

PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (August 8, 2011)



**“All her persecutors overtook her *bein hametzarim*—between the straits.”
(Lamentations 1:3b)**

**A narrow gorge near Sde Boker in the Negev south of Beer Sheva.
The 9th of Av
(9 August 2011)**

MEGILAT EICHA—SCROLL OF LAMENTATIONS

From sundown Monday evening through Tuesday, many Jews around the world will sober themselves by fasting (Fast of the Fifth Month—Zechariah 8:19) and reading this anguished account of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple which took place on this date in 586 BCE, a holy dwelling from which God’s manifest presence had departed (Ezekiel 10) after having dwelt there since the dedication of King Solomon. The book is actually made up of five “laments”, each related in some way to the 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet—and crafted with consummate poetic skill. It is customary to conclude the reading with a repetition of verse 21, “*Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we will be restored; Renew our days as of old.*” Messianic Jews also take part in this observance, and there will be gatherings around the Israel to pray.

PLEASE PRAY that the Holy Spirit of God would convict and draw hearts to repentance for sin, to hope in the Mercies and Compassions of the LORD, which are “*new every morning...Great is His Faithfulness*” (Lamentations 3:22-23). “*From the strait place I called on the LORD; The LORD answered me and set me in a broad place. The LORD is on my side; I will not fear...*” (Psalm 118:5-6a).

1. ELAV ... “For HIM”

Sunday –Tuesday (August 14-16) the *Elav* (English: “For Him”) Conference will take place in Tel Aviv. It is an annual summer coming together of Israeli youth and young adults for praise, worship, teaching, and intercommunication, sponsored by *Succat Hallel*, a 24/7 praise and intercession ministry based in Jerusalem. Last year some 500 Jewish Messianic and 100 Arab Christian youth and young adults attended, and there were extremely powerful results. There are a number of very important ministries/camps, both for believing Jewish and for believing Arab young people which take place in Israel each summer. This one has a special dynamic, a coming-together of the young from both peoples, including Jewish and Arab worship teams, bands and speakers. A special aspect in recent years has been that Palestinian young people from Judea and Samaria have been granted passage from the contested territories to also be a part.

PLEASE JOIN WITH US IN THE FOLLOWING PRAYER POINTS DRAWN FROM SUGGESTIONS COMPILED BY RICK RIDINGS, DIRECTOR OF SUKKAT HALLEL:

a. Stand against anything that could hinder, interrupt, or interfere with the conference; pray that no war or terrorist attacks will come to Israel prior to or during the conference. [Note: there has been a sharp increase in the rockets being fired into Israel from Gaza during the past week...including one which struck near Ashkelon and another near Kiryat Gat.]

b. Pray for quick release of finances for the conference [These are needed to not only cover the huge cost of the venue, but also to assist many needy youth who cannot afford the reasonable cost of admission.].

c. Pray for fresh oil for each of the speakers and worship leaders. Pray that nothing will be able to hinder them from being prepared spiritually, and that they will be rested and immediately in the flow of what the Holy Spirit is doing. Among the speakers are a leading Jewish Israeli youth pastor; a leader in the Student Outpouring that took at the International House of Prayer in Kansas city; an Arab woman who leads a house of prayer in Nazareth; two worship leaders from Succat Hallel, Jerusalem; an Arab pastor from Bethlehem and Jerusalem; a Jewish believer from Jerusalem with a testimony of forgiveness being a key to her healing from paralysis; an Israeli youth pastor, Rick Ridings, Director, *Succat Hallel*. There will be Israeli Jewish and Arab worship leaders/bands and guest worship leader Eddie James from the US. **Also please pray for the right translator for each speaker.**

d. Pray protection over all the administration and equipment.

e. Pray for a real flow of love and relationship-building between the Jewish, Arab and international youth/young adults attending. A large part (300) of the Jewish and Arab youth will be staying at nights together at a campground. Pray against disciplinary problems, and for the right oversight. Pray the Jewish and Arab youth will reach out to each other, and form friendships.

f. Pray for a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit that would produce life-long change in the lives of all attending, and all watching on GOD TV (Elav will be broadcast live in the

evenings, and day sessions recorded for possible later broadcasts. Pray for amazing times of worship, with all those attending entering in fully.

g. Pray we will have exactly the right people on the ministry teams, and for great anointing on them as they minister.

h. Pray that exactly those of God's own choosing will attend...that no one will be there who would distract others...and that everyone who is called to be there will attend. Pray that we would have at least 1,000 Israeli youth/young adults attend.

i. Pray that the conference and Succat Hallel will remain hidden from those who should not know about it, who might try to harass those attending if they know about it.

j. Please pray protection, anointing, wisdom, and strength for Patti and Rick Ridings as spiritual 'mother and father' for this. Pray for the children and families of all of the leaders taking part.

k. Pray against harassment, confusion, and any kind of relational problems amongst any of the leaders, administrators, or volunteer helpers. Pray for a great unity and love flowing between all of them.

l. Pray that all will go smoothly back in the main *Succat Hallel* worship room in Jerusalem before, during, and after the conference. Pray protection for the whole *Succat Hallel* community, and no backlash from the enemy.

m. Since because of Israeli law, all Israeli youth 18 and under who desire to attend are required to have both parents sign a permission form stating they are aware this is a Messianic/Christian conference and it is OK for their child to attend, PLEASE PRAY for all wanting to attend that their parents will agree to sign the form. Pray for favour with Israeli authorities for those coming from Palestinian areas for whom we need permission (for those coming from Bethlehem, Ramallah, etc.).

n. Please pray as well for protection and anointing as the leadership takes a group of Israeli young adults to pray on the streets of Tel Aviv in the days immediately prior to the conference.

2. "PM WOULD ACCEPT PRE-'67 LINES AS BASELINE FOR TALKS."

With the Palestinian Authority poised to appeal to the UN for recognition of statehood next month, there has been much pressure applied to Israel to contribute to preparation of a document which would serve as a framework for returning to negotiations and making such an appeal at the UN meaningless. This past week the above title or something similar to it appeared as a headline in many papers in Israel and Europe. One had to read the fine print to see that it wasn't quite the whole story. Jerusalem, "while not endorsing the 1967 lines, would agree to language [in such a

document] that would say that Israel recognizes that this is the position of the international community” (emphases ours). According to Israeli officials, Israel would go this far if the Palestinians would show flexibility by showing a willingness to recognize Israel as a Jewish state. There has been no indication that the Palestinians are prepared to consider making such a statement. Were they to, it would have to be very veiled indeed; certainly militant Islam will never concede that any of the land occupied by Israel has a right to be under “Jewish” sovereignty.

Although we do not stand in approval of our Prime Minister’s offer, neither are we convinced that it is a “*major climb-down*”, that he “*has bowed to US pressure by agreeing for the first time that a Palestinian state should roughly follow the contours of the 1967 ceasefire lines separating the West Bank from Israel*” as an on-line *London Telegraph* sub-headline of August 1 had it. Netanyahu has stated unequivocally that Israel will never go back to the ’67 borders, and as of now, we do not see that he has altered his stance on this. Nor do we see that the PA (and certainly not in partnership with Hamas, who rules a large portion of the contested territory) is any nearer to recognizing Israel as a Jewish State. But the pressures are extremely intense upon our Prime Minister to come into alignment with the tenets of President Obama’s recent ’67 Lines speech.

PLEASE PRAY:

***That Israel’s Prime Minister would be influenced by Divine guidance as he must lead Israel through turbulent and dangerous waters; that he would not be entrapped by his own tongue as he seeks to maneuver his government and people forward. That his decisions would be supplied by *integrity* and *uprightness* (Psalm 25:21), and that he would lift up his need and his hope to the LORD.**

***That Israel’s government will be prepared for whatever eventualities the fall may bring. That her governmental and military leadership will be in a place of strength before any outbreak of hostilities, either outside of or within her borders.**

***That God will supply a redemptive pathway for Israel “out of all his troubles” (Psalm 25:22).**

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 reading for this week 7-13 August 2011 is called *V'Et'chanan* ("Pleaded"):

TORAH: Deuteronomy 3:23—7:11

HAFTARAH: Isaiah 40:1-26

TORAH

This week's is a rich and powerful Reading. In addition to the "preparations and warnings for crossing-over and possessing inheritance" (3:27-28; 4:14, 21-22, 26-28; 6:1), it contains the 'Ten Commandments' (5:6-21); the *Shema* "Hear O Israel" (6:4); instructions regarding knowing and memorizing God's Word in the Homes, and other often touchingly earnest counsels and admonitions of Moses to Israel.

***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:** for God to raise up spiritual leaders in the Land—that these be noticed by alert and obedient elders who will *charge, encourage and strengthen* them in the power and direction of their calling—that a new godly generation will love and trust their God, fight the battles necessary and inherit the land.

***Deuteronomy 4:29-31.** *"But from there [i.e. scattered throughout the world] you will seek YHVH your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the last days, when you turn to YHVH your God and obey his voice, (For YHVH your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them."* **PLEASE PRAY:** For awakening of a powerful longing in the hearts of Jews in the nations, a longing after the God of their Fathers—a faith in this word that He will hear when they turn to Him, and a realization that this holy name is combined with Salvation in the name of their Messiah.

***Deuteronomy 4:43.** *"Betzer in the wilderness on the plateau for the Reubenites, Ramoth in Gilead for the Gadites, and Golan in Bashan for the Manassites."* **These are Cities of Refuge in land taken by Israel from the Amorites, running along the eastern side of the Jordan River to Mount Hermon. This was once known as the "Land of the Giants" (Deut. 2:20; 3:13), until the last of them were defeated by Israel before crossing the Jordan into Canaan (3:3-11). The location of the first two lies within land presently claimed by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Came officially into being in 1946), the last is in the Golan Heights taken by Israel from Syria in the 1967 War. Zechariah 10:10 prophesies that someday Jews will return to Gilead and even portions of Lebanon. PLEASE PRAY:** That the Israeli government will honour God's timetable regarding these lands. That they will not despise the land once taken by Moses from Og (the last and greatest of the giants), and returned to His people in these last days. That this strategic land will not be bartered for a false peace with our neighbors. Pray that God's Kingdom come!—that in His timing and

way the LORD of Hosts return the land promised to his Covenant people to the borders He has purposed.

***Deuteronomy 6:4-5.** *“HEAR! [Hebrew: Shma!] ISRAEL; YHVH OUR GOD, YHVH ONE!”* There are other *“Hear, O Israel’s”* in Deuteronomy (4:1, 6:3, 9:1, 20:3, 33:7)—but this one has become the central cry of Jews throughout the world for centuries. It is sung each week in Synagogues (including most Messianic ones). It takes revelation, removal of the ‘veil’, for this people to realize that Yeshua (Jesus) being the Son of God (Proverbs 30:4) as well as Son of Man does not violate this proclamation—it is a deep, eternal truth that *He and His Father are ONE!* (John 10:30). Satan hates this truth being voiced—when Yeshua proclaimed it, the religious Jews present took up stones to kill him. **PLEASE PRAY** for this revelation, and that the voice of the Deceiver be silenced in the ears of the Jewish people.

***Deuteronomy 6:5.** *“You shall love YHVH your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”* Yeshua quoted this verse in the New Covenant, calling it the **First and Greatest commandment** (Matthew 22:37-38). *“All your strength”* is unique in the Hebrew. Rather than one of the usual expressions for “strength”, the word *me’od* is used. Elsewhere in both Biblical and Modern Hebrew this word is an *adverb* meaning “very.” Webster’s describes the adverb “very” this way: “In a high degree; to a great extent; extremely; exceedingly; used as a qualifier before an adjective or another adverb.” Yet here *me’od* or “very” is used *as a Noun!* To love our God with all of our very “*veriness*”—in every way “in a high degree”; “to a great extent”; “extremely”; “exceedingly”.

Only once in the Hebrew Bible is this passage repeated, in reference to the Israelite leader, **King Josiah (II Kings 23:25)**, *“Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Torah of Moses, nor after him did any arise like him.”* “With all our heart” **implies a tender and humble heart.** Significantly, **22:19** reveals that **God heard and responded to Josiah** *“because his heart was tender, and he humbled himself before the LORD when he heard what he had spoken.”*

Might we not pray for the current leader of Israel that he will have a softened heart like Josiah which might be pierced when he reads God’s word? Does he read God’s Word? As mentioned last year, once during an interview on the Larry King show Prime Minister Netanyahu responded to the question, “Are you ever able to really relax?”, with these words,

“You know, yes. And I’ll tell you when. Every Saturday, our Sabbath, we have a day off. It’s a very good idea that this institution was brought into the world. So I have a day off. And every Saturday, I take an hour and a half, and I read from the Bible with my younger boy...I relax then. I draw a lot of spiritual strength. You know, I used to teach him. He is now 15. But in the last couple of years, he teaches me. So, yes, I draw enormous reservoirs of strength and I think that is needed for all leaders, but especially for the leaders of Israel.”

***Deuteronomy 6:6-9.** *“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them (literally, “teach them by memory”) diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts (Hebrew: mazuzot) of your house and on your gates.”*

It is so important to read, learn and memorize God’s word. That is obviously the sense here for placing portions of it about the house as an aid in learning. Every Jewish house has a *mezuzah* on its doorpost. This is a little box with the letter *Shin* on it (Standing for *Shaddai*—Almighty) and bearing within a tiny scroll of parchment or paper with words from this passage Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21. Observant Jews touch the *mezuzah* as they enter or leave the dwelling and then touch their fingers to their lips as a sign of love for the Word. There is certainly nothing in and of itself wrong with this. However, as so often happens with such traditions, for many it has become laden with superstition and legalism. People with no belief whatsoever in the Word or the God who gave it will nevertheless touch a *mezuzah* with the hope of its bringing luck. And there is a distressingly frequent scenario in which a family in anguish over a tragedy taking place within their apartment is told by their rabbi that it is because of this or that small imperfection in the way the *mezuzah* had been mounted; or it hadn’t been cleaned; or the scroll within it hadn’t been ‘blessed’ properly. Such unscriptural, unfeeling legalism crushes the spirit of those religious trying to do right and brings down the fury and contempt of secular Jews, driving them even further away from the God of their Fathers. **PLEASE PRAY**: For Israelis to return to the Word of God; that they will embrace it, and that the Holy Spirit will awaken its life within them. Pray against occult and legalistic deception regarding the Living Word.

HAFTARAH: Isaiah 40 begins, “‘*Comfort, yes, comfort My people!*’ says your God. ‘*Speak comfort to Jerusalem . . .*’” From the Sabbath following the 9th of Av until *Rosh Hashanah* (29 September this year) the readings from the Prophets will be taken from Isaiah, focusing like a balm upon the *Comfort* and *Love* that God has for His people. **PLEASE PRAY** that Israel’s ears will be opened to the Voice of Good News coming from her Father. **Pray that the voice of the bearer of Good News to Zion (Meveseret Tzion) will be released strong and clear from high places around the Holy City!** (Isaiah 40:9 NIV).



*Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem*

**[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 14-20 August will be *Ekev* (“In consequence of”—the Children of Israel heeding God’s Judgements):
TORAH: Deuteronomy 7:12—11:25; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 49:14—51:3.]**

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