

# ISRAEL PRAYER UPDATE

*Glory of Zion International Ministries*



## PARASHAH – MIKETZ



*One of many images of united Israeli-American flags projected onto Jerusalem's Old-City walls on the evening of December 6<sup>th</sup> while President Trump was delivering his historic address acknowledging Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and his plans to activate moving the U.S. Embassy there.*

### **1. "IT IS TIME TO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL" --President Donald Trump (December 6, 2017)**

**It is difficult to express how deeply moving an experience it was for so many of us last Wednesday evening (shortly after 8:00 pm here; 1:00 pm in Washington DC) to witness United States President Donald Trump acknowledge publicly to the world in a clear, eloquently measured address, that Jerusalem is the capital city of the nation of Israel.**

It was, astonishingly, the first time that this has been done publically by a foreign head of state— for all that for almost 70 Israel has made her capital in the city, it has been the seat of her government— her Knesset and Supreme Court, the residences of her Prime Ministers and Presidents, many other government ministries. Most past US Presidents (including the last three) have verbalized this during their campaigns, but none officially while in Office. For over 69 years, Israel has remained the only sovereign nation whose chosen capital city was not officially acknowledged by other nations. A mutually countenanced “seal” has remained in place, denying any part of the city to be publically acknowledged by other recognized national authorities as the capital of the Jewish

State. Although an “acting capital” before the world, a game of “make believe” was being forced upon nations to deny that this was really true. In finally breaking this seal on Wednesday, President Trump acknowledged the façade:

***“Through all of these years, presidents representing the United States have declined to officially recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. In fact, we have declined to acknowledge any Israeli capital at all. But today, we finally acknowledge the obvious: that Jerusalem is Israel’s capital. This is nothing more, or less, than recognition of reality. It is also the right thing to do. It’s something that has to be done...I have determined that it is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.”***

***We are grateful for the courage shown by this leader***, in standing before the world and confessing an injustice against Israel by his own nation, in acknowledging what is “obvious” and a “reality”—but also what is the right thing to do (this in the face of societal systems which for the most part have long since abandoned any concept of universal absolutes regarding moral values)—and in moving in what he considers to be the right (or righteous?) time, even as virtually every other nation is clamoring that it is the “worst of times” for such a move.

**We believe this acknowledgment/declaration to have indeed been released in the timing of the Lord. We believe that a door is opened for God’s blessings over the US as a result of this acknowledgment.** ***“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*** (Romans 10:10). This verse reveals a principal of spiritual reality which transcends the application of its context (man’s personal salvation from sin). When a leader whom God has positioned into a place of earthly governmental authority apprehends a righteous way and acts upon it in God’s timing by *confessing* it publically, the release of that truth into the heavenlies will result in a release of God’s blessings, His salvation. (This “release” may also include the coming-into-array on earth of those armies of which *He* is “Commander in Chief” (Hebrews 1:14).)

Not only were we deeply stirred at the history being made in the President’s speech on December 6<sup>th</sup>, we were also aware of a holy phenomenon which we have never witnessed before. ***Throughout the speech, we were profoundly convinced that the man plainly visible behind Mr. Trump’s right shoulder, his Vice President, was fervently praying for his President as he spoke.***

**The President also declared himself to immediately begin putting into action the 1985 congressional directive towards moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem.** Although all have promised, he is the first President since then to do so. In designating Jerusalem Israel’s capital, he didn’t designate any borders. He left open the prospect of an eventual peace settlement with Palestinian Arabs living there. ***“We are not taking a position of any final status issues, including the specific boundaries of the Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem, or the resolution of contested borders. Those questions are up to the parties involved.”*** He also said that ***“The United States remains deeply committed to helping facilitate a peace agreement that is acceptable to both sides...The United States would support a two-state solution if agreed to by both sides.”*** ***We would observe, and we believe it significant, that in mentioning “two-state solution” Mr. Trump did not verbalize the other side of that mantra, “dwelling side by side.”*** To our minds, that would be what brings a curse—side-by-side requiring a Muslim state in the heartland, Judea and Samaria, which

God forever promised by covenant to the descendants of Jacob--Israel.

***It is remarkable the hostility which President Trump's announcement resulted in throughout the world.*** Only officially connecting the name "Israel" to Jerusalem, without even demarcating lines, only connecting the name, awakens fury. And not just among Muslim states, leaders of the large nations in the EU, France and England, were immediate in voicing their strong displeasure. ***Out of the midst of this, the Czech Republic alone stood up,*** and in the wake of Washington's announcement, itself also publically acknowledging Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel (within pre-1967 lines it is true, but still aligning itself with the presence of a Jewish alignment which God has Himself made with His holy City!).

***We are so grateful for your prayers!***

***...for our, and Israel's security during the aftermath of President Trump's announcement! We have been safe, as, for the most part, has been Jerusalem—even during the three-day "Days of Rage" and following Friday prayers in the Aksa Mosque on the Temple Mount, when it had been feared they would most likely break out. Indeed, we believe the dragon on the mountain has remained bound through the intercession of God's people!***

***The world-aflame which so many nations had warned of after the announcement has so-far failed to materialize.*** There were isolated incidents, which media in many cases seemed to go out of their way to film and blow up as being prevalent. But in truth, the violent reaction has so far been very minimal, especially in Israel. Yesterday, a lone attacker stabbed a guard at a Jerusalem train station. Please pray for this man, Asher Elmaliach, that he would live and not die! But the *intifada* called for by Hamas hasn't materialized. The largest denunciations have come from several western European capitals and Turkey.

On Wednesday, the President closed his speech with an unusual blessing. The writers do not remember hearing a President in a public address call on God to bless Israel...

***Thank you. God bless you. God bless Israel. God bless the Palestinians. And God bless the United States. Thank you very much. Thank you.***

**PLEASE PRAY:**

- \* Thanksgiving for the blessing released last Wednesday through the US public acknowledgment of Jerusalem as being the capital of the nation of Israel.**
- \* Protection for President Trump and Vice President Pence from spiritual and physical attack for their stand.**
- \* That the resolve of both of these men will not be shaken, rather that it will be strengthened, and further enlightened by the Holy Spirit regarding Israel. That they will seek God's counsel regarding their actions towards that nation. That they will not be deterred by the anger from the nations and the threats made for having stood for what they see to be right.**

\* **That the Czech Republic be blessed for their stand with Israel. That other nations follow their lead, and pull apart from the flow seeking to perpetuate a breach between Israel and her rightful place of government.**

\* **That Israel and Jerusalem will continue to be protected from violence related to the President's announcement regarding Jerusalem.**

\* **When a nation stands with Israel, they acquire that nation's enemies. Pray for divine protection for the US from *Magen Avraham*—the “Shield of Abraham” (Genesis 15:1).**

\* **Peace over Israeli and Palestinian Arabs, that they not be ignited into violent hatred by Islamic forces which would like to capitalize on this declaration.** That a message would go out to them of hope and a future in dwelling peaceably with their Jewish neighbors. That the light of the Savior of all flesh will illumine them to His salvation.

### *Notes from Norma*

***We continue to hear of this Hebrew year 5778 as being prophetically a year of gates and doors.*** (The Hebrew letter-number for “8” is the letter *het*, which is shaped like a door and often used to symbolize that.)

Doors are important in Jewish thinking. On our doors we place a *mezuzah*, a little box with the following inscribed on a piece of parchment inside:

***Hear O Israel, the LORD is our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*** (Deuteronomy 6:4-12)

A key phrase here is “*with all your strength.*” In the Hebrew, it says: “*with your “very-ness”*—with your everything! Love the LORD your God with EVERYTHING inside of you! Your VERY-NESS! One hundred percent of yourself! Love the LORD your God with all you have! This is a life Scripture for all of us!

*THE VOICE* version of the Bible translates verses 8 and 9 like this: “*Do whatever it takes to remember them [God's words]: tie a reminder on your hand and bind a reminder on your forehead where you'll see it all the time, [place it] on the doorpost where you cross the threshold or on the city gate.*”

This is Hebraic thinking: *On your gates remember this: Love your God with everything!* I feel in this year of gates and doors, we would do well to carry these *mezuzah*-verses in our hearts!

***In the Hebrew Scriptures, gates and doors are sometimes significant for what took place within***

**them:**

\* Genesis 18:1 “Then the LORD appeared to him (Abraham) by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door (Hebrew: “opening”) in the heat of the day.” The doorway was a **place where God appeared**.

\* In Exodus, the Hebrews were instructed to put blood on their doorposts and lintels, so that when the LORD passed through the camp in judgment, He would skip over their homes. Doors may be a **place of redemption**.

\* Deuteronomy 16:8 God commands the Israelites to appoint judges at their gates who will judge the people with justice. In Proverbs 31 we read that the elders of the land sit at the gates. Gates are **places of authority**.

\* Jeremiah is told (Jeremiah 19:2) to go out to a gate and to proclaim the words God tells him. Gates are places of **proclamation**.

\* Genesis 22:17 “Your descendants will possess the gates of their enemies. Isaiah 28:5-6: “In that day the LORD of hosts will be...for strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.” Gates are places of **warfare and victory!**

**Gates and doors** are places of guarding and exercising discernment (II Chronicles 23:19); places of thanksgiving and praise (II Chronicles 31:2); and places of encounter with God, both on Earth, (Genesis 18:2) and in Heaven (Genesis 28:19)! The Book of Proverbs repeatedly warns us that gates may also be places of temptation to sin. Certainly, we must be alert at all gates we are faced with in our lives!

***In 5778 we will see many gates opening on both personal and national levels.*** We are already experiencing that here in Israel. Since Israeli believers welcomed the nations at the “Welcoming the King of Glory” conference two months ago, we and other Israeli leaders have found many gates in the Spirit opening or already opened in Israel! We believe that President Trump himself opened a gate this past week, a blessing for his own nation and for Israel, as he honored Jerusalem by publically acknowledging her to be what God has from the beginning established and raised her up to be. Unfortunately, many nations took this gesture as a signal to close their doors to this blessing. I sense we need to be alert at the *doors* of our homes and cities, and also to declare His Kingdom with new confidence. With expectation of victory, encounter, redemption and authority let us focus on our gates. And let us love the LORD with our ALL...our energy, finances, time and giftings!

### **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 10-16 December 2017 are called *MiKetz*—“At the End Of”:

**TORAH:** Genesis 41:1—44:17

**HAFTARAH (Hanukkah):** Zechariah 2:10—4:7

(NOTE: Years in which Hanukkah does not fall within the week for this *parashah*, the Haftarah

reading for *MiKetz* is: I Kings 3:15—4:1)

**\*Genesis 41:1; 15-16.** “Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream...And Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream, to interpret it.’ So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, ‘It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of shalom.’”

**PLEASE PRAY:** *That the LORD release dreams into our secular leaders—which can only be interpreted by those godly ones whom He has prepared to be near to them. Pray that the Lord raise up young men and women who will be filled with His Spirit, and who will be able supernaturally (in this rationalistic age) to show the way for our Prime Minister and other leaders to “an answer of Shalom.”*

**\*Genesis 44:5, 15:** “Get up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, ‘Why have you repaid evil for good? Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, and with which he indeed practices divination? You have done evil in so doing.’” “Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?”

Joseph never actually tells the brothers that he “practices divination”—rather, he presents them with two questions, “Is this not the one...with which he indeed practices divination?” and “Didn’t you know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?” (He is still allowing his brothers to assume him to be a native Egyptian ruler, who normally would be expected to do such things.). Numbers 23:23 uses the same Hebrew word translated here “divination” (*nakhash*—also the Hebrew word for “snake”) in asserting that “there is no sorcery in Jacob”. As we have already seen (Genesis 40:8; 41:16), Joseph as a wise and humble prophet was always open in attributing his powers, not to himself or his expertise, but to his God.

**\*Zechariah 2:10-11.** “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,” says the LORD. “Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.”

There is nothing in the Hebrew of this passage to suggest that the One (i.e. the LORD—*Yehovah*) who in vs. 10 and again in vs. 11 says He is “coming to dwell in Zion’s midst” is not the same “One” who continues, “*Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.*” We see this “knowing” as the same “recognition” taking place in Zechariah 12:10, when “*they will look on Me whom they pierced.*”

**PLEASE PRAY:** *For revelation in Israel to understand and believe that The LORD of Hosts (who promised to “dwell in Israel’s midst”) and the One sent to her (“whom she pierced”) are ONE (John 10:30).*

**\*Zechariah 2:12-13.** “*And the LORD (Yehovah) will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Hush! all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!*”

With the passage five years ago of UN General Assembly Resolution 67/19, granting “Palestine” official recognition as a “state”, whose borders would presumably encompass this *adamat-hakodesh*, (literally “holy earth”), within which the YHVH (*Yehovah*— “The LORD”) says *He* will “take possession” as *His* “inheritance”— things are coming into position for a clash of unprecedented proportions. Remember, the November 29, 2012 date of that vote fell in the Hebrew calendar on the 15<sup>th</sup> of *Kislev*, the same day as the setting up of the Abomination of Desolation mentioned in I Maccabees 1:54 and alluded to in Daniel 11:31). To survive and see our way—to see *His* way—in the coming storm, it will be of paramount importance that we “*walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit,*” that we “*set our minds on the things of the Spirit*” and “*by the Spirit put to death the deeds of the body, that we may live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God*” (Romans 8:4,5, 13-14).

**PLEASE PRAY:** *That the Body of Messiah in Israel move into a deep understanding and practice of what it means to “keep in step with the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25 NIV), to say “Hush!” to our flesh before our LORD, as He is aroused from His holy habitation!*

**\*Zechariah 3:2.** “*And the LORD said to Satan, ‘The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?’*”

Revelation 12:11 points to a time when the Accuser will be overcome “*by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*” We infer from this Zechariah passage that part of that “word of testimony” may include a linking of the name of the LORD/YHVH with *his choosing of Jerusalem*. This will be the place of His throne! (Psalm 2).

***An acknowledgment and confession of the LORD’s covenant link with Jerusalem will release a power to silence the Accuser in the last days!***

**\*Zechariah 3:8.** “*Behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.*”

***Part of the Hanukkah celebration includes use of a special eight-branched menorah (hanukki’ah) upon which a new oil lamp or candle is lit each evening.*** Every light is ignited from the flame of a separate “branch” called *shamash* — “servant”. Remarkably, the *Haftarah* reading for this Saturday

within Hanukkah, besides containing, as might be expected, a menorah (Zechariah 4:2-3), also includes these words, ***“Behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.”*** Although a different Hebrew word for “servant” is used here, there is no doubt that it refers to the Servant-Messiah, sent by the Father—the *Light Inextinguishable*, who illumines all coming into the world (John 1:9)!

**Zechariah 4:6.** ***“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.”***

These words are emblazoned in Hebrew across the bottom of the outer branches of the menorah which stands before the Knesset in Jerusalem (below).

**PLEASE PRAY:** *that the Holy Spirit of God invade the halls of government in Israel. That Spirit-filled believers rise into the higher echelons of government, displacing the powers of darkness there and influencing the leadership for righteousness!*



***Martin & Norma Sarvis  
Jerusalem***

[The readings for next week (17-23 December 2017) are called *VaYiggash*— ***“And He*** [i.e.

**Judah] *Drew Near*". TORAH: Genesis 44:18—47:27; HAFTARAH: Ezekiel 37:15-28.]**

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