

PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (September 12, 2011)



SOUTH AND NORTH

It has been a week of turbulence with Egypt to Israel’s south and Turkey to her north: menacing threats by Turkey’s Prime Minister, which, if carried out, would lead to certain war; a violent assault (technically an ‘act of war’) by Egyptian citizens on the Israeli embassy in Cairo. Suddenly, within two weeks Israel has no ambassador present in either of these countries; one driven out from a state with which she has had a peace treaty for over 30 years, the other dismissed from a nation which for most of Israel’s existence has been deemed her close ally and friend.

Within a stormy chapter of battles both ancient and future also involving nations to the north and south of the “Glorious Land”, like an eye in the midst of the storm stands **Daniel 11:32**: ***“But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...”*** This lies in harmony with portions of **Psalm 27**, which, as mentioned last week, many Jews are reading repeatedly from the beginning of this month through the Feast of Tabernacles, ***“The LORD is my light and my salvation...the strength of my life, Of whom shall I be afraid?...Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident. One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord...Hope in the LORD, BE STRONG! He will make your heart courageous! Wait in Hope for the LORD!”***

1. EGYPT

On Friday evening September 9th after prayers, a large, angry crowd of Egyptian Muslims left their gathering place in Tahrir Square, Cairo. Developing into a mob, they stormed the Israeli Embassy, breaking down the protecting wall and entering the building. 80 Israeli diplomatic staff and their families were evacuated, but nine Israeli security personnel remained. Throughout the night Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, while remaining in constant communication with the besieged both by phone line and security cameras, attempted to contact the head of the Egyptian governing “Supreme Military Council” to stop the mob—but to no avail. Finally, he contacted the U.S. Secretary of Defense and eventually U.S. President Obama himself, who called Egypt

directly demanding the Egyptian army intervene. As the lynch mob closed in, the chief security officer in the embassy made a personal request of Prime Minister Netanyahu, that, should the worst prevail and he lose his life, his parents would be informed personally and not by telephone. Netanyahu responded, “You are an exceptional human being, and those with you are wonderful. We will do everything to get you out safely.” With the coercion of the U.S., the Egyptian military finally intervened. They arrived on the scene disguised as rioters, made their way up to the besieged Israelis, where, after clothing them as Arabs, they smuggled them down innumerable stairs to armored vehicles which transported them to the airport.

“Do not deliver me to the souls of my adversary, for there have arisen against me testifiers of lies, those who breathe out cruel violence (Hebrew: hamas).

Flames of “cruel violence” against anything Israeli have been fanned by an Egyptian press weaving webs of lies regarding the deadly attack by terrorists in southern Israel last month. Eight Israelis (including six civilians) were murdered and more than 30 wounded. In the firefights which ensued between Israelis and the terrorists several Egyptian soldiers were caught in the crossfire and killed. Last week’s highly circulated *Al-Ahram*, last week ran an editorial accusing Israel of “premeditated” assault on Egyptian soldiers. “The people, which never accepted the peace with [Israel]...will not be dragged into providing Israel with free excuses to be used against Egypt. What is certain is that Israel has opened the gates of hell for itself with its own hands.” *Al-Dustour* daily, shortly after the attack, wrote, “We cannot rule out that the attack in Eilat was carried out by Israel...” (“Egypt’s press blames Israel for Eilat terror attack”: Kessler, Oren, *The Jerusalem Post*, “jpost.com”, September 10, 2011, 10:39 IST).

Egypt has quickly sought to distance itself from Friday night’s attack on the embassy; even the Muslim Brotherhood, the country’s largest Islamic organization, has officially criticized the attack. With the nation still on many fronts in chaos, and a growing hostility between activists and the present military government, there is little doubt that for the time being Israel is by no means the main focus of either. But if a nation cannot or will not protect the embassy and staff of another nation, there are no diplomatic relations. PM Netanyahu has made it clear that he wishes to return the ambassador and staff to Cairo as soon as possible. But today there are reports of many calls to follow the example of visiting Turkish PM Erdogan, and officially expel Israel’s ambassador. Israel’s treaty with its southern neighbor presently faces the greatest jeopardy of its 32 year existence.

PLEASE PRAY:

***Against anarchy engulfing Egypt—for favor for those voices in the current military government which truly desire to retain peaceful relations with Israel.**

***Against the “spirit breathing out cruel violence” against Israel which has captured the imagination of many Egyptians. We have been told that much of this hatred has its roots in the horrors experienced when Egypt came against Israel in war (1948, ’56, ’67, ’73). Pray for a path to open for Egyptians to be healed and restored from this trauma and bitterness which continues to be passed on.**

***For the true Church, the Body of Messiah in Egypt. We have spoken personally with those who are involved in massive congregations of believers there—and with others who are raising up houses of prayer. We hear reports of a supernatural love for Israel growing amongst believers in Egypt. Pray for courage, new revelation, supernatural signs and wonders in the name of the Holy One. For vision and prophetic words of encouragement and strategic guidance. Pray for the Spirit to be poured out in evangelism, that many come into the Faith and be nurtured in Truth.**

***That bonds which have begun to be made between Messianic Jewish believers in Israel and Christian Egyptians will be strengthened.**

***Deuteronomy 23:7. “You shall not abhor an Egyptian, because you were an alien in his land.” (From last week’s Torah Portion)...that Jewish believers will take these words to heart, and not allow a root of bitterness towards Egypt as a nation to enter in, even should that nation become more alienated and hostile towards Israel.**

***Guidance for Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Israeli government in seeking to maintain peaceful relations with Egypt. Pray that diplomatic relations be restored and that the treaty holds.**

2. TURKEY

Relations between Israel and its erstwhile ally Turkey have been deteriorating since the ascension of the Islamist Recep Tayyip Erdogan into the Prime-Ministers’ office in 2003. The deterioration accelerated markedly after the Israeli “Cast Lead” response to persistent rocket fire from Gaza in January 2009, and took a decidedly threatening turn after May of last year when Israeli security forces were brutally attacked while boarding a Turkish vessel seeking to break a blockade of Gaza. As a last resort, the Israelis responded with live fire, resulting in the deaths of eight Turkish and one Turkish-American citizens. In recent months Erdogan has demanded that Israel apologize for the incident, pay reparations and dismantle the blockade. Israel, while expressing “regret” for the loss of life, refuses to apologize, maintaining that her forces arrived on board armed only with paint-ball cartridges, and resorted to lethal weapons only in self defense. Two weeks ago the long-awaited U.N. “Palmer” report was leaked and published by the New York Times. Although criticizing Israel’s use of force, the report did characterize her blockade of Gaza as “legal” including her right to stop the Turkish vessel. It further labeled the attempted by the Turkish-based and financed flotilla to break the blockade as a “reckless” act.

This has infuriated PM Erdogan, who responded by expelling Israel’s Ambassador, suspending all military agreements between the two countries and implementing a number of other sanctions. He has vowed to take the matter of the blockade to the International Court of Justice and has threatened to visit Gaza himself. Erdogan vowed to boost Turkish military presence in the eastern Mediterranean. Then, most alarming, last week on the pan-Arab *Al Jazeera* network, he appeared to *threaten to send Turkish military vessels to escort future ships seeking to break*

the Gaza blockade. Of course, such a confrontation could plunge the whole mid-East into war. Erdogan later backtracked, claiming his words had been miss-translated.

Yet tensions remain high; no one knows what this man may do. Although Egypt has long considered itself the leading voice in the Arab world, non-Arab Turkey has been steadily gaining, both economically and diplomatically in influence. Erdogan is currently paying a visit to Egypt where he is slated to sign strategic cooperation agreements with Cairo.

And the JEWS in Turkey?

Wednesday MK Danny Danon, chairman of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption committee, said that many of the 20,000 Jews living in Turkey are considering moving to Israel. He requested that the Jewish Agency and Foreign and Immigration ministries begin laying groundwork for a “massive *aliyah* (Jewish immigration to Israel). Danon said although there is as of yet no obvious pronounced danger, “Turkey is working to harm Israel, and we have to be prepared for a further deterioration in relations that can be negative for Turkish Jews” (“Be Prepared for Mass Aliyah of Turkish Jews”: Ben Gedalyahu, Tsvi; *Arutz Sheva: Daily Israel Report*: 7 Sept 2011 9:21a.m.).

Meshech, Tubal, Togarmah

As mentioned in previous Updates, we believe that Turkey’s welcoming of Jews into the Anatolia peninsula after they had been kicked out of Spain in 1492 released a redemptive blessing in that land which has continued down to our own time. But should she continue in her present course, she courts great danger. A credible map of ancient Anatolia will have the names of three ancient people spread across its center—*Meshech, Tubal* and *Togarmah*. While there is an almost completely different race and people group occupying that territory today—we would suggest that the spirits which operated in the ancient inhabitants still remain. All three of these appear in the 38th chapter of Ezekiel (vss 2, 3, 6) alongside another figure *Gog* as a great alliance formed specifically to come against God’s covenant land in the end times. In our opinion this does NOT in any way doom the inhabitants of that great land, which God loves. (Remember, most of the early missionary trips of the early Church and all of the churches mentioned in Revelation 2-3 were in that region.) We are aware of a number of houses of prayer which have been established in Turkey during the past two years...and there are many Believers working in the land amongst Turks, Kurds and Armenians.

PLEASE PRAY:

***For the Believing community in Turkey to grow and be strengthened.**

***Anointing for discernment and strategic intercession amongst the Body there.**

***That as darkness gathers, more holy houses of prayer and worship will be established as points of light throughout that land.**

***For Truth to cut through the lies about Israel with which the Turkish media has saturated its citizens.**

***That the “wells” of God’s Presence which watered the 7 Churches in Asia (i.e. present-day Turkey) be re-opened in these last days...that Turkish and Kurdish Believers will come to the Lord, and have revelation and understanding about Israel.**

***That relations between Israel and Turkey will be restored...wisdom for Prime Minister Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Lieberman to move in wisdom, integrity, watchfulness and uprightness.**

3. PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY THE REQUESTS OF LAST WEEK’S “UPDATE” REGARDING THE OPENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS NEXT WEEK AND THE EXPECTED PALESTINIAN DEMAND FOR RECOGNITION AS A STATE. THE OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH LEADERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD PRESENT HAS BEEN SET FOR SEPTEMBER 21; THE PALESTINIANS HAVE STATED THAT THEY PLAN TO MAKE THEIR MOVE A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER. THIS WEEK OTHER COUNTRIES APPEAR TO BE DRAWING BACK FROM RECOGNITION. PRAY FOR NATIONS WHICH ARE STILL IN THE BALANCE TO CHOOSE THAT WHICH WILL BRING BLESSING RATHER THAN A CURSE ON THEIR LANDS.

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 11-17 September is called *Ki-Tavo*—When you Come (...into the Land).

TORAH: Deuteronomy 26:1—29:9

HAFTARAH: Isaiah 60:1-22

In this week's Torah Portion, Israel is given further instructions to those of Deuteronomy 11:29-32. Upon entering the land, she must travel to the two mountains outside Shechem (where God appeared to and spoke with Abram when first he entered Canaan—Genesis 12:7), and verbalize what actions will bring Israel blessing in the Land—and those which will result in curses. Curses for specific sins are listed in 27:14-26. Then come the promises of blessings for obedience to God's commandments in 28:1-15. The curses for disobedience begin in 28:15 and continue through verse 68. This is one of the most terrifying passages in the Bible; by choosing to be outside of God's protection, one opens one's self to horrors—***“Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies...”*** (vs. 47). Tragically, much of the history of Israel may be traced in her choosing to walk out from beneath the “joy and gladness and abundance” offered her, eventually turning down the epitome of these in the rejection of her Messiah, and wandering for centuries in the nations. Yet there is an “everlasting love” which has watched over even the centuries of her wanderings, continuing to “draw her in lovingkindness”, even as she labored under a curse. We believe that those years are coming to an end. **This week's haftarah from Isaiah 60 heralds her awakening!**

Deuteronomy 27:15-26.** *“And all the people shall answer and say, ‘AMEN!’* Twelve times the people are called to say this word. Yet, its meaning is much deeper than a mere ‘period’ at the end of a prayer. In Hebrew “amen” is made up of three letters. These form the root for the Hebrew words for *faith, faithfulness, belief, and to believe*. To say “Amen!” means, ***“I have faith in this”; “I believe this to be true” (*Emet*, the word for “truth” itself is etymologically related to this root). Believing God's pronouncements regarding the sins listed in these verses, and affirming them to be true would bring life to those who obediently spoke them out. *“For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”* (Romans 10:10).



***Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem***

[The readings for next week September 18-24 are a Double Reading: *Nitsavim* “You Stand” (..today before the LORD your God) : TORAH: Deuteronomy 29:10—30:20; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 61:10—63:9; and, *VaYelech* “[Moses] Went” (..and spoke these words to all Israel): TORAH: Deuteronomy 31:1-30; HAFTARAH: Hosea 14:1-9; Joel 2:11-27; Micah 7:18-20]

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