

ISRAEL PRAYER UPDATE

Glory of Zion International Ministries



“My bow I set in the clouds, so that it may serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

(Genesis 9:13; See Torah section below)



Rainbow over the Ben Hinnom Valley in Jerusalem, a place which God has promised will one day be Holy to the LORD (Jeremiah 31:40)

1. “WELCOMING THE KING OF GLORY”

This season of the Fall Feasts in Israel, beginning with the Feast of Trumpets on September 20th and ending with *Simchat Torah*, at the close of Tabernacles on October 12th, saw what may well have been the largest inpouring of believing visitors from the Nations in Israel’s 69-year modern history. And there were many wonderful events within which the visitors could celebrate the feasts corporately—the All Nations Convocation in southern Jerusalem from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur, the Feast of Tabernacles gathering sponsored by the Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, to name only two. *Succat Hallel*—the 24/7 house of prayer and praise of which we are a part, and other houses of prayer across the city saw an almost continuous stream of visitors come to worship the King of Kings in Jerusalem. So much blessing was released into the city through the presence of our visitors.

Last week we wrote of a very special and unusual event scheduled to take place during the last half of Succot, the “Welcoming the King of Glory” gathering. We are so grateful for the prayers

which went up on its behalf from around the world. Thank you! This amazing event is unlike anything we have ever experienced in Israel. It began Tuesday night and was over early afternoon on Friday. We plan to share more in the future; we are still trying to process what took place. But something divine and historical has occurred.

As mentioned last week, at the imitative of our brothers in the islands and far reaches of the South Pacific, a number of Messianic and Believing Arab leaders in Israel took up the challenge to host a gathering in Israel inviting the Nations to join us in welcoming God's glory back to His land and people. They have been praying regularly about this. We are reminded of Exodus 25, where the LORD invited the children of Israel, "every one whose heart moves him" to take part in preparing a place for Him to come and *sho'ken*—dwell among them, in their midst. This year, a number who heard the call and "whose hearts moved them" responded, and over the months a unity and focus and longing grew amongst them. Last Monday a delegation of Israelis and visitors travelled to the port of Jaffa, from which the Holy Spirit was released through Peter to Cornelius in Caesarea (Acts 10:23)—and from thence to the nations. There they did a number of prophetic acts, welcoming the return from the furthest reaches of the world to Israel and Jerusalem. The opening meeting the next evening took place in an Arab village west of Jerusalem called *Abu Goash*. For months we had been searching for a venue—but even after reserving places in a hotel, once it was discovered that Israeli Messianic Jews would be involved, the welcome was withdrawn from fear of repercussions from the Orthodox. (There was literally "no place in the inn.")

Finally, the Lord in a remarkable way, opened a community arena in Abu Goash, just west of Jerusalem. In fact, the welcome came from the city fathers and the Mayor. *Abu Goash* is the only Arab town on the road from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem which refused to side with the Jordanians against the Israelis in the 1948 War for independence. In fact, the community has remained remarkably friendly to Jews to this day. It also lies in the vicinity of ancient *Kiryat Ye'arim*—the place where the Ark of the Covenant rested for several years after being returned from the Philistines, and before being brought by David into Jerusalem. Hundreds of believers from abroad descended there last Tuesday evening, many bringing gifts they had brought to give to the brothers and sisters in Jerusalem. The worship was in Hebrew and English, led by different Israeli worship leaders and groups. Except for special ethnic praise and worship songs released by the Islanders; there were 180 from New Caledonia, hundreds from Samoa, *Island-Breeze* from Hawaii...many others. Many entered into special "protocol" in bringing their gifts and worship to the King, and in honoring His "first born." There were anointed messages from the Israelis, there was an all-afternoon *Elav* celebration by Israeli Jewish and Arab young people from Israel, Judea and Samaria and Jordan—and when they came together with the adults in the evening, the fire and intensity of praise and worship had an anointing over it which we have not experienced before. On Friday morning the gathering moved up to conclude in Jerusalem. Something new has come into place—God has visited us in a new way. Things will be different from here on---

Some Impressions from the Welcoming the King of Glory Gathering

By Norma

"They shall bring your sons in their arms; And your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders; Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers; They shall

bow down to you with their faces to the earth...Then you will know that I am YHVH."

Isaiah 49:22b-23

These verses are such a picture to me of the gathering of the nations with Israel last week. There are weekly, sometimes bi-weekly, conferences in Jerusalem. Those from the Nations invite those from their and other nations to gather there. Often, in the course of the meetings, an Israeli speaker may have been invited to speak; a few Israelis might attend. But this past week, Israel scheduled the gathering, and then invited the nations to join.

As we met and prayed with the leaders daily during these days, we observed such humility in the Israeli pastors; such holy love and respect among them.

One thousand people attended! Over six hundred from the Pacific Islands alone! This is a very large conference for Israel!

He hath remembered His mercy and His truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God." (Psalm 98:3)

Many of these from the "ends of the earth" had saved their money for years in order to come, but they did not come to speak or offer their ideas, nor to sight-see—they came only to honor Israel and her believing Remnant, and to bless her, and to be a part of welcoming the King of Glory to return.

I have attended many believing events here and in other nations. Most have been "speaker-driven". This was "honor-driven". The Nations came to honor the "elder brother"—Israel. And Israeli pastors took their place as the "first-born". We are a Body which is often insecure. Because of our faith, we often are not accepted as Jews by other Jews. We are sometimes even fearful that we might be expelled from the Land. Many here have waited and hoped for revival for years and years. *But something shifted in these three days!* Most who attended left saying: "I have no words to describe this, but it was historical!" "A bridge has been crossed." "A shift has happened!"

I sense in the coming six months we will see evidence that the King of Glory was indeed welcomed to Jerusalem. And that the "elder brother in Israel has indeed taken his rightful place there...and in doing so has opened the way for world-wide shifts to take place in the Body!

PLEASE PRAY:

*** Praise and thanksgiving with us for the visitation of His Spirit in Abu Goash and Jerusalem this past week.**

*** For illumination in the Spirit into the NEW for the Body of Messiah—both in Israel and in the countries of those who came here. That God clarifies what He has done, and guide us in walking forward in it.**

*** That the Body in Israel will *step by faith* into the New Season which is upon us**

* That the Gateway which has been opened will stay open—and that that for which it was opened will flood into the Land. We believe that a new measure of the Glory of the Lord has been released—which will prepare the way for much, much more!

* For signs and wonders, healings and miracles, and a new boldness in Love in sharing the Good News with Jews and Arabs in the Land.

*For a rear-guard of protection over all who attended the Gathering—especially those who took part in organizing and facilitating it.

* That the new degree of love and trust which is shining among the leaders will continue to warm and spread!

* For the Light of Jesus (Yasuah) to shine in *Abu Goash* –that this place which welcomed His coming be blessed with a supernatural revelation of salvation and prosperity.

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.

Eighth Month

This Friday/Saturday (October 20-21) will be *Rosh Chodesh*—the “head” of the Eighth Hebrew month. Today, Hebrew calendars use the Babylonian name *Cheshvan*. In ancient times the Canaanite name *Bul* was used, as in I Kings 6:38 where, after seven years, Solomon completed the House of the LORD in Jerusalem.

Let us ask God for grace over this new month—for vision, instruction, courage and love and attentiveness to His ways! To bring to completion all those tasks whose time of fulfillment is come.

NOACH

The reading for this week 15-21 October 2017 is called *No’ach* (the “ch” pronounced in the throat, as with “Bach”—“Noah”):

TORAH: Genesis 6:9—11:32

HAFTARAH: Isaiah 54:1—55:5*

***Shabbat Rosh Chodesh—Because this Shabbat falls on *Rosh Chodesh* for the eighth month (*Cheshvan/Bul*), in many synagogues a special Haftarah reading will be substituted: Isaiah 66:1-24, 23.**

***Genesis 6:9. “Noah was a just man, perfect (or, “blameless”) in his generations; Noah walked with God.”**

“Perfect” or “blameless” are translations of the Hebrew word *tome*, which may, as in Psalm 25:21, also be rendered “integrity”: “Let ***integrity*** and uprightness guard me for I wait for you” (NKJV). In Psalm 101 David uses this word three times regarding his every-day walk within his house, “I will ponder the way that is ***blameless***. Oh when will you come to me? I will walk with ***integrity*** of heart within my house. I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away, it shall not cling to me...My eyes shall be upon the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a ***blameless*** way is the one who will minister to me” (Psalm 101:2-4, 6).

Even as Noah, living in a perverse and exceedingly sinful world, was through his “walk with God” enabled to govern his personal walk and that of his house with integrity, it is of paramount importance that those of us living in a time which is rapidly becoming “*as it was in the days of Noah*” hold close to our “walk with God”; that we in integrity ponder the way we walk, the things we allow access into our dwellings (and thence into our eyes and those of our families!), and with whom we associate and allow ourselves to be influenced.

***Genesis 6:11-13. “Now the earth had *gone to ruin* before God, the earth was filled with wrongdoing. God saw the earth, and here: it had *gone to ruin*, for all flesh had *ruined* its way upon the earth. God said to Noah: An end of all flesh has come before me, for the earth is filled with wrongdoing through them: here, I am about to *bring ruin* upon them, along with the earth” (Everett Fox translation; emphases ours).**

Flesh, given its lead, brings ruin and destruction. As alluded to above, in the New Covenant, Yeshua prophesied that in latter days it will again be “*as it was in the days of Noah*”. Zechariah 2:11-13 instructs us regarding those days—as the LORD is “*aroused from His holy habitation*,” as Messiah draws near to “*again take possession of Judah and to choose Jerusalem*” —it will be imperative that we as Believers say “*Hush!*” (Hebrew: *Hass!* vs 13) to our flesh. Either we, in the power of the Holy Spirit, crucify it, or, as in the days of Noah, it will *be our ruin*.

***Genesis 6:14. “Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms [or nests] in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.”** The English word “ark” is used here for Hebrew *teva* which means a box or case (the word is used for ‘mailbox’ in Israel today). It is the same as that used to shelter the baby Moses in Exodus 2:3 (The “Ark of the Covenant” uses a different Hebrew word).

There is much redemption pictured here. The very Hebrew word translated “cover” and “pitch”

(*kopher*) is identical with the word for *atonement*. In I Peter 3:18-22 the apostle Peter pictures the ark as a type of our salvation in Yeshua, our consciences being baptized through His death and resurrection!

***Genesis 7:15.** *“They (the animals) came to Noah into the ark...of all flesh in which is the spirit of life”.*

***Genesis 9:4a.** *“Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs (NKJV).* God is the One who has now “given” humankind meat to eat, as well as plants. We are to honor each man’s conscience before God with regard to personal decisions to eat or not eat meat (Romans 14). However, it is difficult to reconcile with this Scripture the teachings of some who hold that God’s ideal for humankind today is the meatless sustenance afforded them in Eden and before the Flood. That was a season which has been taken away and may not, we suspect, be returned until the final *“revealing of the sons of God”* (Romans 8:19-25).

***Genesis 9:4b.** *“But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.”*

The word usually translated “life” in Hebrew is *chaim*. Yet here, the word *nephesh*—“soul” is used— *“But you shall not eat flesh with its soul, that is, its blood.”*

This will be reiterated in Leviticus 17:13-14, *“Whatever man of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with dust; for it is the soul of all flesh. Its blood sustains its soul. Therefore, I said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the soul of all flesh is its blood.’”*

In Genesis 2:7, *“The LORD God formed man of the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life[i.e. chaim], and man became a living soul [i.e. nephesh]”.* The animals also were called *nephesh-chayah*—“living souls” (1:24); they also were “formed by God” from the earth (2:19); but God did not release into them a creative act making them into His image as He did to the Man (1:26-27). So “soul” relates to a life-factor in the blood of living creatures—yet different in man from that in animals. We are not implying that the individual spirit of a human being is present in every drop of his blood. But blood carries life throughout the body, it is precious to the God of Life, and was not to be consumed as a nourishment-source for man. This is not just a prohibition under the Mosaic “Law” (Leviticus passage above); it was prohibited here to Noah and his descendants by God long before that Law, and it was prohibited for the Believing Body of Messiah (both Jew and Gentile) after the Lord’s return to heaven (Acts 15:20).

When Cain murdered Abel, the *“voice of [his] brothers blood cried out”* to God from the ground.

The *soul* that sins must die. All have sinned, so death reigns in the very blood-line of all children of Adam—***Except for One***. The Blood of the virgin-born Savior, the “Second Adam”, Yeshua, was pure and without sin (**Hebrews 4:15**). Thus, it could *“sprinkle many nations”* (**Isaiah 52:15**) with a *“sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel (Hebrews 12:24)*. God made *“His soul an offering for sin”* (**Isaiah 53:10**)—and with the shedding of His blood, *“He poured out His soul*

(*nephesh*) unto death” and “*bore the sin of many*” (53:12).

***Genesis 10:25.** “*To Eber were born two sons: the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided...*” The word may mean “split apart”, “broken away into sections.” Some have suggested that this may actually allude to a period in which certain of the continental shiftings discernible on modern-day maps took place. Which might explain why, for instance, the four rivers branching out from the large one coming out of Eden (Genesis 2:10-14) no longer appear to be in that same relation to each other. Some even suggest that before this shifting, Eden was itself located where Jerusalem is today...making the place where the “First Adam” sinned the place where that sin was atoned for in the death of the “Second Adam” *Yeshua*. It is interesting that Jewish tradition teaches that Adam and Eve are both buried in Hebron, only 30 km south of Jerusalem on the plot of land purchased by Abraham (Genesis 23) as a burial place for Sarah, and which eventually held Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Leah.

Haftarah

This week’s reading from the prophet Isaiah is filled with God’s heart and merciful plan for His people Israel. Ask God to use these verses to help in your prayers. Pray that the souls of those who hear them read in synagogues this weekend will be quickened with divine revelation! Pray that Israel will know that she is loved, that she will be convicted of her sin and need for a Redeemer, that she will understand that the LORD Himself is her only Redeemer and that her righteousness comes from Him!

***Isaiah 54:5.** “*For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.*” The God of *all the earth* has sovereignly chosen to identify Himself with the name He gave to his servant Jacob—Israel. Nations or religions which will not humble themselves to acknowledge this “identification” will find themselves standing against the very God of all nations and the universe itself.

***Isaiah 54:7-10.** “*For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,’ says the LORD, your Redeemer. ‘For this is like the waters of Noah to Me, for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of shalom be removed,’ says the LORD who has mercy on you”.*

***Isaiah 54:13-15.** “*All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children. In righteousness you shall be established; You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you. Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of Me, whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake.*”

***Isaiah 54:17.** “*“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me,’ says the LORD.*”

****Isaiah 55:1-3. “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you—the sure mercies of David.”***



***Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem***

[The readings for next week (22-28 October) are called *Lekh Lekha*— “Go Forth, Yourself!”. TORAH: Genesis 12:1—17:27; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 40:27—41:16.]

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