

## *Prayer Update From Israel (August 22, 2016)*



*“In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness”*

**(Zechariah 13:1)**

### **1. ELAV**

**“THERE is WATER in JERUSALEM!”** *reads the sign on the overpass, and at other places throughout the city.* It is an advertisement for people to bring their children to the “City of David” during the summer months, where the Gihon Springs pours its stream through Hezekiah’s tunnel into the Pool of Siloam. It was from this pool that Priests in ancient times would gather up pitchers of water on *Succot* (Feast of Tabernacles), singing out Isaiah 12:3, *“Therefore with joy shall you draw water out of the wells of salvation”* –before carrying it up the Hill to the Temple and pouring it out before the LORD. On one such occasion, Yeshua was standing nearby and announced, *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him!”* (John 7:37-39). There are passages in Scripture which speak of water in Jerusalem—springs of Living Water, a river whose streams make glad the people of God!

***This week that “living water” will indeed be flowing in Jerusalem from mid-afternoon Thursday (August 25) through Friday at 2:00 p.m., when the annual ELAV conference for youth and young adults takes place in the city.*** We are so thankful for your prayers for the *Katzir* camp for teenagers last week (see below)! Now there is something different. *Elav* (in Hebrew, “Unto Him”) each year brings together several hundred Israeli Jewish and Arab and Palestinian Arab young people, in particular young adults, for an intense time together in the

Holy Spirit. There will be worship and praise in Hebrew and Arabic, timely challenges delivered by speakers from around the land—as well as sessions devoted to allowing the Spirit to work deeper levels of reconciliation and unity among those He has called to live and lead in His land of Israel. This year all of the music will be indigenous, led by Arab and Jewish worship teams. During this time, *Dor Haba* (“Coming Generation”) will be releasing a new worship album, a first-of-its-kind CD, which combines both Hebrew and Arabic songs sung by young Israeli Jewish and Arab musicians! The recording was made in the *Ben Hinnom* valley, a place once cursed, but of which God promised in Jeremiah 31:40 that it would one day be “*Holy to the LORD*”. The valley is first mentioned in Scripture (Joshua 15:8) as forming the northern border for the tribe of *Yehudah* (Judah)—which means “**PRAISE!**” God has used this conference in wonderful and timely ways; we are believing for His power to be poured out in a special way this week.

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**A worship leader for the conference offered the following prayer points:**

- \* **That the worship team (s), including Hebrew and Arabic speakers, will be released to prepare and play with abandon before God.**
- \* **That many lives will be touched at the *ELAV* conference.**
- \* **That the CD manufacturing will be complete and the CD will be ready in time for the conference! That this recording, *The Voice of One Calling*, will unite Hebrew and Arabic speakers in worship. And that secular Hebrew and Arabic speakers will be touched by this as well!**

**We would add:**

- \* **Pray that the challenge and impartation needed for *this* season will be released into these young men and women.**
- \* **For protection over the bodies, souls and spirits of those who will be leading praise and worship, teaching, and assisting in the ministry times of *Elav*.**
- \* **For protection for the venue and all attending. (Last year Orthodox militants attempted to get the conference shut down, and when God kept that from happening, they staged a demonstration at the gates.)**
- \* **For all those the Spirit is drawing to attend to be able to do so. Pray especially for those travelling from the contested territories and from neighboring countries—that nothing would impede their passage.**
- \* **Last week’s Torah Portion told of God’s instructions to Moses in commissioning Joshua (Deuteronomy 3:28), “*And charge Yehoshua (Joshua), and encourage him and strengthen him;***

*for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see.”*

**Please Pray that God’s “charge”—His “entrusting directive”—will be released into young Arab and Jewish men and women, who will be leaders in bringing the coming generation of this region into their inheritance in the Kingdom of God!! Pray that this be part of “*the clear and visionary leadership from the young adult generation,*” which Eitan Shishkoff prays for in the next section!!**

**NOTE:** The cost for mounting even a short conference like this is extremely expensive in Israel, involving renting the hall, providing transportation and accommodations for those coming from Judea and Samaria, as well as some neighboring Arab countries. For those who would feel led to help in sponsoring believing Jewish, Arab, and Palestinian youth at *Elav* this year, you may find directions of how to mail a check or you may give securely online at the website: <http://www.succathallel.com/donate/>

## **2. KATZIR.**

*Thank you so for your prayers over the Katzir camp last week!* We are printing below a report sent out by Eitan Shishkoff, senior overseer of the camp. We can testify personally that a young 17-year old who spends several weekends a month under our oversight in our home, returned from the camp more changed in good ways than we’ve ever witnessed. And not just “changed”—but already moving forward along his new path, deeply in love with the Lord, sensitive to his walk, asking mature questions about serious issues in his life—as well as owning up when he slips and senses the Spirit speaking through his conscience to share it with another believer. We are so grateful!!

**The conference was outstanding. Many young lives were touched by the spirit of God and the presence of the Lord seemed to grow with each day that we were together. After our last national youth conference, during Passover break, we knew that many changes were needed in the way Katzir was operating. The bottom line was we needed clear and visionary leadership from the young adult generation. In the process of supplying this need, God also blessed us with a breakthrough in organization. Our young adult counselors never stopped pouring themselves into the teenagers from start to finish of the camp. I could go on and on...But what I really want you to know is that we felt lifted by your intercession, and the heavens opened. This kind of thing is not to be taken for granted, especially with 90 teenagers from a wide variety of backgrounds. I truly praise God for what He did at the Katzir Summer Conference this year. Please truly praise God for what He did at the Katzir Summer Conference this year. Please continue with me in passionate prayer for sustained revival among Israeli youth. I am confident that we have not yet seen the fullness of what God wants to do.**

### **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 21-27 August 2016 is called *Ekev*- "In Consequence of..."

**TORAH:** Deuteronomy 7:12—11:25

**HAFTARAH:** Isaiah 49:14—51:3

**\*Deut. 7:16.** *"Also you shall devour all the peoples whom the LORD your God delivers over to you; your eye shall not pity them..."* It is instructive to compare this "devouring" with that mentioned in the evil report of the ten spies 40 years earlier, *"The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants"* (Num. 13.32), and with the 'bread' in Caleb's good report at the same time, *"The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land...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"* (Num. 14:7-9).

**\*Deut. 8: 3.** *"He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna...that he might make you know that humankind (Hebrew: the adam ) shall not live by bread alone; but by every utterance of the LORD's mouth does the human live."*

**\*Deut. 8:5.** *"And you knew in your heart that as a man chastises his son the LORD your God chastises you."* Cff: Heb 12:7-11: *"If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten...Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."*



***Rushing stream at Tel Dan near Israel's northern border.***

**\*Deut. 8:6-10.** *“Therefore you shall guard the commandments of YHVH your God, to walk in His ways and to revere Him. For YHVH your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.”*

**\*Deut. 8:16.** *“...that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end---“*

**\*Deut. 9:5-6.** *“It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Therefore understand that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.”*

***At least eleven times in this Torah Reading*** (7:12, 7:13; 8:1, 8:18; 9:5-6, 9:27-28; 10:11, 10:15-16, 10:22; 11:8-9, 11:18-21) the LORD through Moses calls to Israel's attention His ***oath to their Fathers—Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—regarding the land*** which He would soon be dispossessing for them and granting as an eternal heritage (“*like the days of the heavens above the earth*”—11:21). It was an oath of *covenant and kindness* (Hebrew: *hesed*) from God (7:12). He “*set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day*” (10:15). But this was manifestly *not* because of any special, inherent goodness or righteousness in Israel (7:12). Her part was to realize this, to receive this

kindness in humility and obedience, to acknowledge that she was stiff-necked and stubborn, and to circumcise the “foreskin” of her heart (10:16). She must embrace as essential the words the LORD had released to her, applying them throughout each day to every area of her existence (11:18-21).

**Unlike any other people on earth, Israel and her place in the Holy Land bear a distinct relation to an unfailing Word of God over her forefathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob)—a Word which is still in effect, now that she has been returned to that Land.** “Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers” (Romans 11:28). “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, who seek YHVH: Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain; when he was but one I called him, then I blessed him and multiplied him” (Isaiah 51:1-2; From this week’s *Haftarah*). **God’s covenant with the Fathers regarding their descendants and the Land remains.** But the righteousness required of those descendants is still, as with Abraham their father, a righteousness which comes through faith in God and His promised Lamb, whose day Abraham rejoiced to see and was glad! (Romans 4:20-22; Genesis 22:8; John 8:56)

**\*Deut. 9:21.** “Then I took your sin, the calf which you had made, and burned it with fire and crushed it and ground it very small, until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into **the brook that descended from the mountain.**” No mention is made of where the brook comes from in the original account of Exodus 32:20. In the previous chapter 8:15, the LORD is the One who brought forth water for Israel “out of the flinty rock in a thirsty land where there was no water”. I Corinthians 10:4 reveals that “they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Messiah.” Ezekiel 47:1- and Zechariah 14:4,8 speak of a future time when living water will tumble forth out from another mountain, this time the Mountain of the Lord in Jerusalem, bringing healing wherever it flows.

**\*Deut. 9:26-29.** “Thus I prostrated myself before the LORD...I kept prostrating myself, because the LORD had said He would destroy you. Therefore I prayed to the LORD, and said: ‘O Lord YHVH, do not destroy Your people and Your inheritance whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand. Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; do not look on the stubbornness of this people, or on their wickedness or their sin, lest the land from which You brought us should say, “Because YHVH was not able to bring them to the land which He promised them, and because He hated them, He has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness.” Yet they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your mighty power and by Your outstretched arm.’

**\*Deut 10:12-13.** Fear, Walk, Love, Serve, Guard! “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to **fear** the Lord your God, to **walk** in all His ways and to **love** Him, to **serve** the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to **guard** the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”

**\*Deut. 10:16-17, 21a.** *“Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome...He is your praise...”*

**\*Deut. 11:11-12.** *“But the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.”*

## **HAFTARAH**

***“Comfort ye...”***

**AS MENTIONED LAST WEEK, we have entered a seven-week season (Until the Feast of Trumpets) in which the *Haftarah* readings are taken from the prophet Isaiah, and continue to speak words of *comfort* to Zion.** The passages below are only some drawn from this week’s portion which may be used powerfully in praying for Israel to recognize her Comforter—and for the Body of Messiah to walk, as He walked, before her fellows in the land.

**\*Isaiah 49:15-16.** *“Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; Your walls are continually before Me.”*

**\*Isaiah 49:25b-26.** *“For I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children. I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine. All flesh shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.*

**\*Isaiah 50:4.** *“The Lord YHVH has given me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens me morning by morning. He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple.”*

**\*Isaiah 50:6-7.** *“I gave my back to those who strike me, and my cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover my face from humiliation and spitting. For the Lord YHVH helps me, therefore, I am not disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed.”*

**\*Isaiah 51:1-2.** *“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, who seek YHVH: Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain; when he was but one I called him, then I blessed him and multiplied him” (NASB).*

**\*Isaiah 51:3.** *“For YHVH will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places. He will make her desert like Eden, and her arava like the garden of YHVH; Joy and gladness will be found in it, thanksgiving and the voice of melody!”*



*Martin & Norma Sarvis*  
*Jerusalem*

**[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week (28 August—3 September 2016) are called *R'eh*—“See!” TORAH: Deuteronomy 11:26—16:17 ; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 54:11—55:5. Because *Rosh Chodesh* for the Sixth Month *Elul*—falls on Saturday or Sunday September 3/4, some synagogues will end their services with Isaiah 66:1, 23 and/or I Samuel 20:18, 42]**

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