

Prayer Update From Israel (August 25, 2015)



1. SILENCING WORDS ILL SPOKEN.

This week old tapes were leaked to the Israeli press in which former Prime Minister Ehud Barak claimed that at a particular time between 2009 and 2010 when he was Defense Minister under Netanyahu, the administration had drawn up plans to attack Iranian nuclear facilities. According to Barak, both he and Netanyahu were behind the plan—but in the end it was thwarted by the hesitancy of Moshe Ya'alon and Yuval Steinitz, whose influence caused it to be shelved. Ya'alon is currently Israel's Defense Minister, and Steinitz is also in the present cabinet. The Israeli media leapt upon this—next day's headlines trumpeted how Israel's present Minister of Defense “got cold feet” just before Israel was to attack Iran. The next day headlines quoted further remarks of Barak, in which he labeled Netanyahu as “weak”, hesitant to make difficult steps unless forced to, and clouded in a deep pessimism. The tapes were made for use in a biography presently being prepared of the former Prime Minister. He claims he attempted to keep them from being released, but most are skeptical. It has been conjectured that their coming to light right now conveniently diverted eyes away from a *HaAretz* report a few days earlier alleging that Barak was under police investigation regarding unreported capital held overseas. Or perhaps he is calculating yet another return to politics, and thought to aggrandize himself in comparison to his likely opponents. In any event, given the growing threat of Iran, what the Israeli public does not need right now are headlines accusing its Prime Minister of “weakness” and “hesitancy to make difficult steps”, and its Defense Minister of “cold feet” when grim measures become necessary.

We see these attacks against the courage and decisiveness of our leaders as ploys of the Enemy to weaken the courage and resolve of the Israeli people in a time of intensifying crisis—and their confidence in and support for their leaders.

***PLEASE PRAY: the following Scriptures over our Prime Minister and minister of Defense. That they will seek the councils of the Lord (Psalm 33:10-11), and move in integrity and decisiveness at His command. That lying words meant to crush hope, resolve and trust would be silenced.**

2 Samuel 10:12 Be strong, and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and for the cities of our God; and may the Lord do what is good in His sight.”

2 Chronicles 32:7 Be strong and courageous, do not fear or be dismayed because of the king of Assyria nor because of all the horde that is with him; for the one with us is greater than the one with him.

Ezra 10:4 Arise! For *this* matter is your responsibility, but we will be with you; be courageous and act.”

Psalm 27:14 Hope in the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, hope in the Lord.

2. IRAN IS STRENGTHENING.

Yesterday Iran’s defense minister said that Russia will deliver its S-300 advanced missile systems to Iran by the end of the year. The S-300 is a long range surface to air missile, capable of intercepting aircraft and cruise missiles, and, in its advanced form, even ballistic missiles. Although, because of the sanctions then still in place, a similar Russia-Iran deal for this system was thwarted by the international community in 2010, Iran sees a loophole in the recently signed agreement allowing it to protect its “peaceful” nuclear facilities from possible attacks. Of course, the S-300’s are being purchased with Israel primarily in mind (although she would not attack Iran unless she had solid evidence that the peaceful nuclear facilities were no longer peaceful).

Those are surface-to-air missiles. On Saturday, Tehran unveiled a new surface-to-surface missile it claims can strike targets with pin-point accuracy up to 310 miles away. Transfer of such missiles to Syria or Hezbollah Lebanon, which Iran has repeatedly done or attempted with different missiles in the past, would jeopardize all of Israel. The recent Peace Deal restricts any transfer to Iran of ballistic missile technology during the next eight years, without approval of the UN Security Council, which the U.S. has promised to veto. However, on Saturday Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani declared, “*We will buy, sell and develop any weapons we need and we will not ask for permission or abide by any resolution for that.*” And on Friday the commander of the Iranian aerospace division said, “*Some wrongly think Iran has suspended its ballistic missile programs in the last years and has made a deal on its missile program... We will have a new ballistic missile test in the near future that will be a thorn in the eyes of our enemies.*” (1)

Meanwhile, on Thursday northern Israel was struck by a barrage of four rockets. Israel responded forcibly, destroying the cell in Syria which had launched them. The following day Israel submitted a formal diplomatic complaint to the six world powers which negotiated the nuclear agreement with Iran. In the complaint, she claimed to have “credible information” that

the attack was carried out at the orders of a specific Iranian general, “an indiscriminate and premeditated terrorist attack against Israeli territory without any provocation from the Israeli side... a clear indication of how Iran intends to continue to pursue its destabilizing actions and policies as the international sanctions regime is withdrawn in the near future”... “*The international community led by the P5+1 cannot enable Iran to gain respectability and political legitimacy from the [nuclear agreement, which lifts sanctions in exchange for Iran curbing its nuclear program], while in parallel it continues to actively and directly perpetrate terror throughout the region.*” (2)

Acceptance of the Iranian Deal continues to be hotly debated in the US Congress, where a decision must be arrived at next month. As of the end of last week, 26 Senate Democrats have declared their support for the deal and five others are leaning towards supporting it. Unless the direction changes, it will be very difficult for the Senate to find the 67 votes needed to override a veto, which President Obama has promised if the deal is not passed.

1) “Iran unveils new missile with 500 km range: Tehran rejects section of nuclear deal requiring it to receive UNSC approval for any transfer of ballistic missile technology and presents Fateh 313 missile”: ynetnews.com: 22 Aug 1015, 11:46.

2) “Israel blames Iran for Syrian rocket attack in letter to P5+1”: *The Jerusalem Post*, 22 Aug 15 19:52 IST

IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS, WE FEEL TO SUBMIT FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION THE FOLLOWING INSIGHTFUL LETTER WRITTEN BY OUR FRIEND DR. GENE LITTLE TWO WEEKS AGO ON AUGUST 8TH. GENE LISTS A NUMBER OF PRAYER POINTS AT THE END.

Thus says the LORD God: Behold I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armor, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya all of them with shield and helmet. (Ezek 38:3-5)

Dear Friends of Israel:

US President Barack Obama delivered a live address to the American public August 5th, urging

U.S. citizens to support the recently-signed agreement with Iran over its nuclear program and to lobby their members of Congress to vote for it. The vote is tentatively scheduled for September 18th. During this speech President Obama declared that this deal with Iran was the “*strongest non-proliferation agreement ever negotiated.*” He said that the entire world has expressed support for the Iran deal “*with the exception of the Israeli government.*” The President also said that the agreement achieves Washington's long-sought aim of preventing Iran from acquiring

nuclear weapons and another war in the Middle East. On the same day, the US State Department released a travel warning for American citizens to avoid traveling to Iran.

Prime Minister's Netanyahu's Response

Responding to President Obama's speech, Prime Minister Netanyahu reached out to Congress and Jewish Americans declaring: *"I don't oppose this deal because I want war. I oppose this deal because I want to prevent war, and this deal will bring war. It will spark a nuclear arms race in the region and it would feed Iran's terrorism and aggression. That would make war, perhaps the most horrific war of all, far more likely. Don't let the deal's supporters quash a real debate. The issue here is too important. Don't let them take your voice away at this critical moment in history.* (www.israelhayom.com 8/5/15)

Iranian Sales

Barred by sanctions from buying Western airliners since the 1970s, Iran has indicated that it desires first to place an order for 400 new civilian aircraft. Tehran's top aviation official, Ali Reza Jahangirian, who is the head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization announced: *"Iranian airlines will be ready to buy 40 passenger planes every year for 10 years if sanctions are lifted."* (www.reuters.com). The nations/businesses are "eyeing" this vast market, and willing to sacrifice Israel's approval. Billions of dollars of sales from Iran are waiting for Boeing and Airbus.

A Middle Eastern Arms Race

In defiance of the international arms embargo, Iran last week placed an order with Moscow for a huge fleet of 100 Russian IL78 MKI tanker aircraft (NATO: Midas) for refueling its air force in mid-flight, thereby extending its range to 4400 miles. The transaction runs contrary to the terms of the nuclear accord the six world powers and Iran signed in Vienna earlier this month. These tanker planes can simultaneously refuel six to eight warplanes. Their acquisition brings Israel, which is only 720 miles away as well the rest of the Middle East - within easy range of Iranian aerial bombardment. It also puts Iran's air force ahead of Israel's in terms of the quantity and range of its refueling capacity.

Opponents of the Vienna deal have warned that Tehran will spend the billions of dollars released by sanctions relief as a bonanza for fueling its campaigns of terror in the region, it turns out that Iran's first post-agreement purchase is a heavy investment in the rearmament and upgrade of its armed forces' aggressive capabilities.

Chinese-Israeli Fighters Sold to Iran

According to a report in the Taiwanese press, China is set to provide the Islamic Republic with 24 J-10 fighter jets. In exchange, Iran will permit China access to its largest oilfield for the next 20 years. The total estimated value of the deal is \$1 billion. The J-10, or "Vigorous Dragon," as it is called is an advanced combat aircraft based on the original design of the Lavi, the Israeli prototype whose manufacturing was canceled in the 1980s. Israel then sold the plans for the fighter to China. (www.jpost.com 8/6/15)

S-300 Sales

Iran is also being supplied with updated ground to air S300 missiles from Russia. There are multiple variants of the S-300, and there is no guarantee what model Moscow is selling to Tehran. Yet the S-300 can track aerial targets up to 150 miles away. These capabilities could allow Iran to track US and US-allied military flights, as well as Israeli jets and civilian airliners, throughout the Persian Gulf. Iran is also shipping these missiles to Hezbollah in Lebanon. (www.businessinsider.com)

Israel

Israel also finds itself in need of air refueling tankers. Its Air Force has two aging Boeing KC-135's equipped to refuel its aircraft, plus a number of C-130's . (www.UPI.com). These tankers would not be enough to support an all-out attack against Iran. Israel has petitioned the

U.S. for years for new aircraft. The U.S. signed an agreement with Israel in 2013 to provide these aircraft, but none have been delivered to the IAF. Reports have also surfaced that the Obama Administration had threatened to shoot down any Israeli aircraft that were sent to target Iranian nuclear facilities (www.washingtontimes.com 3/1/15)). The Obama administration has denied this, but Israelis are still wondering how much of a friend the U.S. really is.

Last Days

Iran plays a significant role in the End-Times. Ezekiel mentions this nation as Persia, while

Jeremiah names it, Elam. They are both the same. Space here, limits a thorough study of what God is going to do in the "latter days." Let us say, that Iran will join a consortium of nations that "come to take a spoil" of Israel. Iran, then joins up with Gog. Gog forms an alliance with Tubal (modern day Turkey) plus Magog, who Josephus identifies as being the "Northern barbarians" (possible all the Muslim nations ending in "Stan"? (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, etc.) Then Iran links up with Ethiopia or more correctly: the areas south of Egypt: Sudan, plus Libya.

At the last moment it will look like Israel will be wiped out, but God will intervene and Iran and the other nations will suffer a 7-fold judgement from God - a great earthquake, pestilence, bloodshed, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone (Ezekiel 38:19-22). God will not need Israeli airplanes and troops to get this accomplished. In fact, the context of the Scripture implies that this event occurs when Israel is isolated by the nations, as is happening now, and is vulnerable to attack precisely because they are unable to rely on friends and allies. The LORD God says in Jeremiah that "*I will break the bow of Elam and the chief princes of their might*" (Jer. 49:34-39).

Perhaps this is where we are today. God is "setting up" the nations. He is allowing Iran, Turkey, Russia and others to become militarily strong. Sudan is already a haven for Islamic terrorists and their bases. Libya is a "rogue" nation too. It has no government and is exporting captured weapons to terrorists. Israel and its newly discovered oil reserves" has now become the "hook in the jaw," so as to draw these end-time armies.

Prayer

Pray this week for Iran: Pray that any oncoming war against Israel be delayed. Pray that God “pushes the pause button.” There are many souls coming to Christ in Iran. New believers in Jesus that the LORD can use to make a difference. The Leaders of Iran want to destroy Israel. God wants to salvation to come to those who dwell in darkness. Pray for change in leadership. Pray for the “yoke” of Islam to be thrown off. Iran is Shiite, and as such is waiting for the coming of the 12th Mahdi, a false Christ like figure that will be the promised redeemer. His coming will be accompanied by the raising of a Black Standard (black war flag) in [Khurasan](#) (modern day Iran). Shiite Muslims believe that the Mahdi will only come when a fierce war is waging. This belief is driving the nation’s leaders to rage against Zion, and the West.

Pray for the United States: Pray that “all darkness” be revealed that is contained in this Treaty. Pray that Congress examines it and “knows the truth.” Pray that any hidden agreements or promises be revealed.

Pray for Russia: May President Putin turn away from re-arming Iran.

Pray for Israel: Pray for Prime Minister Netanyahu. He is all alone on the world stage. Pray for him to move in a spirit of God directed leadership. Pray that in this hour, he resists the pressures placed upon him, by other nations and their leaders. Treaty or no treaty, Israel is facing a formidable enemy in Iran, an enemy that has vowed to destroy it. Pray Jeremiah 49: 35-38 over Iran. Please pray Ezekiel 39:7 over Israel. The LORD declares *"my holy name I will make known in the midst of my people Israel...and the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel (Ezek. 39:7).*

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 23-29 August 2015 is called *Ki-Tetzeh*—“When You Go Out”:

TORAH: Deuteronomy 21:10—25:19

HAFTARAH: Isaiah 54:1-10

TORAH

***Deuteronomy 21:21, 22:21, 22:22, 22:24; 24:7; 23:14.** *“Thus you shall purge away the evil from among you”.* As mentioned last week, the word for “purge” may also be translated “to burn, kindle or root out”. There are many situations and circumstances dealt with in these passages (some of necessity not making for the most pleasant reading) pointing to the fact that it is of great importance that God’s people be ‘set apart’ and clean—both morally and physically, personally and as a community *“since the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp to deliver you and to defeat your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy; and He must not see anything indecent among you or He will turn away from you.”*

We find Psalm 101 to be especially pertinent in applying this same principle to our hearts and homes today, especially verses 2-4: *“I will be careful to lead a blameless life—when will you come to me? I will walk in my house with blameless heart. I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men I hate; they will not cling to me. Men of perverse heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with evil!* (NIV)

***Deuteronomy 23:5.** *“Nevertheless the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you.”*

***Deuteronomy 23:7.** *“You shall not abhor an Egyptian, because you were an alien in his land.”* **We believe this admonition to be still in effect today. PLEASE PRAY for a love for Egypt among the Body in Israel. Pray for the Body in Egypt to rise up in faith and love and hope...and moving in the miraculous power of the Spirit of God.**

HAFTARAH

***Isaiah 54:2-3.** *“Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left, and your descendants will inherit the nations, and make the desolate cities inhabited.”* **PLEASE PRAY: That Israel will come into that place of righteousness in her Messiah which will allow God to extend her borders to encompass the territory which He has ordained for her, a territory from which she will never be plucked up.**

***Isaiah 54:5.** *“For your Maker is your husband, YHVH of Hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.”* **PLEASE PRAY: For revelation in Israel that God loves him in an intimate way—and has provided a “Redeemer” for him, who is One with the Father... “All things came into being through Him (i.e. Yeshua/Jesus), and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being” (John 1:3).**

***Isaiah 54:7-8.** *“For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,” says the LORD, your Redeemer.”*

***Isaiah 54:10.** “*For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,*’ says the LORD, who has mercy on you.”



***Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem***

[The *Parashah* for next week 30 August—5 September 2015 is called *Ki-Tavoh*—“When You Come Into”. TORAH: Deuteronomy 26:1—29:9: HAFTARAH: Isaiah 60:1-22]

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