

## ISRAEL PRAYER UPDATE

*Glory of Zion International Ministries*



### **PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (April 17, 2018)**



*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheynu Melech ha'olam, shay-hekheyanu  
v'keeye'manu v'higi'anu la'zman ha'zeh!*

“Blessed are you, O LORD our God, King of the Universe, who has granted us life and sustenance and brought us to arrive at this particular time!”

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**This Wednesday at sundown Israel begins  
celebration of her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday!**

After 24-hours of solemn memorial for those who have fallen in our wars and as victims to terror, the nation will turn out for 70 hours of celebration at having

reached this milestone in our history. There will be prayers of joy at the Western Wall, speeches, dances, parties on the beaches, innumerable picnics, overflights by the Israeli air-force—and what is billed to be the largest fireworks display in the nation's 70-year history. You may taste a tiny bit of the spirit of the occasion by watching the video below:



12,000 people forming one hopeful choir. Koolulam's cover of "Al Kol Eleh"

In it, some 12,000 Israelis (with our President Reuven Rivlin joining in!) hold forth in a special performance of a song by revered Israeli poet and composer Naomi Shemer, *Al Kol Elei*—"For All of These": *"Over the honey and the sting/Over the sweet and the bitter/And over our baby girl/Please guard my good Lord/Over the burning fire/Over the crystal clear water/And over the man who is coming home from afar/Over all these things/Please stand guard for me, my good God...Don't uproot a sapling/ Don't forget the hope..."* The song ends with an ancient prayer (which doesn't quite come through in the translation provided in the YouTube): *Hashiveini v'Ashuva...el haAretz hatova*—"**Restore me and I will return...to the Land of Goodness!**"

**Please pray for Israel as she turns 70—For grace for our nation to be restored in spirit during this 70<sup>th</sup> year ...that we will return to the God of our Fathers, to experience the goodness of the LORD in the land of the**

**living** (Hosea 6:1; Psalm 81:19; Psalm 27:13).

We have reprinted below an article on this holy season which was included in our Update of January 15<sup>th</sup>. May Our Lord grant us grace, life, hope and renewal as Israel enters the gateway of her 70<sup>th</sup> year...

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***Shalom! We have moved into a very special year in our land.*** This spring Israel will celebrate her 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary! On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1948, a miracle occurred! The Hebrew people, who had for centuries been scattered throughout the world, were now, as foretold by their prophets, gathered back into their ancient land of promise. Their language had been restored. And on that afternoon in a hall in Tel Aviv, David Ben Gurion read in Hebrew the “Scroll of the Establishment of a State”—(“Declaration of Independence”), which included these words, “ [We do] HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL.” That evening at midnight, after over 2500 years, a nation under the sovereignty of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob once more came into being!

In the year 1948, May 14<sup>th</sup> fell on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month in the Hebrew calendar, the month of *Iyar*. Since then, “Independence Day,” as with other festivals in Israel, has always been celebrated according to the Hebrew Calendar rather than the Gregorian. This means that this year the 4<sup>th</sup> of *Iyar* falls on **April 19<sup>th</sup>**, which is when the primary celebrations will take place. But there will certainly be others as well on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May! ***In fact, there is a sense here that because it is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this entire year has something incredibly important about it!*** This anticipation is not only in Israel! This year Israel is expecting more tourists from the nations than ever before. Already, many hotels are finding themselves overbooked throughout the year!

***Why is this 70<sup>th</sup> year so important? Why do so many people sense there to be something very significant about the number “70”?*** We certainly

cannot explain all the reasons! But we would point out that the numbers “7” and “70” turn up at very significant times in the Hebrew Bible. Often, the number “7” in Scripture appears to signify “completion” or “fulfillment”. And 70? It is recorded in the Book of Genesis (46:27) that the number of sons of the house of Jacob (Israel) who came down to Egypt in the days of Joseph was seventy. (Four-hundred years later, they would depart a mighty nation.) In the early days after the Exodus, God met with “70 elders of the people” (Exodus 24:9). Is “70” a number related to beginnings and leadership which will expand? In the Book of Daniel (Chapter 9:24), there is a mysterious prophecy of “seventy weeks” for the Hebrew people and Jerusalem, which is related to *“finishing transgression, making an end of sin, making atonement and bringing in righteousness.”* In 605 BC, Daniel was among the captives of the southern kingdom of Judah when they were exiled to Babylon. **70 years later, they were released from captivity** and allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their Temple. Might the completion of this first 70 years of modern Israel signal a time for release, of a new freedom in the area of worship?

The last paragraph of Israel’s Declaration of Independence, signed 70 years ago this year, begins this way, **“Placing our trust in the Rock of Israel, we affix our signatures to this proclamation...”** This concept of Israel trusting in God as her *Rock* is very ancient. In the Book of Deuteronomy (Chapter 32), she was given a song in which over six times God is referred to as her “Rock”—her source of strength, anointing, salvation and protection. In many of the Psalms (18:2, 31, 47: 19:15) King David declares the LORD to be his Rock—his Deliverer, and Redeemer. As Israel wandered in the desert before entering Canaan, the LORD provided water for His people out of a rock (Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:8). In the New Covenant Scriptures, Rav Sha’ul (Paul), a First Century Messianic Jewish teacher, reveals that the Children of Israel had actually been strengthened during their wanderings in the desert by a *spiritual rock* which followed them—and that rock was their Messiah! (I Corinthians 10:4).

This brings me to a wonderful thing which has occurred during these first seventy years of our nation. Many, many Jews in Israel are awakening to the identity of their Messiah. Today there are tens of thousands of Messianic Jews living in Israel. (A Messianic Jew is one who has come to believe

that *Yeshua*/Jesus is the Jewish Messiah and Savior.) Today, moving in the authority of their Messiah, Jews are rising into areas of influence within Israeli society—government, military, education, the arts. And in the schools, believing Israeli children are learning to pray for each other, and to share their faith with their schoolmates.

***One thing more about “70”!*** In Hebrew there is a numbering system made up of Hebrew letters. The letter signifying “70” is ***ayin***. Besides the number 70, *ayin* is also the Hebrew word for “eye”. As we move through this “*ayin*” year, may the “eyes” of many Israelis be opened to recognize and trust in their Messiah, *Yeshua*—the true Rock of Israel, mentioned in their Declaration of Independence seventy years ago this year!

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## **2. PRAY FOR ANDREW BRUNSON.**

*“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich)...Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested...” (Revelation 2:8-10)*

*“For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; from heaven the LORD viewed the earth, to hear the groaning of the prisoner, to release those appointed to death, to declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and His praise in Jerusalem, when the peoples are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD” (Psalm 102:19-21).*

***Exactly one year ago on 18 April 2017***, we focused our Prayer Update on Andrew Brunson, the pastor in Izmir (ancient Smyrna), who has worked for more than 23 years as a missionary in Turkey, and who has been placed in prison for his faith



under the false accusations of being a conspirator in the coup which attempted to bring down Islamic strongman Recep Erdogan in 2016.

A year later, Andrew continues to languish in prison, even though many (including President Donald Trump) have sought his release. ***This past Monday, he went to trial on charges which could result in 35 years in prison.*** Besides the charges related to the coup, he is also accused of spreading the gospel in a predominantly Muslim country, an activity which appears to be being now viewed by the Islamist government as terrorism. After appearing on the stand on Monday, Pastor Andrew was placed in a different prison than that in which he has been held—in fact, he is now reportedly in a cell for eight persons, which contains 22. The trial will continue on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Thousands around the world are praying on his behalf. The Trump administration says it is continuing to fight for his release. On Monday Christians gathered outside the White House gates to protest his incarceration and to pray for his release.

**PLEASE PRAY:**

\* **That Pastor Andrew be strengthened and sustained in spirit and body by the presence of His Lord Jesus**—the One sent to set captives free—until his release; and that that release may come soon. *“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house”* (Isaiah 42:6-7).

\* **That the God whose throne is righteousness and justice (Psalm 89:14) will release confusion into the testimonies of those who are bringing false testimony against Andrew.**

**\* In the name of Jesus/Yeshua and in the protection of His blood against any witchcraft which is set against Pastor Andrew. There is much active occult activity within the Islamic religion in Turkey.**

**\* That Andrew's plight will continue to be brought before the American President,** and that he will receive God's counsel in bringing pressure against the Turkish government on Andrew's behalf.

**\* That Pastor Andrew's wife, Norine, be strengthened and sustained,** and given wisdom and words from God with which to encourage and strengthen her husband during the times she is allowed limited access to visit him.

**\* That Pastor Andrew be protected from depression and despair.** Remember the 'wearing down' which occurred even to John the Baptizer (Matthew 11:2-3), who had announced the coming of the "Lamb of God who carries away the sin of the world!" That, as with Peter (Acts 12) and Paul and Silas (Acts 16), he would be granted Angel visitations and heavenly songs in the midst of the darkness.

**\* For physical and mental protection in his cell from physical violence and demonic assault.** *“Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies. Do not deliver me to the souls of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence. What would have been my plight—unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait in Hope on the LORD, Be Strong--and He will infuse courage into your heart, Wait, I say, on the LORD” (Psalm 27 11-14).*

**\* That the Church and Prayer Room in Izmir over which Andrew is Pastor will be strengthened and unified in a deep way during this experience.** That they—and all of us—will receive unction and insight from the Holy Spirit as to how to intercede on Andrew's behalf.

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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. The Haftarah, unless otherwise noted, will be that read in Ashkenazy synagogues around the world. The references for all texts are those found in English translations of the Scriptures.*

(NOTE: Because of the extra day of Passover Week observed outside of Israel, the present readings will be one week behind those read in Jerusalem for each week until that of 12 May.)

The readings for this week 15-21 April 2018 again contain a “double reading”:

I. *Thazria*—“Quicken with Seed”

TORAH: Leviticus 12:1—13:59

\* HAFTARAH: II Kings 4:42—5:19

II. *Metzora*—“Skin Disease, Leprosy”

TORAH: Leviticus 14:1—15:33

HAFTARAH: II Kings 7:3-20

\* On weeks in which a “double reading” occurs, only the *haftarah* of the second reading is generally used.

***After last week's focus on the importance of Israel's being 'set apart', of her distinguishing between the holy and unholy, the unclean and clean (Lev. 10:10)—this week's portion continues in instruction of how this was to be worked out in everyday life.*** There needed to be purification and atonement made for a mother when bringing forth children; there must be measures of isolation and testing taken for outbreaks of surface diseases or blights (both on physical bodies and on dwellings), and for contaminating discharges from the body. And there was the way prescribed for restoration once healing had occurred.

***When Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus) came to be born in a stable, his mother Miriam (Mary) submitted to these same instructions for purification*** (Luke 2:22), and when it was time for the sacrifice, she and Joseph could only afford the humble offering mentioned here (Lev 12:8; Luke 2:24). Yeshua's coming was to "undo the works of the devil" manifest in all of these diseases, to bring atonement, redemption healing and cleansing. It is very significant that among his healing miracles, special mention is made of those involving lepers and a woman with an 'issue of blood'. ***PLEASE PRAY: as those in synagogues this coming weekend hear these words which so graphically picture the presence and result of sin in our midst and man's need for healing and being pronounced clean—that the Holy Spirit will convict of sin and righteousness and judgment, and draw Jews to seek cleansing through the One who washes white as snow!***



**Martin & Norma Sarvis**

Jerusalem

*[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 22-28 April 2018 is also a “double reading”: I. Acharei-Mot (After the Death...) TORAH: Leviticus 16:1—18:30; II. Kedoshim : TORAH: Leviticus 19:1—20:27; HAFTARAH: Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15]*