

## **PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (July 6, 2011)**



**A narrow gorge near Sde Boker in the Negev south of Beer Sheva.**

***“Then the Angel of YHVH went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left” (Numbers 22:26, See Torah Portion below.).***

### **1. ANTI-BLOCKADE FLOTILLA RUNS INTO PROBLEMS IN GREECE**

The flotilla set on running Israel’s blockade of Gaza has not yet been able to successfully set sale. One ship while still in its port in Turkey encountered steering difficulties below its water line. These were at first blamed on Israeli sabotage, a charge which was later disproven. Then three days ago, having forbidden ships bound for Gaza from setting sail from its ports, Greek authorities boarded the American ship *The Audacity of Hope*, forcing it to return to port and arresting the captain. On Monday, the Canadian ship *Tahrir* suffered the same fate. It is rather amazing, really, the turn which things have taken with Greece. This is a country which until relatively recent times would not have been considered friendly with Israel. Yet relations have begun to warm during the past year and a half, there have been special visits by leaders; and this past week she has chosen to stand with Israel. As you are aware, Greece has been suffering dreadful financial difficulties, (While travelling recently in Greece, the authors attentions were drawn to the depressing circumstance of literally hundreds of totally blank billboards lining the highways), and is forced to shoulder crushing austerity measures (and resulting civil unrest) in order to meet requirements demanded of an EU bailout. Yet in the midst of this, Greece is choosing to publically take a stand with Israel this week, and we are grateful. Regarding the apprehension of the American vessel, one Hebrew-language Israeli paper headlined, “Greece Got the Job Done!”

***Although it is still not yet clear how it will all turn out...but we are extremely thankful for the prayers into this situation from around the world during the past week. We have seen almost daily the enemy’s devises being thrown into confusion.***

**As we continue to pray into this situation, we would encourage making use of this week's "Parasha" (see below). Consider praying and proclaiming those oracles which God put into Balaam's mouth when he was sent to curse Israel (Numbers 23:7-10; 18-24; 24:3-9; 15-24).** These deal with the inability to successfully curse and denounce that which God has not cursed or denounced (23:8); they proclaim that there shall prevail "no sorcery or divination against Israel" (23:23); they speak of a coming King over Israel, a "Star" to come out of Jacob, a "Scepter" to rise out of Israel (24:17) which will be "higher than Agag" (24:7), which will defeat and take possession of Edom (25:18) and bring about the final destruction of Amalek (24:20). These last three, Agag, Edom and Amalek are historically related, and they refer prophetically to the covenant-breaking spirit behind Anti-Semitism. "Blessed is he who blesses you, and cursed is he who curses you" (24:9b). Before the end of the *Parasha* God will indeed deal severely with Israel where she has erred (25:9)—but that is His business, not that of the nations; for Israel continues to be "*a people dwelling alone, not reckoning itself among the nations!*", and "*the Shout of a King is among them!*" (Numbers 23:9; 21).

---

## **2. EGYPT-ISRAEL PIPELINE BLOWN UP FOR THIRD TIME**

***"And of Asher he said: '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).***

On Monday unidentified terrorists blew up the gas line linking Egypt, Israel and Jordan, halting the flow. There were similar explosions on February 5<sup>th</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup>. The gas link, which was initiated during the Mubarak era, has come under strong criticism from a number of quarters since his fall from power. At present over 1/5<sup>th</sup> of Israel's electrical power is fueled from this gas. As we have written in the past, an enormous supply of shale gas and probably oil has been discovered in Israeli waters off of the northwestern coast (site of the territory of the ancient tribe of Asher; see quotation above). Israel and its American partner Noble Oil are working hard to lay the groundwork for bringing about extraction of the gas. But this is a huge process, extremely complicated on many fronts. In addition to the necessary expertise required, the cost, and myriads of logistical problems which must be solved—there is another troubling question which lurks behind the scenes—How will we be able to satisfactorily protect such a site once it is up and running. On the one hand we have for the first time the prospect that our country miraculously may soon find itself "self-sufficient" regarding its energy needs. On the other, it would be dangerous to say the least, were the physical source of that self-sufficiency to be located in a place which might be put out of operation or even completely destroyed by one well-placed enemy missile. Perhaps this is where the need for "sandals of iron and bronze" comes in!

Israel is on the move to solve these dilemmas. Yet, the time is short—may it be that we are being even Divinely "prodded" forward by these recent destructive events—portending that our privileged time of dependency on our neighbors resources may be drawing rapidly to an end.

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*That the analysts, scientists, economists, technical engineers—all those required for building and mobilization of the mechanism and infrastructure necessary for Israel to capitalize on the discovery of her critical energy resources off our coast—that these will all be drawn in their endeavors into the timing and blessing of the Lord.**

**\*Psalm 118: 25: “*Ana YHVH, Hoshi’ah na! Ana YHVH, Hatzli’cha na!*” “We beseech you LORD, *Please Save!* We beseech You LORD, *Please Prosper!*”**

**\*That God grant revelation and release instruction as to Israel’s part in knowing how adequately to protect the area of extraction and processing of the oil.**

**\*For Him who is *Magen Avraham*—the “Shield of Abraham” to armor the vulnerable “feet of Asher” in iron and bronze!**

---

### **3. AN ADDITIONAL DAY OF REST IN ISRAEL?**

In Israel *Yom Rishon*—the first day of the week—is a regular workday equivalent to Monday in other parts of the world. We have no real “weekend” in the sense that more than 75 % of the world’s population (and 100 % of so-called “developed” countries) have—that is, two days off at the end of the week. The normal work-week runs from Sunday morning until Friday afternoon. Schools follow this, although class hours are shorter than in other countries. For several years there have been rumored actions afoot to bring Israel into a 5-day work week. Yesterday Prime Minister Netanyahu announced that he is prepared to consider bringing about a change. A proposed work-week would go from Monday morning to noon on Friday’s (adding ½ hour to each day). Schools also would have a five-day week—but days would be longer, resulting in inclusion of lunch at schools.

In the past consideration of such an arrangement, the proposed extra day off was Friday rather than Sunday (Friday is the Muslim holy day, Sunday is the Christian, Saturday of course is the Jewish). But as things stand now, obvious complications arise in international business dealings since so many countries are closed on Sundays. The Prime Minister has appointed a special economic advisor and head of the National Economic Council to look into the possibilities of moving forward with this plan.

We do not feel a strong sense in which way this should go. It is God who gave an example of working six days and resting one. For Israel, this became a law regarding “regular work” under Moses. In Daniel 2:21, the LORD is mentioned as being the One who “changes times and seasons.” And in the New Covenant, the Son of Man, Yeshua/Jesus is revealed as being “Lord of the Sabbath” (Matthew 12:8). In Daniel 7:25 an evil personage is prophesied to arise who will among other things “*persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law*” (Daniel 7:25b).

We do not wish to imply that such a “time” is presently at hand. But one may infer that “changing times” can be a serious business. God has ordained that Israel and Jerusalem serve as

a *tziun* (same root as “Zion”) – a “sign post” to the nations. When major changes take place in her, the effect generally reverberates with significance to the rest of the world. We would suggest that something as seemingly insignificant as Israel changing her work week may be of much more significance than it at first might seem. So we would be grateful for your prayers regarding this matter!

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*That God will guide our leaders in the direction of His choosing regarding the hours of Israel’s “work week”.**

**\*That His people Israel will proceed in the timing and work schedule which He in His wisdom chooses for us, regardless of “convenience” or the opinion of the world. If it serves His will for us to change, that we will move smoothly to a new system; if not, that the new measures will not be allowed to pass.**

**\*For the Body of Messiah in the Land to move in the freedom and purposes of their Lord, the “Lord of the Sabbath”—honoring, observing and enjoying the Sabbath’s of His choosing.**

---

**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 3-9 July is *Balak*:**

**TORAH: Numbers 22:2—25:9**

**HAFTARAH: Micah 5:7—6:8**

**This week’s Portion focuses upon the story of the pagan prophet Balaam (Hebrew: Bil’am), called from his homeland in the Euphrates area by the Moabite king Balak to come and curse Israel, which was at this time spread out on the plain just across the Jordan from Jericho. But Israel’s God is in charge of the vocal chords of Balaam, and the intended curses pour forth as blessing, the oracles being amongst the most magnificent examples of**

**Hebrew poetry in the Hebrew Bible. Some of these blessings continue to resound prophetically today.**

**\*Numbers 22:20.** “...*only the word which I speak to you shall you do.*” In the Hebrew, this is not a command; rather, it is a statement of fact—“This is what is *going* to happen”. **PLEASE PRAY:** that God’s living, creative Word be released in Israel. It comes best through His willing servants—but He is Lord, and exercises sovereignty over the lips of all humankind (and even the beasts). **Pray** for spiritual discernment among the Body in Israel—to recognize *His* Word, to discern “between the righteous and the wicked— between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him” (Malachi 3:18).

*angry because he [Balaam] was going, and the But Elohim was “ .Numbers 22:22\**  
*his stand in the way as an adversary [Literal Hebrew: “as messenger/angel of the LORD took*  
meant “one who is an originally ”*satan*“ The Hebrew word ”*him a satan*”) *against*  
Angel of the LORD”. In Zechariah adversary”. In this case, the adversary was good— “The  
one ”*Against whom*“ .Joshua the high priest was evil Satan” standing to accuse *The*“ ,3:1-2  
is the issue. Better that the LORD’s adversaries also be ours—and His angel stands as adversary  
as adversary standing with us against them, than that the Holy One Himself come to be revealed  
*!us* against

**\*Numbers 22:31.** “*Then the LORD opened [revealed] Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.*” **PLEASE PRAY:** that God will open the eyes of those who are allowing themselves to be spokespersons to the church in the nations regarding Israel, albeit with impure motives—that they will see that they are playing with fire. Pray that the eyes of the hearts of Israeli believers be opened to see into the heavenlies where we are seated with Messiah—and that we will flow *with* God’s heavenly armies rather than contrary to them (Ephesians 1:3,18-21; II Kings 6:16-17).

**\*Numbers 23:3b.** “*So he went to a desolate height...*” This is exactly the same word (only in the singular) used in Isaiah 41:8, “*I will open rivers in desolate heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys.*” What God is about to release through Balaam is a torrent of prophetic truth which will stream through the centuries, still nourishing Israel today.

**\*Numbers 23:9.** “...*Behold, a people who dwells apart* [isolated, secluded], *and will not be reckoned* [Literally: “thought of, considered”] *as being among the nations* [Hebrew: *goyim*]. **PLEASE PRAY:** that modern Israel would rise up to her place of calling—that God would wean us away from the habitual longing to be “like other nations.” Pray for believing brothers and sisters in the Nations to release Israel to “be set apart” to what God has called her to be.

**\*Numbers 23:21.** “*He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, nor has He seen wickedness in Israel. The LORD his God is with him, and the shout* [or, ‘royal shofar blast’] *of a King is among them.*” **PLEASE PRAY:** “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done—in *Israel*—as it is in Heaven!”

**\*Numbers 23:23.** *“For there is no sorcery [In Hebrew, the word used here for “sorcery” and that used for “serpent” are identical] in Jacob and no sorcery/enchantment in Israel. It now must be said of Jacob and of Israel, ‘Oh, what God has done!’”*

**\*Micah 5:12.** *“I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you shall have no soothsayers. Your carved images I will also cut off, and your obelisks from your midst; You shall no more worship the work of your hands.*

Both this passage from the Torah and that from the Haftarah are very pertinent for us in Israel today. The enemy knows that his time is short—and he has sown sorcery throughout the land. In secular schools, children are often taught the horoscope and New Age in the early grades (we have seen the homework papers ourselves). Much of ultra-Orthodox Judaism is permeated with the occult. Often Israelis flocking to Asia (particularly India and Thailand) after military service, bring back Eastern mysticism to fill the void within. And there are New Age festivals several times a year which attract thousands. **Please Pray:** that the works of the serpent will be exposed and cut off in Israel. Pray for release of signs and wonders and deliverance from demons in the Name of Yeshua through the power of the *Holy Spirit*. **Pray** that curses made against this Land and people from outside will hit a wall and fall to the ground. **Pray** for God to raise up leaders like Josiah who will work with holy Zeal and Jealousy for the cleansing of our land.

**\*Micah 6:8:** *“He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the YHVH require of you but to do justly, to love lovingkindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”* PLEASE PRAY this verse from Micah over Israel. God *“resists the proud but gives grace to the humble”*—and He longs to “walk” with her again!



*Martin and Norma Sarvis  
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 10-16 July 2011 will be *Pinchas* (“Phinehas”): TORAH: Numbers 25:10—29:40; HAFTARAH: I Kings 18:46—19:21.]

You may give to our work in Israel by donating [online](#) or by calling 1 (888) 965-1099 or 1 (940) 382-7231.