

## *Prayer Update From Israel (August 7, 2012)*



### **1. RENEWED, RESTORED, AND CATCHING THE WIND OF ITS ORIGINAL DESTINY**

*“Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we will be restored; Renew our days as of old” (Lamentations 5:21).*

*“ ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Ruach (Spirit/Wind),’ says the LORD of Hosts” (Zechariah 4:6b).*

*“I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land...I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit/wind within you...I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes...I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you” (Ezekiel 36:24-29).*

*“Also He said to me, ‘Prophecy to the wind (spirit, ruach), prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind: ‘Come from the four winds, O wind, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’” (Ezekiel 37:9-10).*

It was built in 1857 for the benefit of a tiny community of Jews living for the first time outside the old city walls of Jerusalem. Financed by British philanthropist Sir Moses Montefiore, the windmill provided an income for the operators and served Jerusalem’s

Jews as a convenient local source for having their wheat ground at a substantially cheaper rate than that offered by other mills in the area (“*Back to the Grindstone*”; *In Jerusalem (The Jerusalem Post)*, 07/19/2012). The windmill functioned in its original purpose for a little over two decades. But by 1891 it closed down—partly because there had never been a sufficiently constant wind supply to turn the vanes, but more, due to the introduction into the area of steam-powered mills which made the wind-driven variety obsolete. For the next 121 years—through the closing days of the Ottoman Empire, the 30 years of British rule, followed by over 64 years of a restored Israeli state—the mill stood there, a still and silent, though very noticeable, landmark on the modern Jerusalem landscape. (Well, mostly silent—in early 1948 the British high commissioner ordered it blown up because Jewish *Hagana* forces were thought to be using it as a sniper position. In the event only the top was destroyed and the tower stayed standing.)

Although it has been outwardly renovated a number of times, the windmill has never been genuinely restored outside or in; remaining little more than a stone shell with fake equipped with fake wind-vanes. In recent years a small museum was located in its base. Now all has changed! Around four years ago a group of Dutch believers “Christians for Israel—Holland” proposed the idea of renovating the windmill—genuinely and completely! Funds began to be raised, research was done—the actual order from the original company was discovered in a British library; parts were painstakingly manufactured in the Netherlands overseen by master Millwright Willen Dijkstra, working in cooperation with a Dutch company and a British windmill company. Dijkstra then moved to Jerusalem to oversee the installation. The inside floors were built and all the new inner machinery installed, with new vanes to catch the wind—almost all authentic to the original. (An electric motor was provided for days when there was no wind!) Reportedly, two fifths of the 5 million shekels needed were raised by the Dutch Christians, a fifth each by the Jerusalem Municipality, the Tourism Ministry and the Prime Minister’s office, which recognized it as a “heritage project” (Ibid.). Last week the new ‘cap’ and vanes were hoisted into place, and the restoration was almost complete. The renewed mill is now planned to be dedicated at the end of August, with the Prime Minister in attendance. The sail-cloth will be hoisted, it will sense and catch the wind, and the vanes will begin to rotate. The stones will actually be able to grind grain—in fact there is a plan to actually sell bread to visitors at the site made from grain which will have been ground there.

### **We see a prophetic picture here...**

Israel was raised up to stand as a symbol of life and sustenance in Jerusalem. For a time she fulfilled her call, blessing and nourishing others. Her great leaders were activated in their work by a holy “wind” (Numbers 14:24; II Sam. 23:2; Nehemiah 9:20; Ezekiel 3:12—We remind you that in Hebrew the expressions for both “wind” and “spirit” are the same word—*ruach*). But eventually Israel’s rebellion resulted in her no longer being able to sense God’s wind. The Glory which had been Her Life departed (Ezekiel 10:18), and when the Holy One Himself, upon whom the *Ruach* of the Lord GOD rested (Isaiah 11:2; 61:1), she for the most part missed his coming. Without His Wind, Israel lost her ability to function. Her “vanes” stopped turning; her inner workings fell into decay; and she stood desolate and deserted for centuries. At times, partial restoration has taken place—but for the most part it has been cosmetic; her inner state has remained inoperable. We see the innovation, labor and sacrifice of our Dutch brothers and sisters

on behalf of the windmill as a picture of the intercession of the Gentile Body of Messiah world-wide on behalf of Israel—that she become renewed inside, restored to live and operate in her original destiny—under the power of the wind of the Spirit of her God!

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*That out of the womb of intercession of the Body of Messiah throughout the world, Israel will come to her place of rebirth.**

**\*That a new heart will be formed within her—one which will allow her to operate once again in the purpose of her destiny.**

**\*That Israel will be completely restored—that a Holy Wind will come (Ezekiel 37:9-10) and breathe on her—that she will catch the *Ruach/Wind* and Live and her days be renewed as of old!**

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**2. TAUNTS FROM THE MOUTHPIECE OF THE PRINCE OF PERSIA—AND AN ANSWER FROM THE ONE WHO IS JEALOUS FOR ZION**

*“In my trouble I cried to the LORD, and He answered me. Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue...Too long has my soul had its dwelling with those who hate peace. I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war” (Psalm 120:1-2, 6-7).*

*“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my Life. Of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident” (Psalm 27:1-3).*

*“My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. Make Your face shine upon Your servant; Save me for Your mercies’ sake. Do not let me be ashamed, O LORD, for I have called upon You” (Psalm 31:15-17a).*

In a *Ramadan* speech last week, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad reportedly declared that “Any freedom lover and justice seeker in the world must do its best for the annihilation of the Zionist regime in order to pave the path for the establishment of justice and freedom in the world...It has now been some 400 years that a horrendous Zionist clan has been ruling the major world affairs.” He asserted further that Zionists have been “behind the scenes of the major power circles, in political, media, monetary, and banking organizations in the world”, that “the presidential election hopefuls must go kiss the feet of the Zionists to ensure their victory in the election.” Finding the speech laden with his most anti-Semitic rhetoric to date, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) pointed out how the Iranian president is no longer trying to hide the fact that by “Zionist” he does not just mean “Israelis”, but Jews. Director Abraham Foxman found “more ominous overtones [which] should be taken seriously as the Iranian regime continues on its march toward a nuclear weapon” (“Ahmadinejad’s new call for Israel’s annihilation is his most anti-Semitic assault to date, says ADL”: *The Times of Israel*, 2 Aug, 2012). Israel’s Prime Minister Netanyahu and his Defense Minister Barak, before meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary Panetta last week, gave their opinion that although

sanctions have not been without effect on Iran, neither sanctions nor diplomacy have had any real influence on Iran's nuclear weapons program. Barak said, "We clearly have something to lose by this stretched time [during] which sanctions and diplomacy takes place, because the Iranians are moving forward, not just in enrichment." ("If I were Iranian, I'd be fearful of the next 12 weeks": JPOST.com, 2 Aug 2012). When queried on Israel's Channel 2 last Tuesday evening regarding his trust in America's promise not to allow Iran to gain nuclear capability, Mr Netanyahu's response was that "*the source and foundation of the State of Israel is that we will not leave in the hands of others, not even our best friends, matters concerning our fate*" (Ibid.). At present speculation is quickly becoming not "whether" there will be an Israeli strike on Iranian nuclear sites, but whether those strikes will come before US elections this fall—or wait until the spring.

Meanwhile, with conflict with Iran or Syria or both looming, gas masks are again being distributed in Israeli malls—reports show a huge increase in the number of Israelis procuring them during the past two weeks.

It is interesting that Ahmadinejad's speech calling for the annihilation of "Zionism" and "Zionists" was made as a sort of fore-runner address for *Quds Day* August 17<sup>th</sup> (*Quds* is Arabic for Jerusalem). "*Quds Day*" is an annual event in Iran scheduled each year for the last Friday of Ramadan— "expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people and **opposing Zionism as well as Israel's control of Jerusalem**" (Emphases ours). It was introduced in 1979 by the Ayatollah Khomeini [Wikipedia]. In Zechariah 1:14 *YHVH of Armies* says, "***I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and Zion.***"—He places Jerusalem and Zion *together* as that for which His loving jealousy burns. In 8:2 He says, "***I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I am jealous for her...I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of YHVH of Armies will be called the Holy Mountain.***" As more and more attacks are made separating "Jerusalem" from "Zion" or "Zionism"—let us shore ourselves up with these words of our leader—who loves that name and is Himself the most ardent of Zionists! When Israel's King humbled himself before his God under threat of an Assyrian "annihilation"—the Lord's answer was a song which the Iranian president and his leaders would do well to take to heart:

*She has despised you and mocked you,  
The virgin daughter of Zion;  
She has shaken her head behind you,  
The daughter of Jerusalem!  
Whom have you reproached and blasphemed?  
And against whom have you raised your voice  
And haughtily lifted up your eyes?  
Against the Holy One of Israel!*

#### **PLEASE PRAY:**

\*That Prime Minister Netanyahu would humble himself in the manner of Hezekiah when he faced the taunts and threats of Sennacherib; that he would bring these threats humbly before the LORD (Isaiah 37:1, 4-20).

\*That he would seek out the counsels of God (Is. 37:2). That angels attend his decisions. That nothing will be done in pride or presumption. That the God-Who-puts-Israel-in-

Array” (*Elohei-ma’archot Yisrael*—I Samuel 17:45b) will bring governmental favour and support behind Netanyahu for whatever He is divinely led to do.

\*That any military action necessary for Israel’s defense will be released only in the exact timing of the Lord. That it be surgically effective, with as little loss of life as possible.

\*That Israel be protected from “the terror by night, or the arrow that flies by day, the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that lays waste at noon” (Psalm 91:5-6). That Israelis will be drawn to put their trust and hope in the LORD.

\*That believers in Israel and Iran and Syria come into their ‘positionings’. That they come to be supernaturally networked in the Throneroom with God, able to hear and release His redemptive strategies and purposes for each of their nations.

\*“Now, O LORD our God, deliver us from his hand that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, LORD, are God” (Isaiah 37:20).

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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.



**An olive tree in the Ben Hinnom Valley of Jerusalem.**

*“A land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey . . .”*  
*Deuteronomy 8:8*

The readings for this week 5-11 August are called *Ekev*—“In consequence of” (—the Children of Israel’s heeding God’s Judgements):

**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 mankind 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.”*

\***Deut. 8:7-10.** *“For the LORD 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.”*

**\*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 in 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.**”*

### **AS MENTIONED LAST WEEK**

**We have entered a season (Until the Feast of Trumpets) in which the Haftarah portions 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 Saviour, 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 and Norma Sarvis  
Jerusalem*

**[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 12-18 August will be R’eh—“See” (“–I put before you today a blessing and a curse:”): TORAH: Deuteronomy 11:26—16:17; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 54:11—55:5]**

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