” to make Israel a “*people for Himself.*”



*Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 24-30 June will be *Chukat*—“Ordinance” (regarding the Red Heifer) : TORAH: Numbers 19:1—22:1; HAFTARAH: Judges 11:1-33]

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