

Prayer Update From Israel (June 20, 2016)



Prayer shawl with *tzit-tzit*—dyed with *tekhlet*.

(See Torah Portion below)

NOTE: The writers are currently traveling, ministering and spending time with family in the U.S.; we plan to return on June 28th. Consequently, this and next week's Updates will be in slightly abbreviated form. We appreciate your prayers for protection and grace as we are traveling!

DOR HABA NATIONAL YOUTH WORSHIP TRAINING CAMP

Beginning this Tuesday, and extending from 21-24 June, there will be a special worship training camp for youth at a location in the hills outside of Jerusalem. The camp is called Dor Haba—“Rising Generation” and is sponsored and hosted by Succat Hallel, a 24-7 worship and intercession ministry in the capital. According to Bethany R, a worship leader and key organizer of the event, it will be in Hebrew and Arabic, and those invited include “young budding musicians, singers, worship leaders, song-writers, sound engineers and prayer warriors from all over the country.” Youth will be coming from Haifa, Netanya, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Beer Sheva, Jerusalem and more.” Some are also expected from the Territories. Besides instruction from indigenous leaders and musicians in the land, there will be a large group of musicians from the International House of Prayer in Kansas City coming to volunteer their services in teaching group lessons on various instruments.

Besides instruction on particular instruments, on worship leading, etc., there will be instruction on the kind of character and lifestyle a believer needs to be developing alongside skill on his or her special gifting. For instant, Bethany plans to teach on, “*What kind of generation do you want to be?*”—an encouragement to be a generation of worship, prayer, humility and obedience who seek God's face—an encouragement to come into partnership with Him (His Holy Spirit) in what He wants to do in this region and in these days—a challenge for these teenagers to become people of worship and intercession in their daily lives!”

Remember that God actually enthrones Himself on the praises of Israel (Psalm 22:3). The spiritual warfare required in days ahead will require of its children songs, even in their beds at night, and “*the high praises of God in their mouths, with a two-edged sword in their hands*” (Psalm 149:5-6). The Scriptures recount how Asaph and the other musicians who followed David taught instrumentalists how to not only play skillfully, but to actually prophecy *with* their instruments! We pray that God will raise up musicians in Israel who will truly bring in His presence, who will provide a vehicle with their instruments for the Holy Spirit to release what God is saying on earth as it is in Heaven—who will be able to skillfully lead worshippers in spirit and in truth—whose sound will rise as a fragrance to God, and shift atmospheres over Israel in their rising!

At this point around 80 are signed up to attend!

The following points were provided by our friend and Director of *Succat Hallel* Rick Ridings:

PLEASE PRAY:

- * For all the leaders and helpers to be full of peace, strength, joy and love. [Bethany, organizer and a keynote speaker and teacher has been battling a bad flu and recurring attacks on her voice.]**
- * That the West Bank youth (about 15 from Bethlehem and Ramallah) will receive their permits right away, in spite of the thy tight security situation since the Tel Aviv shooting attack. Pray there will be no terror incidents that would hinder these youth from entering into Israel and coming to the camp.**
- * Pray protection over all the teachers and helpers and their families. For all the youth attending: Pray for protection, physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally, financially and socially. Pray protection over all the vehicles and the huge amount of sound equipment, and that there will be no technical difficulties for David [overseeing sound] or those helping him with sound and projection.**
- * That all the youth will be full of grace and motivation to be blessed and be a blessing, and that there will be no disciplinary problems.**
- * That all who stay to keep the home fires burning in *Succat Hallel* would have grace, joy, and protection in doing that.**
- * That no weapon or witchcraft against any of us or our families would prosper or succeed.**
- * That every youth attending will have a life-changing encounter with the Lord and that all will hear the call of God on their life, some for the first time.**

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 thekii 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.

NOTE: Below are the texts for the *Parashah* read in *Jerusalem*. Because in the *Diaspora* (i.e. communities of Jews outside of Israel) an extra day is celebrated at Passover (and this year, that day came on a Sabbath), the readings read outside of Israel are now behind one week from those read here. On August 6th, through the use of a special “double reading” covering the final chapters of the *Book of Numbers*, the readings both inside and outside of Israel will once again coincide.

The *Parashah* for this week 19-25 June 2016 is called *Sh’lach L’cha*—“Send for Yourself!” (i.e. Men to spy out the land of Canaan).

TORAH: Numbers 13:1—15:41

HAFTARAH: Joshua 2:1-24

This week’s reading focuses on the 12 scouts sent out by Moses at the command of the LORD to spy out the land of Canaan soon after Israel left Mt Sinai. It relates the differing reports which were brought back and the spirits behind those reports. It then recounts the judgment released over the entire adult generation of those who followed the spirit of fear and unbelief released by ten of the spies. In the *Haftarah*, it is almost 40 years later and spies are once again being dispatched, this time from the next generation and from a different border.

***Numbers 13:16:** *“These are the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun, Joshua.”*

Hoshea means “Salvation”. *Joshua* (in Hebrew pronounced *YehoSHUah*), is a contraction for **“YEHOVAH SAVES”**. Over 1500 years later a still-shorter form of that name *Yeshua*, would be given by the angel to Joseph (and in Luke 1:31 to *Miriam*—“Mary”, his wife), “...and you shall call His name *Yeshua*, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

***Numbers 13:30; 14:6-9:** *“Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, ‘Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.’” “Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh...spoke to all the congregation of Israel, saying: ‘The land we*

passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them.’”

It is remarkable that the Hebrew root for the word “war” and that for “bread” are identical (The two-edged sword in the hands of God’s warriors (Psalm 149:6) is literally a “*many mouthed*” sword to devour His enemies, while the mouths of the warriors themselves are filled with His praise!

***Numbers 13:33.** *“There we saw the nephilim—the sons of Anak came from the nephilim—and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”*

Nephilim are mentioned by name only one other place in the Bible, Genesis 6:4. It is by no means certain that the spies saw *nephilim*—nor in fact that these fearful beings have ever existed on earth since the Flood. II Peter 2:4 appears to be referring to them as having been cast into a place “below the earth” where they were delivered “*into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.*” The “parentheses” placed around the statement “*the sons of Anak [giants] came from the nephilim*” in many English translations are not in the Hebrew. We believe it likely that this statement was itself a spur-of-the-moment amplification made by the terrified spies, allowing stories from antiquity about the monstrous pre-Flood beings to color their perception of the large people they had actually seen. The author of the Biblical narrative itself only mentions the “children of Anak” (13:22) as had the spies themselves earlier (13:28).

***Numbers 14:24** *“But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.”*

PLEASE PRAY against Israelis responding to the giants we face in a spirit of fear...that we realize that if we trust in God, he will not allow the land to devour us. Pray against cynical conversation amongst older believers in the Land about the land devouring those within it; this only serves to discourage and dishearten the generation God wishes to raise up for strength, victory and governance here. Please pray that men and women of “a different spirit”, who “know their God” and have heavenly insight (Daniel 11:32) would rise up in Israel, not focusing on the giants but trusting in the God who made the heavens, and Who has promised to give us a land flowing with milk and honey in which righteousness dwells.

***Numbers 15:37-40:** *“Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God.”*

The “blue” thread in these tassels or fringes (Hebrew: *tzitzit*) was not mere coloring, but tekhelet—a sky-blue pigment derived from the secretions of a particular species of snail. This

rare and costly dye was among the treasures given to the children of Israel when they left Egypt. When the LORD gave building instructions for the *mishkan* (tabernacle) in which He would dwell (Exodus 25:4), this was among the offerings received from the people for its preparation. *Tekhelet* was to be woven skillfully into the curtains, the screen and the veil (Ch. 26), and into the holy garments of the High Priest who ministered before it (28:5,15,28,31, 33,37).

When the camp moved out, the Table of Showbread, the Menorah, and the Golden Altar of the Holy Place were covered first in *tekhelet*, then lastly with skins before being carried away (Numbers 4:7-11). But the *Ark of the Covenant* was covered by Aaron and his sons, first with the veil, then with a covering of skins and lastly, with “*a cloth entirely of tekhelet.*” (Numbers 4:5-6). When the Israel was on the move, what was visible in front on the shoulders of the priests was not the Ark with the Cherubim (*no one* was allowed to see that; even the High Priest filled the Holy of Holies with smoke when he visited there once a year). ***What was seen proclaiming the dwelling among men of the Presence of YHVH was the “form” of the Holy Ark beneath a covering of sky-blue.***

So why were the sons of Israel commanded to wear fringes on the corners of their garments, with a thread of tekhelet among them? We cannot say with certainty, the Scriptures are silent. The context here seems to be the human dilemma of an inherited nature to sin, the “*harlotry to which our hearts and our own eyes are inclined*” (15:39). Might the sky blue thread among the fringes point to our inability, even with our best efforts to overcome that nature on our own? Might looking at this thread have served as a reminder of man’s need to look beyond to the Presence (signified here by the *techelet-covered Mercy Seat*) for victory? Perhaps even the sky-blue of the color itself pointed towards the habitat of the One whose mercies are in the heavens where He has placed His throne (Psalm 36:5; 57:10; 103:19).

“Unto You I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens!” (Psalm 123:1). Yeshua Himself, whose eyes were continually upon the Father and who only did what His Father told him, chose obediently to wear the fringes during His time on earth. It was these *tzitzit* which the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:25, Luke 8:43) touched and “*power went out of Him*” and healed her.

In recent years the particular crustacean from which the dye was extracted has been scientifically identified—along with discovery of how to bring it into the sky-blue color (exposing it to sunlight after extraction and dying of the cloth). Now many Jews once again are wearing the *tekhelet* string in their *tzit-tzit!*

***Joshua 2:12; 2:18: RAHAB:** “*Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father’s house, and give me a true token.*” **SPIES:** “*We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father’s household to your own home.*”

There is a wonderful picture here. Rahab requests that the spies show her and her family “loving kindness” (Hebrew: *hesed*) and give her a token of “truth” (Hebrew: *emet*). The token of loving kindness and truth (*hesed* and *emet*) is a scarlet thread which, when seen, will protect them from a destruction of judgment soon to come upon all of her wicked nation. When God the Father sent His Light into the world, we are told that although the Torah had been given through Moses, “*Loving kindness and Truth* (Hebrew translation: *hesed and emet*) *came through Yeshua the Messiah*” (John 1:17)—“*in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of God’s Loving kindness* (Hebrew: *hesed*) (Ephesians 1:7). **Please pray for revelation in Israel regarding the urgent necessity of being saved from the wrath to come—and of the loving kindness and Truth which are offered to those who will put their trust in the finished work of the Messiah! Psalm 33:18-19 says that “the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him and whose yearning hope is in His hesed—to deliver them from death and to keep them alive in famine!”**



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[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week (26 June—2 July 2016) are called *Korach*—“Korah”: TORAH: Numbers 16:1—18:32; HAFTARAH: I Samuel 11:14—12:22]

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