

Prayer Update From Israel (August 26, 2013)

20 Elul 5773



Summit of the Mount of Olives upon which the LORD will set His feet when He returns.

(Zechariah 14:4)

“For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord YHVH will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations” (Isaiah 61:11—From this week’s Haftarah). Pray for the “righteousness and praise” which has been sown in Israel to be nurtured, to awaken, and begin to spring forth openly, preparing the way for the return of Our LORD!

1. BESEECHING THE PRINCE OF PEACE IN A SEA OF VIOLENCE

“O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out to you, ‘Violence!’ and You will not save. Why do You show me iniquity, and cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; there is strife, and contention arises. Therefore the law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds” (Habakkuk 1:2-4).

“Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries, for lying witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence (Psalm 27:12).

“Consider the Covenant; For the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence (Psalm 74:20).

“But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands” (Jonah 3:8).

Israel is today surrounded by a sea of violence. Last Monday Islamist militants accosted two mini-vans of Egyptian policemen in the Sinai just south of the Gaza Strip, extricated the twenty-five men and summarily executed them. Earlier in the day 36 Muslim Brotherhood members were suffocated in a government detention center when Egyptian forces fired tear gas into the compound trying to free a prison guard being held hostage. On Sunday, Coptic churches in Minya, Egypt cancelled Sunday services for the first time in 1,600 years because of the violence released against Christians throughout Egypt during the previous week (see last week's Update). In Lebanon on Thursday, al Qaeda-linked Sunni Islamist militants fired four rockets into Israel, evidently in hopes that Israel would respond militarily against the Shi'ite Muslim Hezbollah forces, who have been responsible for such attacks in the past. On Friday the Shi'ites planted two bombs near Sunni mosques in Tripoli to the north, which killed more than 42. Then last Wednesday, a year to the day after American President Obama declared that the use of poisonous gas by Syrian President Assad's troops would be a red-line demanding a strong American response, horrifying pictures began coming out of Syria with reports of hundreds, perhaps over a thousand, men, women and children from the outskirts of Damascus dead with no visible wounds—probably the result of attacks with sarin gas.

This morning American warships have moved nearer to the Syrian coast of the Mediterranean, and there are reports that England is urging the US to join with her in making at least some token attack against Assad's forces in Syria. The American President has been under pressure for the past week to “do something”. If that “something” is anything like a sustained attack on Assad, Iran has warned against this as has Russia, and Assad himself has threatened to turn the Middle East into a Sea of Fire if attacked. His arsenal presently is estimated to contain around 100,000 rockets and missiles, several thousand of which are considered powerful and accurate enough to reach any target in Israel (Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system only brought down one of the four rockets fired at her last week). This week, nervous Israelis began lining up again in Post Offices to secure gas masks.

The possible consequences of some sort of allied assault by the West on Assad's forces are unsettling, completely apart from the very real possibility of a counter-attack aimed at Israel. As one analyst wrote,

“In Syria there is no choice between ‘good’ and ‘bad.’ The Assad regime is bad, but the opposition that is currently in its formative stage is shaping up to be quite bad as well, perhaps even worse from a Western perspective. A coalition of Al-Qaida-affiliated gangs is gaining control of more and more territory in Syria, including some of the country's larger cities. Assad's fall would lead to a situation whereby the West will find itself faced with a threat that is no less scary—a regime led by extremist Sunni militias that will have neither the ability nor the inclination to engage the US and the West—and, by extension, certainly Israel—

in dialogue” (“Despite criticism, Obama's cautious approach on Syria is justified”: JPOST.com, 25 August 2013, 11:15 IST)

We are not mentioning all of these things merely for the purpose of appearing dramatic. It is the reality which is upon us in this part of the world—it is very possible that a week from today things will look quite different.

PLEASE PRAY:

***That He who watches over Israel will be her protection from the gathering storm. Pray that He “*who makes His messengers/angels winds, His servants a flame of fire*” (Ps. 104:4) will guard the winds over Israel, and not allow them to sustain any substance which might be toxic to her people.**

***For God’s guidance sovereign guidance over the actions of western leaders—that no actions will be allowed to be taken outside of the determined purposes of the Lord.**

***For the Prince of Peace to command *Shalom!* over the hearts and spirits of His people. He will keep them in perfect peace whose hearts are stayed on Him.**

*** Jeremiah 9:23-24 . *"Thus says the LORD, 'Let not the wise boast in his wisdom, Let not the mighty boast in his might, nor let the rich boast in his riches; But let him who boasts boast in this, that he has insight and knows Me, Yehovah who does loving kindness, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,' says Yehovah."* Pray that the LORD will give to believers in positions of authority in the Middle East grace to not trust in their own wisdom, but to receive and be activated in His insight (ability to reason) and grounded in their knowledge of Him, Who delights in loving kindness, justice and righteousness in the earth.**

***God’s redemptive purposes over Egypt, Lebanon and Syria. Isaiah 19 gives incredible guidance for understanding and praying into what is currently going on in Egypt. Last week’s *Haftarah* spoke of a ‘glory of Lebanon’ which is destined to one day beautify the place of God’s feet in Jerusalem (Isaiah 60:13). Isaiah 17:1 speaks of Damascus ceasing to be a city. We feel one should be cautious regarding modern-day interpretations of this prophecy attributing the destruction to a nuclear attack at the hands of Israel. Historically, it is almost certainly alluding to Damascus’ destruction at the hands of Assyria in 732 B.C. For one thing, it is less than 40 miles from our border, and such an attack would likely have terrible consequences on Israel itself. What we find important to address in the passage is the close of verse 3, *“And the remnant of Syria will be like the glory of the children of Israel,” declares the LORD of Armies.* Yes, pray against a lethal exchange between the two countries—but pray for the preservation and strengthening in the Spirit of God’s remnant in Damascus and all of Syria.**

***For the youth and young adult Jews and Arabs who attended the conference last week in Haifa, Israel—that the Spirit of Love and of the Fathers’ Heart and of Praise and of Healing and Authority which were released last will shine forth in them throughout Israel and the territories to which they return, releasing a Fire of God’s Holiness and Power in the Middle East which will overtake and quench the fires the enemy has threatened to ignite.**

2. PRAY FOR BELIEVING TIES BETWEEN AFRICA AND ISRAEL!

This week a believing “Africa Leadership Summit” is taking place in Jerusalem. Conveners are here from South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya and other countries. *“The dream is to see a flourishing*

highway of exchange between African cities and Israel in every area of human endeavor and to see a unique, African, biblical pattern of leadership and development of Africa.” We know personally believing Jewish and Arab leaders from Jerusalem who have been invited to address this summit.

Five stated objectives of the Summit:

1. Establish a network of Christian nation builders
2. Establish a highway of exchange and support between Africa and Israel at all levels and in all sectors of society
3. To see Africa bless Israel
4. To see Africa benefit from Israeli technology and Agriculture
5. To promote an increase in partnerships between Israeli farmers and farmers in rural Africa

God is moving in a powerful way in Africa, in fact, an upheaval is taking place. It is essential that as she begins to come into line with her destiny, that a strong and holy relationship with Israel be established. **PLEASE PRAY: Into the stated dream and objectives mentioned above. Pray that a strong bond would be established between believers in Israel and those in Africa. That nations within that continent will begin to come into their place and their redemptive call! Pray for divine insight and wisdom to be released at the conference. For all of those leaders attending to prosper and receive a mantle and anointing to pass on to their peers in the nations, cities and sectors they represent. That as they bless the God of Abraham and his People, they and their countries will likewise prosper!**

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 *Parashah* this week 25-31 August contains a “double reading”:

I. *Nitsavim*—“You are Stationed”

Torah: Deuteronomy 29:10—30:20

II. VaYelech—“And he Went”

Torah: Deuteronomy 31:1-30

Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10—63:9

***Deuteronomy 29:10.** *“All of you stand today before the LORD your God: your leaders and your tribes and your elders and your officers, all the men of Israel, your little ones and your wives—also the stranger who is in your camp, from the one who cuts your wood to the one who draws your water...”* The Hebrew word used here for “stand” is a military term meaning to “be stationed”, “be positioned”. *Elohei Ma’archot Yisrael*—“The God of Israel’s Arraying” (I Samuel 17:45b) has a ‘positioning’ for each of us in the war, whatever our age, our sex, our race, or supposed social status.

***Deuteronomy 29:14.** *“I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone, but with who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, as well as with who is not here with us today...”* God’s word over Israel *for life* (see 30:19!) was not only for those present, but for the generations down through the ages whose seed was present in the bodies of those standing before him and hearing this word. This release of an eternally efficacious word from the Lord was continued beautifully some 2000 years later by Yeshua in His “High Priestly” prayer, John 17:20-21, *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”*

***Deuteronomy 29:18.** *“...that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood.”* This condition came from “following the dictates of the heart” (vs. 19b) and could finally result in being “uprooted” (vs. 28). Hebrews 12:14-15 in the New Covenant seems to have had this verse in mind, *“Pursue peace with all, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled...”*

***Deuteronomy 30:8.** *“And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”* Another translation of this last phrase is, *“for your life’s sake.”* God is a “Life-God” (*Elohim Chaim—El Chai*). We cannot follow the “dictates of the heart” (see 29:19 above) as it is—God desires to cut away what is necessary, not only in our hearts, but in those who will come forth from us—“our descendants” (29:14). Then we will *be able* to “Love the LORD our God with all our hearts and souls that we may live!”

***Deuteronomy 30:9.** *“For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers, if you obey...”*

***Deuteronomy 30:11.** *“For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off...but the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.”* *“Too mysterious”* is the same in the Hebrew as *“Is there anything too wonderful for Me?”* in Jeremiah 32:27. The righteous live by Faith and that which is

impossible becomes possible, “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10).

***Deuteronomy 30:19.** *“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”* God gives the revelation, the grace and power to “choose life”, even before we are capable of loving and obeying and clinging to Him. “Length of your days” is the same as “forever”, the last word of the 23rd Psalm. The desire to dwell in the house of the Lord forever begins with the free choice which He is offering us!

***Deuteronomy 31:7.** *“Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, ‘Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.’ “Be strong and of good courage” (Hebrew: Chazak v’ematz!) will appear again over and over from God Himself in Joshua 1. It is a “command form” of verb...strength and courage are commanded/proclaimed directly into the person.*

***Deuteronomy 31:11.** *“When all Israel comes to appear before the face of YHVH your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this Torah before all Israel in their hearing.” Deuteronomy 31:17-18.* *“Then my anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them...And I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they have done...”* In Hebrew, the word “face” in relation to the LORD is used to signify both His Presence and the glory of His loving attention (or lack of it) shining upon His people. Psalm 27 repeatedly refers to the importance of “seeking His face” when we hear His call (8), that we set our hearts to do so (8b), and a plea that God “Hide not His face” from us (9). Psalm 31:16 links the shining of God’s face on His servant with salvation in His lovingkindness; and three times Psalm 80 declares “Cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved.” **PLEASE PRAY:** for a hatred of darkness and a longing for the light of the face of God in Israel—with a realization that, *“It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them.”* (Psalm 44:3). *“For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light”* (Psalm 36:9). *“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Yeshua the Messiah His Son cleanses us from all sin”* (I John 1:7).

***Isaiah 62:1.** *“For Zion’s sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a flaming torch.”*

***Isaiah 62:6.** *“I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”*

****Isaiah 63:9. “In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Face saved them; In His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them and carried them all the days of old.”***



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Jerusalem***

[The Readings for next week (1-7 September) will include special readings for the Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 5 and 6), besides the *Parashah* for Saturday (7 Sept) called *Ha'azinu*—“Give Ear!”: TORAH: Deuteronomy 32:1-52; Haftarah (*Shabbat Shuvah*): Hosea 14:2-10; Micah 7:18-20; Joel 2:15-27]

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