

Prayer Update From Israel (November 17, 2014)



Well at the site of ancient Be'er Sheva

“Then he [Isaac] went up from there to Beersheba. And YHVH appeared to him the same night and said, ‘I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham’s sake.’ So he built an altar there and called on the name of YHVH, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac’s servants dug a well (Genesis 26:23-25; see Torah Portion below).

1. SILENCING THE DRAGON—A SIGN OF ENCOURAGEMENT AS WE STAND ON COUNSELS AND PURPOSES OF GOD.

*Last week we shared with you our intercessors visions recently given to Rick Ridings at the Succat Hallel house of prayer. In the first vision (21 October), Rick saw a great fire-breathing dragon circling the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. When flames came from its mouth, violence was released onto the Mount (which has been the scene of increasing turmoil over the past several months). But in the vision Rick was made to be aware that the dragon’s real intentions were to ignite a much larger and more far-reaching conflagration of violence. Suddenly he saw two words in the heavens, “NOT NOW”. A great foot descended from Heaven, pinning the dragon to the ground. Then the Lord reached down, placed shackles on the dragon’s feet, and imprisoned it in the underground mosque at the southeast corner of the Temple Mount. As this was happening, in the worship room where Rick was having the vision (which has a view of the Mount), the leader was singing from Psalm 149 about the high praise of God’s people “putting kings in chains and nobles in shackles.” In the days following this, conflict continued and many in the media were predicting an impending huge eruption of violence and the start of a new *intifada* (“uprising”). In a second vision on November 4, Rick had a vision of the imprisoned dragon shrieking and attempting to break out of its dungeon in which it was imprisoned—demon spirits were going forth from its mouth out of the confines of the prison to incite terror. Rick felt the Lord say we were to ask Him as the Judge of the Universe to give a “gag and restraining order” to silence the dragon for this time period.*

A SIGN

We praise the LORD for releasing His prophetic directives to His people—and for His Spirit’s awakening them to pray! In the following report, we see Our Lord’s releasing of a sign of encouragement regarding the accuracy and efficacy of these prayers!

On Wednesday afternoon, after prayers had been raised that the imprisoned and shackled dragon would be gagged and restrained (from releasing incitement towards increased violence and the awakening of a new *intifada*), the following headlines appeared in Israeli news services,

* **“Barghouti Sentenced to Solitary Confinement for Incitement”** (Arutz7)

* **“Barghouti given seven days in solitary for call to renew intifada: *The jailed Fatah leader also called on Palestinian leaders to cut ties with Israel*”** (HaAretz);

* **“Barghouti put in isolation at Hadarim Prison after calling for armed resistance:**

Palestinian figure serving life sentence called for armed resistance in order “to be faithful to

the legacy of Arafat” on 10th anniversary of late Palestinian leader’s death” (Jerusalem Post).

Marwan Barghouti is an arch-terrorist leader currently serving five consecutive life sentences in an Israeli prison for his highly influential role in the first and second *intifadas* (the second of which resulted in the deaths of thousands of Israelis between 2000 and 2005). Barghouti still holds enormous influence amongst the Palestinians, who repeatedly demand his release. Last week he succeeded in smuggling a letter from his prison to the Palestinian media, calling for armed resistance. To silence and punish him, Israeli Prison System internal court subsequently sentenced him to seven days solitary confinement, and a 300 shekel fine for incitement, violence and providing an interview to the media without permission (“Barghouti Sentenced to Solitary Confinement for Incitement: *Arutz7*, 11/12/2014, 3:19 p.m.).

We find it interesting that the picture of Barghouti accompanying the *HaAretz* article was one depicting him at his first sentencing, with arms raised and *shackled*.

We believe it to be of critical importance that we continue to remain alert before the Lord at this time regarding the situation on the Temple Mount. Last week, Prime Minister Netanyahu met with King Abdullah II of Jordan (Jordan shares custodial oversight of the Mount with Israel) regarding policies the two countries might arrive at to cool the situation there. ***Thank God for your prayers!*** Last Friday Israel agreed to relax its policy of limiting the age of Muslims attending prayers during times of unrest to those over 40. Although there was violence other places in the city and around Israel, ***the Temple Mount remained calm!*** This week the Prime Minister is meeting again with the King (See:<http://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-to-meet-jordan-king-for-2nd-time-on->

[temple-mount-talks/](#)). **PLEASE PRAY: that God would guide these talks—that PM Netanyahu will not enter into any agreement or covenant which is at odds with God’s purposes for Israel or His holy mountain at this time. Pray for courage, stamina and integrity in the Prime Minister—and a desire to ask for Divine guidance.**

PRAYER POINTS (By Rick Ridings, as presented in Last Week’s Update):

- 1. Proclaim the sovereignty of the Holy One of Israel over His Holy Hill, the Temple Mount, in Jerusalem.** Proclaim Ezekiel 43:6,7: “While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me from inside the temple. He said: “Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever.”
- 2. Proclaim “Not Now” to the forces of evil trying to stir up something big, like a prolonged violent uprising in Jerusalem, or even a regional war in the Middle East.**
- 3. Pray for much revelation of Jesus on the Temple Mount, in Jerusalem, and across the Middle East.**
- 4. Pray for a dying down of the incitement to killing, especially that aimed at children and youth. Pray for a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the children and youth of the Middle East.**
- 5. Pray for mercy upon men and nations whose hearts are being “sifted and threshed” by the events taking place in Jerusalem and on the Temple Mount.** On January 1, 2014, my wife, Patti, had received a strong word that this was a year of “shifting and sifting”. I believe we are still in that season, even here in Jerusalem.

2. “822” IN JERUSALEM

“Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD” (Zechariah 8:22).

This past Monday through Thursday Jerusalem was the scene of a coming together of thousands of believers from around the world for an “822” gathering (see Scripture above). Organized by David Demian, the gathering’s stated mandate was that *“at this kairos hour, the Lord is calling for a remnant, a representation of the family of believers worldwide, to come together as one new man in Jerusalem, November 10-13. In the power of unity submitted fully to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, we will stand in the gap and decree that the hour has come for the Bride of Christ to wake up and to make herself ready for Her Bridegroom.”*

The vast majority of those attending were from Asia, including over 1500 from mainland China. The meetings flowed out of worship and high praise—with teams of musicians and dancers mingling expressions both Asian and Middle-Eastern as they led. The conference was set up so as to enable as much as possible the free leading of the Holy Spirit in the direction each session would go. A number of leaders, representing both the Jewish and Arab body of Messiah

in Israel, were present. During the course of the week a number of sovereignly ordained occasions arose facilitating reconciliation where necessary between races and cultures here in the land as well as between the Body here and their brothers and sisters on the other side of the globe. During the last evening a delegation from China gave a presentation on the Back to Jerusalem movement with stories of the many who launched out to make it happen, but were barred through intense persecution from living to see it realized. They then presented Israeli Arab and Jewish leaders with a painted banner portraying the Wall of China intersecting with the Western Wall in Jerusalem:



I (Martin) have been privileged to serve as a worship leader in Israel for many years, but have never heard anything like the sound which was released into the heavenlies on the last night as the Israeli and Asian musicians were singing of the LORD being One, Father Spirit Son, an incredible synergy of praise, flowing through the harmony of Israel and the Nations whom Yeshua has made into One.

PLEASE PRAY:

***That what God worked both in Israelis and our Asian brothers and sisters during the 822 gathering last week would last—would germinate in fertile ground and bear much fruit!**

***That ties between the Body in Israel and that in Asia would continue to strengthen.**

***That Asian brothers and sisters will come into and avail themselves of the inheritance they have in Abraham. That the Body here in Israel will embrace our brothers and sisters from Asia—that we will in humility and gratefulness avail ourselves of the gifts God is offering us, and which have been forged in the fire there—equipment which will be necessary to sustain and encourage and strengthen us in the work of the Lord ahead of us in Israel.**

***That new sounds released from Heaven into the atmosphere over Israel will be caught by minstrels in the Land, to lead the people in the praise which will please our God, facilitate interaction with the angels, and shift atmospheres over the Middle East.**

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 readings for this week 16-22 November 2014 are called

Toldot—"Generations."

TORAH: Genesis 25:19—28:9

HAFTARAH: Malachi 1:1—2:7

Note: Because the Shabbat of November 22 this year falls the day before *Rosh Chodesh Kislev*, some synagogues will substitute the following Haftarah (*Haftarat-Machar Chodesh*): I Samuel 20:18-42

***Genesis 25:22.** *"The children struggled together within her, and she said, 'If this is so, why then am I . . .?' So she went to inquire of the LORD."* Please pray for believers in Israel...that when faced with the perplexity of inexplicable conflicts (of which there are many in Israel), we would be quick to "go to inquire of the LORD" rather than leaning to our own understandings as to how to respond.

***Genesis 25:22-23.** *"The children struggled together within her...And the LORD said to her: 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger'."* The struggle between the descendants of these two children Jacob and Esau (whose name would also be *Edom*) would continue. It is a spiritual struggle. God's hatred for the spirit working in Esau, which not only despised its own birthright, but also worked violence against the lineage of God's sovereign choosing would be strongly expressed in the Book of Obadiah, *"Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You shall be greatly despised. The pride of your heart has deceived you...For violence against your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever"* (Obadiah 2-3, 10).

God is a God of love and life—attributes which manifest in holy hatred against all which would seek to thwart His life-covenants with the Children of Adam—"Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated" (Malachi 1:2-3; Romans 9:13). *"For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own*

head. For as you have drunk on my holy mountain, so all the nations shall drink continually; they shall drink and swallow, and shall be as though they had never been” (Obadiah 15-16). We see similarities between the spirit of Esau/Edom and that which fuels the religion of Islam today—a religion which despises and harasses Jacob (Israel) as it “drinks” on God's holy mountain (before the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem) and binds other nations throughout the world to drink from its lifeless spring.

***Genesis 25:26.** *“Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau’s heel; so his name was called Ya’akov (Jacob).”* The letters of the Hebrew word translated “heel” also form the root of a word meaning “deceiver”. Jeremiah 17:9 uses this same root, *“The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick; who can know it?”* Jacob's life would be one of coming to know himself and the contents of His deceitful heart—and at the same time, of coming to know the God who nevertheless loved and had chosen him—the God who, after his coming to know himself, would grant to Jacob a new heart and a new name (Genesis 32:27-28).

Genesis 25:29-34. *“Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. And Esau said to Jacob, ‘Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary.’ (therefore his name was called Edom), But Jacob said, ‘Sell me your birthright as of this day.’ And Esau said, ‘Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?’ Then Jacob said, ‘Swear to me as of this day.’ So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.”*

Hebrews 12:14-17 (ESV). *“Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no ‘root of bitterness’ springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.”* This passage suggests that Esau had come to be led by the desires of his fleshly appetites—placing those before the holy ‘right’ which had been bestowed on him by his birth. As we will see next week (Genesis 28:16-17; 31:42), even with his failings Jacob had learned and acquired a respect for holiness and the fear of the LORD from his parents.

***Genesis 26:2-5.** *“Then YHVH appeared to him and said: ‘Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants (Hebrew: zera—“seed”) I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.’”* The LORD twice here promises to give to Isaac’s physical seed “all these lands”. This shows that although all believers are “descendants of Abraham and heirs of the promises” by faith (Galatians 3:7), the physical land would nevertheless be passed on through the physical descendants of his son Isaac.

It is interesting that while the promise of blessing through Abraham in Genesis 12:3 extends to “*all families of the earth*”, the promise to Isaac here is that in his seed “*all the “nations of the land shall be blessed.”*” It is God’s desire not only to bring blessing to individuals but to communities and even nations through the life of the Holy One who would come through the seed of Abraham and Isaac!

***Genesis 26.** Here, even with God’s promise of care and blessing (above), Isaac succumbs to the deceptive weakness of his father Abraham in pretending that Rebekah is his sister. Yet the Lord mercifully protects both of them as He has promised.

WELLS

***Genesis 26:18.** “*And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them.*” Isaac’s life is much associated with “wells”—From when his future wife Rebekah was revealed at one(24:45) and he, shortly thereafter, came himself from another to meet her (24:62), to the reopening of old wells and the digging of new ones recorded here in chapter 26.

PLEASE PRAY for the reopening of “wells”—of ancient sources of truth and blessing and song in returned Israel—as well as discovery of new reservoirs of understanding reserved for latter days (Daniel 12:9). Pray for rediscovery and proper identification of the well of “Righteousness through Faith” (Genesis 15:6); Pray that Israel will find and open again her true “Well of Salvation”...and come to know His Name. “*Behold, God is my salvation (Heb: Yeshu’ah), I will trust and not be afraid; for YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation. Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of Salvation*” (Isaiah 12:2-3).

***Genesis 26:19-22.** “*Also Isaac’s servants dug in the valley, and found a well of running water there. But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled...so he called the name of the well ESEK (“Exploited”, “deprived of”). Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also, so he called its name SITNAH (“Sataned”, “Accusation”, “Enmity”, “Adversary”). And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name REHOBOTH (“space”, “widenesses”), because he said, ‘For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.’”*

For over a hundred years the returned Hebrews have faced quarreling, exploitation, and deprivation over the land God has promised to them. As they have attempted to become rooted, and to re-dig the “wells” of their ancient homeland, they have continued to be accused by the world and to be surrounded by enemies and adversaries. **PLEASE PRAY** that more and more of returned Israel will come to realize that we will never “make room for ourselves” in this Land. By ourselves, we have no idea how to come into such a relationship with those already dwelling in the land as will quell the quarreling. We must turn in faith to our LORD, Who alone will “make room for us” (and those yet to come) to become permanently rooted and “fruitful in the Land”.

Genesis 26:23-24; 26-29. *“Then he went up from there to Beersheba. And the YHVH (the LORD) appeared to him the same night and said, ‘I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham’s sake.’ So he built an altar there and called on the name of the YHVH, and He pitched his tent there; and there Isaac’s servants dug a well.”*

Isaac has consistently given all the glory for his success (26:22, 25) to YVHV, the God taught to him by his father Abraham. His and his father’s testimony of *this* God have made a lasting impression on the Philistine king Abimelech:

“Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar... “We have certainly seen that YHVH is with you...You are now the blessed of YHVH” (Genesis 26:26-29).

***Genesis 27.** **Rebekah attempts** (as had her mother-in-law before her) **to assist the “word of the Lord”** spoken over her sons, and enters into a deceitful plan with Jacob to get the blessing of birthright placed upon him instead of Esau. Yet it is God’s sovereign grace which will work out His purposes, and in the process, bringing out of both of these sons a revelation of their motives and that in which they have trusted. Isaac will bless them both 27:27-29 and 27:39-40, but the blessing of birthright which Esau had despised will be taken from him forever.

***Malachi 1:11.** *“For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, my name shall be great among the Nations; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the Nations,” Says YHVH of Armies.* There is no clearer declaration of God’s great love for *all* nations. His ultimate purpose in choosing Abraham and making of him a “great nation” (Genesis 12:2), was that One would come through that nation in Whom All the World would be saved!

***Malachi 2:7.** *“For the lips of a priest should preserve and guard knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of Armies.”* Revelation 1:6 says that the One who loves us and washed us from our sins in His own blood has made us into a kingdom of priests. As such, our *mouths* are of exceptional importance—guarding knowledge for release to those seekers with whom God will bring us into contact. The Hebrew word for “messenger” here is exactly the same as that often translated “angel”. Angels, as part of their services in the Armies of the LORD, are *heavenly* messengers sent to “minister to those who will inherit Salvation”. As priests before God we are often called to work hand in hand with these supernatural beings. **PLEASE PRAY for a keen understanding of our responsibility as priestly messengers of God to His people (and that in the power of the Holy Spirit we move in step with His heavenly messengers, the angels), while keeping a close guard on our tongues.**



*Martin & Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem*

[The readings for next week (23-29 November 2014) are called *VaYetzeh*—“And He Went Out”; TORAH: Genesis 28:10—32:2; HAFTARAH: Hosea 12:12—14:9.]

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