

## **Prayer Update From Israel (July 8, 2013)**

(1<sup>st</sup> of Av 5773)



***“Then Aaron the priest went up to Mount Hor at the command of the LORD, and died there in the fortieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, on the first day of the fifth month [i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> of Av; see below.]. Aaron was one hundred and twenty-three years old when he died on Mount Hor.”***

### **1. TURMOIL AND LAWLESSNESS IN EGYPT**

***“I will set Egyptians against Egyptians; everyone will fight against his brother, and everyone against his neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom. The spirit of Egypt will fail in its midst; I will destroy their counsel...for they will cry to YHVH because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them. Then YHVH will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know YHVH in that day...”*** (Isaiah 19: 2-3b, 20b-21a).

Great “leader” nations in the Middle East continue to erupt in volatile tumultuous upheaval, with each day presenting new and often unexpected faces to the situations, faces which may be quite different tomorrow. Last week Egypt’s first democratically-elected President Islamist Mohamed Morsi was deposed, after the cries of millions of disgruntled citizens, angry at a collapsing economy, broken promises and what they see as a bullying takeover by the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood, spurred the military to step in and remove the President after his having served only one year in office. As a safety measure, not only was Morsi placed in confinement, so were the top five leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood. Counter demonstrations by Brotherhood and other Morsi supporters have kept the streets of Cairo seething and the death toll rising. Although the military has proposed an interim government and new elections in which the Brotherhood may be again represented, at this point they seem in no way inclined to agree to this.

Meanwhile, an Islamist party called *Al Nour* has risen into a surprisingly influential position with the military leaders. Made up of ultraconservatives known as Salafis, *Al Nour*’s sheik leader was carefully positioned behind the general who announced the military takeover on television,

presumably to assure the populace that the action was not an attack on Islam. Since then, *Al Nour* has already wielded its new influence by nixing the military's proposal of liberal Nobel-winning diplomat Mohamed ElBaradei for interim prime minister. That this Islamist party might itself come to replace the more moderate Muslim Brotherhood is worrisome indeed for those who had hoped for more separation between religion and politics. *Al Nour* and other Salafist groups have already been active in a campaign for constitutional provisions enshrining Islamic Law, and against its containing a new express guarantee of equality for women ("Islamist Party a Surprise Force in a New Egypt": *The New York Times*, 7 July 2013).

The fall of the Brotherhood in Egypt has had repercussions in Gaza, where the rogue-rulers Hamas are looking with dismay at what this probably means regarding the support they've enjoyed under Morsi's regime. (Hamas itself came into existence as a militant offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood.) And in Syria, where the Brotherhood forces, although by no means in the majority, have been the most influential faction and only truly organized group in the Sunni opposition seeking to overthrow Assad, it is feared that the toppling of their "mother branch" in Egypt may so weaken their influence that the more militant factions who have no interest in even a semblance of democratic order may take the ascendancy.

Meanwhile, the international community, within which many have strong economic/military ties with Egypt, is steering clear of labeling the shake-up a "coup." (The military claimed it didn't carry out a coup, but rather merely enforced the will of the people.)

#### **PLEASE PRAY:**

- \* God's mercy over the 84 million souls in Egypt; that His Kingdom Come in that land.
- \* Against a spirit of lawlessness which is running rampant in Egypt. Besides the battles between warring factions, there have reportedly been hundreds of women assaulted by bands of thugs roaming the squares where the demonstrations are taking place.
- \* All of Isaiah 19, including the portion quoted at the head of this section.
- \* For the thousands of believers in Egypt—that they will be led in truth and courage; granted angelic protection, and divine strategy and counsel.
- \* For a Christian reporter and his cameraman we know who God has led into the midst of Egypt this week; that he will have the protection and guidance and assistance necessary to record and chronicle exactly what God is sending him there to report.
- \* For leaders in Israel to see and understand and have insight from heaven into what is taking place in her neighbor to the south, and how best and most wisely to respond. That the treaty between Israel and Egypt will be preserved.

#### **2. MONDAY, JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> BEGINS THE HEBREW MONTH OF "AV"**

Today, Monday July 8<sup>th</sup> is *Rosh Hodesh*, the “head” of the Fifth Month in the Hebrew Biblical calendar. Since the return from Captivity in Babylon, the month has been called by the Babylonian name, *Av*.

This day is mentioned in the Hebrew Bible (see above) as that of the death of Aaron the High Priest. Aaron had not been without serious failings—in the incident of the golden calf, with his brother Moses in the striking of the rock when God had commanded to speak to it. But he had also fallen on his face with Moses in intercession to God when they sinned, and he had for decades “borne iniquity” (Numbers 18:1) as he went about his duties as High Priest in the Tabernacle on behalf of all of the people. Now his mantle had been passed on to the next generation... who would likewise be fallible, who would also one day die. This passing of the first High Priest, from whom the “Aaronic” priesthood would take its name reminds us of a “greater” priesthood, that of *Malki-tzedek* (King of Righteousness)—and of the greater Priest of that order who would take Aaron’s place as an intercessor between the Father and all Humankind.

*“There were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:23-25).*

***Av in Hebrew means “father”.*** Although the name as used for a particular month was of Babylonian origin, it happens to bear the same spelling and pronunciation as the Hebrew word. As we pray over our land and people at the beginning of this new month, we recall a verse from last week’s Haftarah portion, Jeremiah 3:4: ***“Will you not from this time cry to Me, ‘My Father, You are the guide of my youth?’*** And as we continue through this season during which Darkness has repeatedly sought to take occasion for evil against the covenant land and people, ***we find it a time for especial watchfulness over Israel and Jews throughout the world, holding them up before the “Father of Lights” (James 1:17).***

***It happens this year that the close of this day begins the Muslim fast month of Ramadan.*** “Ramadan” comes from an Arabic root related to “intense heat, scorched ground and shortness of rations.” During the month, Muslims are forbidden from eating or drinking between sunup and sundown. Tens of thousands will attend meetings on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem over the course of this month.

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*For the Body of Messiah in Israel to come into a deeper awareness of the work of Yeshua (Jesus) as our High Priest. A few years ago the Bible Society in Israel released a small booklet containing an annotated Hebrew language printing of the *Book of Hebrews*. Please pray that this wonderful Book centered on the Priesthood of Messiah, written specifically to First Century Messianic Jews, would be rediscovered by Israeli Jews in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century!**

**\*For an awakened longing for Fatherhood in Israel—for an awareness that the God of Israel’s “fathers”—Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—is in fact, the One from whom all fatherhood gets its name (Ephesians 3:14-15). That Yeshua the Messiah has opened a way to bring us as fellow sons and daughters to His Father!**

**\*For dreams and visions during the month called by Muslims *Ramadan* to reveal the true nature of the God in Heaven. Over the inside doorways of the buildings on the Temple Mount are inscribed a quotation from the Muslim holy book, to the effect that “*Allah is great and has no son*”. Pray for revelation that *El Elyon*, the Most High God does have a Son, the knowledge of whom frees us from bondage and dead works, and brings us near to the Father.**

**\*For protection in Israel from demonic power released from millions fasting before a God of a different covenant. (Most Muslims are taught to believe that the person Abraham was told to sacrifice was Ishmael, not Isaac.) Pray that the Body of Messiah in Israel and Jerusalem will be unified and anointed throughout the month in its praise to the One True God, in the name of Yeshua His son. That rather than resorting to a defensive stance, the Body move forward in Her praise and worship this month, in spirit and in truth. That she take territory and defeat the enemy by the Word of her testimony, the Blood of the Lamb, and that she love not her own life even unto death! That many be brought out of the wilderness into Life!**

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## **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 7-13 July 2013 is called *D’varim* (“Words”):**

**TORAH: Deuteronomy 1:1—3:22**

**HAFTARAH: Isaiah 1:1-27**

**This week we enter the *Book of Deuteronomy* (Hebrew: *D’varim*), a great collection of addresses given by Moses to Israel shortly before his death—reminiscences regarding where they have been, what God has done, final instructions, warnings and admonitions regarding what is ahead.**

**\*Deuteronomy 1:2-3.** *“It is eleven days’ journey from Horeb by way of Mount Seir to Kadesh Barnea. Now it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spoke to the children of Israel according to all that the LORD had given him as commandments to them...”*

**The implication is that the 40-year journey to Canaan from Mount Sinai (Horeb) might have lasted only eleven days but for the peoples’ rebellion and unbelief (Hebrews 3:16-19).**

**\*Deuteronomy 1:7-8.** *“Turn and take your journey, and go to...the mountains and in the lowland, in the South and on the seacoast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the River Euphrates. See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give to them and their descendants after them.”*

**After over 2000 years, Israel has miraculously regained her ancient tongue, and begun to be gathered and returned to a portion of the land described here; she is once again a great nation, one to be reckoned with in the world. Her circumstances ‘on the ground’ are, however, still very different from when she was first set marching into Canaan by her God.**

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*That God would establish Israel’s boundaries—that He will give her leaders revelation regarding those boundaries, according to His timetable. Where are they to lie at present (Obviously Israel does not at this time lay claim to all of the territory lying within Lebanon, Syria and the Kingdom of Jordan originally promised to her)? How is Israel to relate to non-Jewish peoples who are presently dwelling in portions of these lands?**

**\*That God’s “kingdom come” among Jewish people living in both internationally recognized Israel and the disputed territories—that Jacob’s children have supernatural revelation regarding both the Kingdom of Heaven and their place in it here on earth in the land of their Fathers.**

**\*Deuteronomy 1:16-17.** *“Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, ‘Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the stranger who is with him. You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man’s presence, for the judgment is God’s...”*

**\*Genesis 14:5.** *“In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him came and attacked the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim, and the Horites in their mountain of seir, as far as El Paran, which is by the wilderness...And the king of Sodom went out to meet him [i.e. Abraham] after his striking down Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him...”* Abraham pursued and struck down this king who himself had struck down the Rephaim, Zuzim, Emim, and the Horites. It is fascinating to discover how almost 500 years later in Deuteronomy 2:10, 12, 20, 22; 3:11, descendants of each of these peoples, whose height and cruel renown had paralyzed with fear ten of the twelve spies 40 years

before, are dispatched quickly by the children of that generation before their advancement into Canaan. Perhaps Joshua and Caleb had been taught how the God of their father Abraham had easily given him victory over a king who had subdued all of these feared peoples.

### **SHABBAT CHAZON—“SABBATH OF VISION”**

**This Sabbath is known as the Sabbath of Vision because the *Haftarah* for the Sabbath preceding *Tish 'ah B'Av* (The 9<sup>th</sup> of Av—when the destruction of the Temple of commemorated) is always taken from the first chapter of Isaiah, which begins, “*The vision...*” It is the third of a series of severe *Haftarot of Affliction* read between the 17<sup>th</sup> of *Tammuz* and the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, to turn Israel to mourn because of her sin. This Sabbath is even sometimes known as “Black Sabbath” because of the anguish associated with that day (16 July this year). We are not in agreement with this title—the reading is indeed severe, but it contains in its darkness the “Light shining in Darkness”: “*Come now, and let us reason together,*” says the LORD, “*Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the Land...Zion shall be redeemed with justice, and her penitents with righteousness!*” (Isaiah 1:18-19, 27)**

**PLEASE PRAY: THAT DURING THIS SEASON EYES WILL BE OPEN IN ISRAEL AND THAT THERE WILL BE VISION IN JEWISH HEARTS OF HOPE AND LIFE AND A FUTURE IN THEIR SAVIOUS YESHUA THE MESSIAH.**

**\*Isaiah: 1:26.** “*I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the ‘City of Righteousness’, ‘The Faithful City.’*”

In Israel, there is no “trial by jury”—rather, the “judge” decides each case. We are grateful for the integrity and rightness evident in the decisions often made in the civilian courts—everyday ‘traffic’ courts, misdemeanor courts, etc. At the same time, we are aware of cases in which judges appear to have been strongly influenced in their rulings by Orthodox intimidation. And the higher courts are often influenced by spiritual powers of which they are not aware. Our Supreme Court building was itself designed and laid out for construction under obviously strong Masonic influence—and part of its outer décor includes a ‘pyramid’ structure atop the roof.

**PLEASE PRAY:** That righteousness be supernaturally restored to Israel’s courts. That God anoint and raise up righteous judges as of old—such as Othniel, Ehud, Jephthah, Deborah and Samuel—who will be protected in their youth, and in times of need and repentance rise into their places in wisdom, truth and favor. “*Righteousness exalts a nation...*” (Proverbs 14:34); “*For the word of the LORD is right, and all His work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice...*” (Psalm 33:4-5).

**\*Isaiah 1:16-18.** “*Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together,*’ says the

*LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.’*

**PLEASE PRAY:** That these words will pierce Jewish hearts through the Holy Spirit when they are read in synagogues this weekend—that Jews will find the way revealed and open for them to come into this cleansing!

**\*Isaiah 1:27.** *“Zion shall be redeemed with justice, and her penitents with righteousness.”*

**Praise God!** for a redemption which is altogether *just...and which brings all who repent (Both Jew and Gentile) into a place of true righteousness before the Father—“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”* (II Corinthians 5:21).



*Martin and Norma Sarvis  
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 14-20 August will be *V’Et’chanan* (“Suppliated”): TORAH: Deuteronomy 3:23—7:11; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 40:1-26.]

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