

Prayer Update From Israel (August 10, 2015)



**Northeastern corner of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem
as viewed from across the Ben Hinnom Valley.**

“But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.”

(Deuteronomy 12:5 See Torah Portion below)

1. KATZIR

This week teenagers from all over Israel are attending a Messianic national summer camp in the Golan Heights. The week-long **KATZIR** (“harvest”) camp began Thursday and will finish with a special praise evening in Tel Aviv on Wednesday night. Whereas the recent *Elav* was a short, concentrated event for Jewish and Arab teens and young adults taking place at one venue in Jerusalem, **KATZIR** is an indigenous week-long camp for Israeli teens taking place in the far northeast, with outdoor activities, teaching and training, working together, sharing in small groups, and with powerful times of praise and worship and corporate sharing. Having focused in recent years on knowing and having a relationship with God, this year progresses onward towards *“how my relationship with God impacts my relationships and actions with others.”* In addition to examination of the gifts given to help in service, there will be also special emphasis on training in and fostering fresh leadership among these young people. Besides the regular staff members, there are also present a number of men and women with years of experience in different facets of leadership in the Land. **We see these summer gatherings as critical in the Lord’s equipping and positioning these young people for the roles He will have each of them assuming come the fall! Please pray for the Spirit to come strongly during these last three days!**

Shortly after the camp began, senior overseer Eitan Shishkoff sent out the following prayer-points:

Our team will be with these kids 24/7. The opportunity is immense; and so is the responsibility. So, I am asking you to lift up the following areas and believe with me for many, many breakthroughs in these young, important lives:

- * **Open hearts** to receive what the Spirit is saying to each of them.
- * **Safety during the entire 7 days**, in every activity and for every camper and staff member.
- * **Anointed Messages and Small Group Sessions** in which the young people are hearing God's word opened in life-relevant ways.
- * **Excellent Coordination and Communication** within the Team and abundant energy (with timely renewal of their body & spirit) over the entire span of the camp.
- * **Lasting Fruit** at home and in their congregations as the result of this special time apart.
- * **The Spirit's leadership** in every meeting, for every activity and our sensitivity to what He's doing—when, where, how, and through whom.

WE WOULD ADD—please pray the Lord ignite and release powerful, prophetic praise in these young warriors! Not only are they being further equipped—many *already are* equipped in many ways, and bear an anointing. When they praise, pray and worship “in Spirit and in Truth”—spiritual warfare is released into the heavenlies over Israel, a living sound which conjoins with angels, changes atmospheres!! Pray for this to take place each day—and for angels to go ahead to prepare for the time of worship in Tel Aviv Wednesday night. Pray that high praise will rise, and Glory come down!! Pray that these young Israelis will come away from the camp with a well of holy song rising in their spirits which will continue to flow as they return to their homes and schools!

THIS WEEK'S TORAH PORTION:

From ancient times there has been a weekly portion (Parasha) 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 Parasha for this week 9-15 August 2015 is called *R'eh*—“See!”:

TORAH: Deuteronomy 11:26—16:17

HAFTARAH: Isaiah 54:11—55:5

NOTE: Because *Rosh Chodesh* (Beginning of the “Sixth Month”—*Elul*) will fall on either Saturday or Sunday (August 15/16), some Synagogues will conclude their services with Isaiah 66:1-24, 23 and/or I Samuel 20:18, 42)

***Deuteronomy 11:26.** “*See! I am setting before you today blessing and curse.*”

PLEASE PRAY: *For sight to see the difference between blessed ways, and those whose very nature brings a curse—for grace to “ask for the ancient paths, the good way,” to see and to walk in it! (Jeremiah 6:16; 18:15).*

***Deuteronomy 12:2, 5.** “*You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods...But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.*”

At least 16 times in the Torah portion this ‘place’ (singular) is mentioned where Israel’s one God YHVH would choose to put His name and to dwell— one place, as compared to the many places where the multiple gods of Canaan were worshipped. Those places were to be utterly destroyed, and with them the very names of the gods which had been worshipped there (12:3). The place where the One God of Israel would in a unique way dwell among His people was, of course, Jerusalem. This had been alluded to in a prophetic song by Moses 40 years before, just after the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 15:17).

PLEASE PRAY: *For the peace of Jerusalem...that God’s glory would return there, that the believing Body of Messiah would be established there in maturity and unity. Pray that God would raise up wise and anointed Messianic leaders to be Elders in the Gates of Zion. That as God “chose” Jerusalem after first bringing Israel into the land following the Exodus, He would now, with the return of His people from around the world, “take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and again choose Jerusalem” (Zechariah 2:12).*

***Deuteronomy 12:8.** “*You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes...*”

God had a special order for worship and government waiting for the people when they would enter the land—it wasn’t to be “everyone for himself”. They were rather to “do what is right in the sight of YHVH your God” (12:25, 28). During the next 400 years, there would be periods in which the people followed this directive. In the Land, there would be Judges (the title for next week’s Parasha) for civil matters, and the Priesthood to keep worship “in line”. But alas, eventually Moses’ admonition would be forgotten—

the closing words of the Book of Judges read, “*Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*”

***Deuteronomy 12:16; 12:23.** *“Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it on the earth like water.” “Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life (Hebrew: nefesh—soul); you may not eat the life with the meat.”*

Although this prohibition is repeated throughout the Law of Moses, it had in fact been long before forbidden by God. In fact, in God’s instructions to Noah shortly after the Flood (Genesis 9:4-5), consumption of blood was placed right alongside murder. Thousands of years later, after Yeshua had died, been raised and had returned to Heaven, the high council of Messianic (Christian) believers in Jerusalem forbade the consumption of blood by all Gentile as well as Jewish believers (Acts 15:20,29).

With the recently awakened popularity of vampirism and “zombies” in books and films in the West (catering especially to the young; the “Twilight” series being only the tip of the iceberg), accompanied by graphic, sensual descriptions of awakened blood-hunger, might it be that Satan is seeking to bring back this ancient sin (albeit, for now, in a vicarious “fantasy” form)? As in Eden, Satan’s way is to suggest, *“Has God indeed said, ‘Thou shalt not...?’”*

***Deuteronomy 14:2.** *“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be for Him a specially treasured people of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”*

***Deuteronomy 14:26.** *“You may spend the money for whatever your heart desires; for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink, or whatever your heart desires; and there you shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household.”*

As mentioned in *Parashat-Noach* last October, the Bible does not teach that partaking of wine or other intoxicating drink in moderation is sin; in fact, it strongly implies that God intends such drink may be a joy and a blessing for humankind if taken, as stipulated here, ***before the LORD our God*** (i.e. within the light of His presence). In Genesis 43:34 Joseph’s brothers *“drank and were merry with him.”* And according to John 2:1-11, Yeshua’s first recorded miracle in which He *“manifested His glory”* was turning water at a Jewish wedding into wine.

However, Proverbs 20:1 cautions against its misuse, *“Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”* And in Isaiah 28:1, 7 God issues an extremely serious warning to religious leaders who err in the misuse of alcohol: they tarnish the beauty of the ministry which they lead, and if they persist, the prophetic vision and judgment with which God equipped them for administration over His people will begin to fail them. So Believers are allowed to partake of such drink, yet, not in drunkenness, but in the self-control (temperance) of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16-26). They may at times be led to abstain from strong drink, as those who chose to separate themselves to the Lord by a *Nazirite* vow would abstain from wine and strong drink all the days of their separation (Numbers 6:2-4). Nor are those who move in a freedom to drink wine to judge or seek to coerce those whose conscience forbids them from that freedom (Romans 14).

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the

Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus the Messiah, submitting to one another out of reverence for Messiah."

(Ephesians 5:18)

***Deuteronomy 16:1.** *"Observe the month of Aviv (The "First Month"; Babylonian and modern usage: Nisan), and keep the Passover to YHVH your God, for in the month of Aviv YHVH your God brought you out of Egypt by night."*

***Deuteronomy 16:16.** *"Three times a year all your males shall appear before YHVH your God in the place which He chooses; at the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Pesach/Passover), at the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot), and at the feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot); and they shall not appear before YHVH empty handed."*

***Isaiah 54:11:** *"O you afflicted one, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems, and lay your foundations with sapphires."*

PLEASE PRAY: *That Israel's sense of identity be restored—not an identity related to her rejection, suffering, persecution and the Holocaust, but rather an identity of a people chosen to be set apart as a special treasure of the God Who created the Universe.*

***Isaiah 54:13-14.** *"All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children."*

PLEASE PRAY: *For the present generation of Israeli children...that the loving jealousy of God would be loosed over them, cutting through the evil values being taught in so many homes and schools in Israel, awakening a zeal for Truth; that they would respond to the Holy Spirit and ask for the ancient paths where they will find rest for their souls (Jeremiah 6:16).*

***Isaiah 54:14.** *"In righteousness you shall be established; You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you." For Israel to be delivered from terrorism she must first become established in righteousness. "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21 NASB).*

PLEASE PRAY: *That in God's mercy the Spirit which was sent to convict the world concerning Sin and Righteousness and Judgment (John 16:8) will move strongly across all of Israel.*

***Isaiah 54:17.** *"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me," says the LORD."*

***Isaiah 55:3.** *“Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live...”*

PLEASE PRAY: *“That Israeli ears will be opened to hear the living Word. There are many “winds” blowing in Israel right now (In Hebrew “wind” and “spirit” are the same word). Pray that believers in Israel will “have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the congregations.”*

***Isaiah 55:5b.** *“...For He has glorified you.”* The Hebrew word for “glorified” here might better be rendered *“beautified you.”* It is the verb form of the same word used in Isaiah 61:3, where the Spirit anoints the Messiah to give those who mourn in Zion *“beauty for ashes.”*

PLEASE PRAY: *For Israel to come to realize that the one whom she has been resisting for 2000 years is the very One who longs to make her beautiful...and shall!*



***Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem***

**[The *Parashah* for next week 16-22 August 2015 is called *Shophetim*—
“Judges”. TORAH: Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9: HAFTARAH: Isaiah 51:12—52:12.]**

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