

PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (September 20, 2011)



CHOOSE LIFE!

BE AT YOUR STATION!

“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 [i.e. Israel, descendants of Jacob] may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them”

(Deuteronomy 30:19-20—closing the first portion of *this week’s* Torah reading.).

“You are stationed here 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...” (Deuteronomy 29:10—First verse of this week’s Torah Portion. “Nitsavim”, the title of this reading, is a military term (today as in ancient times) meaning to “be stationed”, to “be positioned.”).

If events continue on what appears to be their present course, the end of this week will find representatives of nations facing a choice, the results of which we believe could indeed mean “life or death, blessing or cursing” for the prosperity of their citizens and lands both now and for generations to come. Friday PA President Abbas plans to present to the Security Council at the UN a request that Palestine be granted recognition as a new member state of the United Nations with borders along the ’67 lines and with Jerusalem as its capital. Voting to accept this (the vote itself would likely take place a few weeks later) would essentially be countenancing placement of a permanent Muslim sovereignty over all of Judea and Samaria, all of Hamas-held Gaza, and over vast portions of Jerusalem, including the Old City (with the Temple Mount) and the Mount of Olives. The Security Council consists of five permanent members—the US, China, France,

the UK and Russia (each of which is endowed with a power to veto), and ten non-permanent members, elected for two-year terms. Only the Security Council can grant full membership of a newly-declared state to the General Assembly. As of this writing five nations on the SC have indicated a willingness to vote for Palestinian membership—Lebanon, Russia, China, Brazil, South Africa and India. Of the other nine members France, Britain, Germany, Bosnia, Portugal, Gabon, Columbia, Nigeria and the US, only the US has firmly stated it is against granting membership; the US has further indicated that if pressed with a majority vote in favour of statehood, it will exercise its veto power—a move it dearly desires it will not be forced to make. It was during the past week that President Abbas made a decision to first bypass calling for a vote in the General Assembly (which does not have power to grant full citizenship) and to go straight to the Security Council. Presently the so-called “Quartet” has been working furiously on a last-ditch effort to come up with a proposal for restarting some sort of negotiations which persuade Abbas to at least postpone his present plan.

In the meantime, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is flying to New York to first confer with President Obama on Wednesday, then to address the General Assembly on Friday. His stated purposes for making this trip, 1. To use all his influence to make sure that the Palestinian move to circumvent negotiations does not succeed, and 2. “To present the truth, which is that we [i.e. Israelis] are not foreigners and we have rights going back 4,000 years.”

This past week has seen groups of believers from around the world gathering in New York to take part in strategic intercession, moving about the area of the UN, conferring those who may have influence, watching, praying. A rally is planned for Wednesday, standing against the unilateral statehood request, and also against the racist “Durban III” conference also set to open this weekend.

We find it remarkable that the same week as so momentous a choice appears to be rising into place before the nations, from the week’s *Parashah* rings out the solemn call, warning and encouragement of Deuteronomy 30:19-20, “*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...*”

PLEASE PRAY:

***That President Abbas’ plans to demand Palestinian statehood at the UN this Friday will be called off—but not at the expense of unrighteous concessions being forced on Israel.**

***That if the matter is to be brought to a vote in the Security Council, a majority of countries will vote against recognition. Pray that some of those which have already indicated they will vote for statehood, will reconsider.**

***For Prime Minister Netanyahu’s meeting with President Obama and for his speech on Friday...that he receive divine guidance of thought, comprehension and words. Pray Deuteronomy 31:7 from this week’s Torah Portion, that he be “strong and courageous”...and that the fear of the God of his fathers will rest on him. Pray mercy over President Obama that he will also sense the fear of the Lord...that he will honour the**

Prime Minister of Israel and not seek to coerce him. Pray courage to follow through with his promise to veto if the circumstance warranting it should arise.

***God’s watch and protection over Israel. Guidance for authorities in Israel in guarding her borders and quelling any violent disturbances the enemy is planning in relation to the happenings at the UN.**

***Pray against hatred and violence over those Palestinian Arabs whom God is calling to rise up out of the darkness which for the most part rules that people. Pray for the Palestinian Arab young people who were touched by the Holy Spirit at the recent *Elav* conference...that they will be led in truth in the God who has a way of hope and a future planned for them and their families.**

***For the believers which God has placed in strategic positionings around the UN this week. Pray for their protection, and for the Holy Spirit to release on them words and declarations which it is God’s will to release into this situation, “On Earth as it is in Heaven!”**

PRAY FOR BELIEVERS ALL OVER THE WORLD WHOM GOD HAS CALLED TO INTERCEDE OVER ISRAEL DURING THIS SEASON TO “BE AT THEIR STATIONS”—“STANDING IN THEIR POSITIONINGS ON THE WALL” (See Torah section below, Deuteronomy 29:10; also Habakkuk 2:1 where a form of the same word is used for setting oneself in ones positioning on the rampart).

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 18-24 September is a “Double Reading”: *Nitsavim* “Stationed” and *VaYelech*—“Went”:

***Nitsavim*:**

TORAH: Deuteronomy 29:10—30:20

HAFTARAH: Isaiah 61:10—63:9

VaYelech:

TORAH: Deuteronomy 31:1-30

Haftarah: Hosea 14:1-9; Joel 2:11-27; Micah 7:18-20

***Deuteronomy 29:10.** *“All of you stand here 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 (today as in ancient times) meaning to “be stationed”, “be positioned”. *Elohei Ma’archot Yisrael*—“The God who Arrays Israel’s Armies” (I Samuel 17:45b) has a ‘positioning’ for each of us (We are all in the war.)...whatever our age, our sex, our race, our 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 those generations down through the ages whose seed was 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). It 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...and God desires to cut away what needs cutting away, not only in our hearts, but (as in 29:14 above) in those who will come forth from us—“our descendants”, so we will *be able* to “Love the LORD our God with all our hearts and souls—so that we will be able to “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 the impossible becomes possible, “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10).

***Deuteronomy 30:19-20.** *“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 spoken...commanded directly into the person.*

AS ISRAEL APPROACHES THE “DAYS OF AWE” (*The Feast of Trumpets through the Day of Atonement*), THESE HAFTARAH PORTIONS FOCUS ON THE NEED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS TO BE IGNITED IN JERUSALEM AND THROUGHOUT ISRAEL, AND THE NECESSITY OF ISRAEL REALIZING THE MERCY OF THE LORD AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO WILL HUMBLE THEIR HEARTS AND SEEK HIS CLEANSING.

***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 til 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.”*

***Hosea 14:1-2.** *“O Israel, return to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity; Take words with you, and return to the LORD. Say to Him, ‘Take away all iniquity; Receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.’”*

***Joel 2:12-13.** *“ ‘Now, therefore,’ says the LORD, ‘Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.’ So rend your heart, and not your garments;*

Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.”

***Joel 2:18.** *“Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, and pity His people.”*

***Micah 7:18-20.** *“Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in lovingkindness. He will again have compassion on us and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham, which You have sworn to our fathers from days of old.”*



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[The readings for next week (October 1) are called *Ha'azinu*: TORAH: Deuteronomy 32:1-52; HAFTARAH: II Samuel 22:1-51. **THE HIGH HOLY DAYS BEGIN THIS WEEK.** *Yom T'ruah* (“Feast of Trumpets”/*Rosh HaShana*) is Thursday Sept. 29th (beginning at sundown the previous evening). There are readings for both two days, Sept. 29-30. *Day One* (Sept. 29): TORAH: Genesis 21:1-34; Numbers 29:1-6; HAFTARAH: I Samuel 1:1—2:10; ROSH CHODESH *Tishrei*: Numbers 28:1-15. *Day Two* (Sept. 30): TORAH: Genesis 22:1-24; Numbers 29:1-6; HAFTARAH: Jeremiah 31:1-20.]

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