

ISRAEL PRAYER UPDATE

Glory of Zion International Ministries



1. FACING GIANTS DURING A YEAR OF JUBILEE.

This week US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and Mideast envoy, Jason Greenblatt, are scheduled to arrive in Israel as envoys seeking on behalf of the American administration to facilitate a revival of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. Only weeks after the nation celebrated 50 years since the war which brought under its oversight not only Jerusalem, but the covenant heartland of Israel, Judea and Samaria, moves are being suggested by both our friends and enemies raising into question the validity of that oversight in most if not any of the land. On Monday morning, Army Radio reported that plans for 6,000 new housing units in the Jerusalem neighborhoods of Gilo, Har Homa and Pisgat Zeev (areas under Jordanian occupation before 1967) have been ordered frozen. (This less than two months after it was announced by Israel's construction minister that 25,000 new homes would be built in the capital, 15,000 beyond the "Green Line".) Another plan, awakening turbulence in much of the administration, would require Israel to transfer parts of Area C in the West Bank (a region which, under the Oslo agreements, falls under full Israeli military and civilian control) into Area A—under Palestinian control. This would include allowing the city of Kalkilya (a hotbed of terrorism during the last Intifata), and lying just beyond Highway 6 in central Israel, to extend into Area C, and to double in size. In fact, last week an Arab member of the Knesset claimed that Israel was planning on extending five Palestinian cities into the present Area C. These reports and others are re-awakening uneasy apprehension of whether Prime Minister Netanyahu may once again be under pressure from an American administration to yield up "confidence building measures" to the Palestinians—while as usual, measures requested of the Palestinians towards Israel (first amongst them being to cut off reward-money to families of terrorists who have died attacking Israelis) have been ignored. **Then this week, it was revealed that the Palestinian Authority is requesting the UNESCO World Heritage Committee to declare in its annual meeting in Krakow on July 1st, that the entire Old City of Hebron,**

including the Cave of the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their wives) be registered as a “Palestinian World Heritage Site.” The Hebrew presence in Hebron, of course, dates back to the time of Abraham’s presence there, in which the Holy One visited him and shared with him there as a friend. (Genesis 18; *Haver* is “friend” in Hebrew; it is likely from this meeting that Hebron received its name.) Here Abraham paid 400 shekels of silver for the Cave and surrounding field (Genesis 24). It was also here that the spies 500 years later (see last week’s Torah Portion Numbers 13) reported “giants” in the land. And it was in Hebron that Caleb over forty years later defeated those giants and took the land (Joshua 14). As Israel crosses through this jubilee year since first taking these lands, there are still giants to be faced in Judea, Samaria—and Jerusalem.

PLEASE PRAY:

* That the *Prince of Peace* would guide Israel and her allies through this year, keeping her on the path within His kingdom purposes for all the people in this Land.

* Against deception among Israel’s leaders. For President Trump as regards his perspective on Israel—that he will hear from God; that any path he has embarked upon which is unwise, he will exercise the integrity and humility to alter.

* Pray that, even as the 50th year in ancient times was to be characterized by *release, freedom from bondage, liberty* (Leviticus 25), so too—there will be a release of the Holy Spirit over Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem—Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty! (II Cor. 3:17). Declare over these regions that revelation will break over Jews and Arabs living there which will bring them out of the bondage of legalistic works and works of violence—and into the freedom of the Son.

2. AN URGENT WARNING AND STRATEGY THIS SUMMER FOR JERUSALEM.

We submit for your discernment and prayer the following Word received by Rick Ridings, Director of *Succat Hallel* (Tabernacle of Praise) in Jerusalem—and including key Scriptures released in a previous Word.

A Vision Strategic to This Season (June – August, 2017) for Jerusalem Received by Rick Ridings in Jerusalem, 16 May, 2017

I am writing this on June 11th, 2017, as a result of an urgency I felt to send out the following vision after seeing a headline yesterday where Israeli Foreign minister said they were “closer than ever to a deal”. Just before writing this, I looked at the *Jerusalem Post* online, and the headline read: “Palestinian Delegation Expected to Meet Trump Administration Officials in Washington”. I believe the vision I will share reveals the Islamic spiritual agenda at work behind the scenes.

I received this vision on May 16th, 2017, before President Trump’s visit to the Middle East.

In the vision, I saw four whirlwind sandstorms called forth by witchcraft.

Inside each whirlwind was a lying spirit holding up a crescent sword. This spirit was able to project above it a large image dressed in black robes. That image was a spirit of fear and intimidation. Then each lying spirit caused sands of lies to whirl around it, until it was so surrounded by lies and confusion, that it was hidden by their swirl.

I saw these four spirits in Tehran, Iran; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; over Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey; and over Ramallah, in the Palestinian territories. (Some may not know that Ramallah is Arabic for “high place of Allah”.)

I then saw that the LORD had raised up something much more powerful: a giant holy whirlwind of worship in Jerusalem. This huge whirlwind of worship rose up came against the small whirlwinds of lies and confusion. It blew away the sands of confusion and lies, exposing the lying spirits as very small and weak, and seeking to project a huge, strong image of fear and intimidation.

I felt we were and are to pray the Scriptures from the Psalms that speak of “nets” and “snares”. I would encourage you to proclaim these Scriptures (which I previously sent out) often over Israel, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and President Trump, etc. over the course of this summer:

Psalm 9:13-15

*O LORD, see how my enemies persecute me!
Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death,
that I may declare Your praises in the gates of the Daughter of Zion and there rejoice in Your salvation.
The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug;
their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.*

Psalm 35:4-9

*May those who seek my life be disgraced and put to shame;
may those who plot my ruin be turned back in dismay.
May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away;
may their path be dark and slippery, with the angel of the LORD pursuing them.
Since they hid their net for me without cause and without cause dug a pit for me,
may ruin overtake them by surprise—may the net they hid entangle them,
may they fall into the pit, to their ruin.
Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD and delight in His salvation.*

Psalm 57:6

*They spread a net for my feet—I was bowed down in distress.
They dug a pit in my path—but they have fallen into it themselves. Selah*

Psalms 119:110

The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from Your precepts.

Psalm 124:1-8

*If the LORD had not been on our side—let Israel say—
if the LORD had not been on our side when people attacked us,
they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us;
the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us,
the raging waters would have swept us away.
Praise be to the LORD, Who has not let us be torn by their teeth.
We have escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare;
the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

Psalm 140:4-11

*Keep me safe, LORD, from the hands of the wicked;
protect me from the violent, who devise ways to trip my feet.
The arrogant have hidden a snare for me;
they have spread out the cords of their net
and have set traps for me along my path.
I say to the LORD, "You are my God." Hear, LORD, my cry for mercy.
Sovereign Lord, my strong deliverer, you shield my head in the day of battle.
Do not grant the wicked their desires, LORD;
do not let their plans succeed.
Those who surround me proudly rear their heads;
may the mischief of their lips engulf them.
May burning coals fall on them;
may they be thrown into the fire, into miry pits, never to rise.
May slanderers not be established in the land;
may disaster hunt down the violent.*

Psalm 142:2-7

*When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who watch over my way.
In the path where I walk people have hidden a snare for me.
Look and see, there is no one at my right hand; no one is concerned for me.
I have no refuge; no one cares for my life.
I cry to you, LORD; I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."
Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need;
rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.
Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name.
Then the righteous will gather about me
because of Your goodness to me.*

May “El Elyon”, the Most High God, expose and foil every net and snare, exposing lies and intimidation, and bringing forth His salvation to all the peoples of the Middle East.

Rick Ridings from Jerusalem

<http://www.succathallel.com>

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. The Haftarah, unless otherwise noted, will be that read in Ashkenazy synagogues around the world. The references for all texts are those found in English translations of the Scriptures.

The Parashah for this week 18-24 June 2017 is called Korach— “Korah”

TORAH: Numbers 16:1—18:32

HAFTARAH: I Samuel 11:14—12:22*

* Because this Sabbath falls on or immediately before a Rosh Chodesh (Head of a new Hebrew Month), some synagogues will conclude with either or both of the following passages: I Samuel 20:18, 42; Isaiah 66:1-24, 23

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

***Numbers 16:3; 16:7b: KORACH AND 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.”*

Perhaps we see here 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 relation to the positions of others whom the LORD has chosen and appointed, will not their behavior be seen as license by their followers 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, every one of them*”. The congregation as a whole was holy (i.e. “set apart”) from other nations. And within that congregation, tribes and families and individuals were also “set apart”. Being set apart implies boundaries both from without and from within which must be respected by those whose “setting apart” is to other purposes and responsibilities.

PLEASE PRAY: for unity amongst believers in Israel—for humility, respect and honor 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.

PRAY ALSO, that within Israeli congregations godly discipline be exercised in the love and fear of the LORD. It may be helpful to read the *Book of Jude* in this respect (especially verses 8-11), which prophecies how rejection of authority and “peaking evil of dignitaries—“the rebellion of Korah”—will resurface in latter days. Verses 20-22 address how it must be responded to when it occurs

***Numbers 16:22.** “*Then they fell on their faces, and said, ‘O God, the God of the Spirits of All Flesh, shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?’*”

As noted in past readings, throughout the Torah names for God surface whose elements reveal new perspectives on His attributes. This name— “*God of the Spirits of all Flesh*” will appear again in Numbers 27:15-16, “*Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying: ‘Let YHVH, the God of the Spirits of All Flesh, set a man over the congregation, who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of YHVH may not be like sheep which have no shepherd.’*” This man was, of course, Joshua— “a man in whom is the Spirit...” (vs 18).

***Numbers 16:30.** “*But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you will understand that these men have rejected YHVH.*”

Better renderings of the Hebrew word here rendered ‘rejected’ would be “*spurned*”, “*abused*”, “*treated with contempt*”, “*blasphemed*.”

***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.*”

In the midst of a rebellious people, the LORD is searching for 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 with discernment 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 should 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 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 would not be distracted into reasonings which are emptiness or void—but rather that we would base our hope and prayers on God’s faithfulness to honor His Name. That we would be encouraged in the knowledge that it is “His pleasure” to make Israel a “*people for Himself.*”



Martin & Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem

[The Parashah for next week 25 June—1 July 2017 is called *Chukat*—“Ordinance Of”: TORAH: Numbers 19:1—22:1; HAFTARAH: Judges 11:1-33.]

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