

## *Prayer Update From Israel (December 28, 2011)*



*The seal*

*Photo by: Vladimir Naykhin*

### **1. “PURITY TO YAH”—Ancient seal discovered in Jerusalem**

“Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation” (Psalm 24:3-4: Trans: NKJ).

“A pure heart create for me, God, and a firm spirit renew within me. Do not fling me from Your presence, and Your holy spirit take not from me. Give me back the gladness of Your rescue and with a noble spirit sustain me” (Psalm 51:12-14: Trans: Robert Alter).

The Israeli Antiquities Authority this week revealed discovery of a tiny “seal” discovered on the route of a street which ran through ancient Jerusalem just outside the Temple Mount. The seal is dated sometime between the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C. and 70 AD when the Temple was destroyed by the Romans. On the seal are two words lettered in Hebrew, Daka Le’Yah. Daka is an Aramaic word corresponding to Hebrew tahir—“pure”. Le in either language means “to” or “for”; Yah is an ancient shortened form of YHVH—Yehovah—the LORD. Archaeologists translate the seal “Pure for the LORD” and believe it was used to stamp objects designated for Temple use as being ceremonially pure. It appears similar to seals described in the Mishna for this purpose. Indeed, the account in the Talmud of the single cruse of oil discovered in the Temple by the Maccabees over 160 years earlier relates that it “lay with the seal of the High Priest” (i.e. it was pure and could be used in the Temple).

Some months ago we wrote of a tiny bell, thought possibly to have been worn by a priest passing from the Pool of Siloam up to the Temple during Yeshua’s time, which had been discovered in the City of David. Now we have another artifact, with lettering certifying purity to the Lord. We believe that discoveries like this in Israel cannot be without significance. We received word of a prophetic message released through interpretation by Chuck Pierce on December 18 in the US: “Many signs are coming into your midst. I will use these signs to recreate the path that you normally walk on. Look carefully! Signs are now being released from My throne room and will enter the earth realm in the next few days... Watch the signs, for the signs will light your

way.” Please pray for revelation to be granted as to what the Spirit is saying to the congregations as signs are released both in Israel and in the nations...for ears to hear and clarity to understand “what the Spirit is saying to the congregations.”

Certainly, we sense a spiritual call to Israel for purity: “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering of righteousness” (Malachi 3:2-3). David prayed (see Psalm 51 above) that God would create in him a “pure heart”. Hebrews 1:3 speaks of the divine Son, Messiah Yeshua “making purification for sins.” And Ephesians 1:13-14 (ESV) portrays those who have availed themselves of that purification as being sealed “with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” In other words, the presence of the Holy Spirit in believers is our “purity seal” qualifying us to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth...on the Temple Mount or anywhere else! (John 4:21—23) Please pray for a longing for purification to take place in Israel; that the veil would be lifted on Jewish hearts and they would recognize the means which God has provided, the work of His Son. “Come now, and let us reason together,” says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool”(Isaiah 1:18).

This appears to be the first discovery close to the Mount of an artifact confirming in writing the Jewish religious rituals practiced there 2,000 years ago. (In the year 2000 then Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat mounted a history-modification campaign denying that there had ever been a Jewish presence associated with the mountain.) A picture in the Hebrew-language Ha’Aretz showed in the foreground a hand holding the tiny “purity seal”; a portion of the Temple Mount with the dome of the Al Aqsa mosque rises in the background. Recently the Temple Mount has begun rising in controversy again. The entrance used by non-Muslims was damaged a few years back by an earthquake. It was deemed unsafe and dismantled, a temporary wooden ramp being built in its place. A date set for rebuilding the permanent replacement came and went recently with nothing having been done. There had been strong warnings from both Jordan and Egypt against doing so, and authorities felt, given the circumstances taking place presently in Cairo, that the work should be postponed.

Israel gained technical sovereignty over the Mount in 1967, but shortly thereafter granted a Muslim Jordanian force (WAQF) custodial rights over the Muslim holy sites there. The area is presently patrolled jointly by Israeli soldiers and WAQF security forces. This past year has seen more and more harassment of non-Muslim visitors...and Muslims religious have illegally taken over a sizable area of lawn there for daily “Koran study”. Any time Israel does anything at all reflecting her sovereignty there, a hue and cry rises from the Muslim world that it is being done in preparation for destruction of the Al Aqsa mosque. What is building is of course a great spiritual as well as physical conflict. As we have written in the past, the Koran passage inscribed above the doors of the Dome of the Rock states: “Allah is great and he has no son”. Psalm 2 in the Hebrew Bible not only affirms that Yehovah has a Son, but that He will be enthroned and rule from that Mountain! A confrontation is coming. It has been well said, “The last battle will be over who will be worshipped on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.” Please pray for wisdom and guidance for Israeli authorities in how most wisely and courageously to govern this holy

place which the Lord has allowed to come under Israel's sovereignty. Pray for conviction from the Holy Spirit of the need that all actions regarding it are done in purity, integrity and truth (see Psalm 24 above).



*There was a wonderful soaking rain in Jerusalem throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> day of Hanukkah,  
Christmas Day  
HANUKKAH COUNTINUES THROUGH WEDNESDAY*

## **2. TUESDAY IS ROSH CHODESH TEVET**

Tuesday is the Head (Rosh Chodesh) of the Hebrew month Tevet (or Tebeth). The month is mentioned only once by name in the Hebrew Bible, Esther 2:16-17:

“So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.”

It is a month in which God in His precise timing granted grace to

\*A chosen Jewish maiden of character through the agency of her godly uncle Mordechai –

\* --bringing her into favor and influence with Persian (i.e. Iranian) royalty—

\* for the eventual purpose of uncovering and defusing a plot to exterminate the Hebrew people.

This “plot” begins to manifest in Ch 3:10 as the king (Esther 3:10) gives his signet ring to the evil Haman...whose intent is to destroy the Jews. In the end, Haman is himself destroyed and that signet ring of authority transferred to the godly Mordecai (Esther 8:2). In this past week's Torah Portion (Gen. 41:1-44:17), an Egyptian king hundreds of years earlier, removes his signet ring and places it on the hand of Joseph, who will be used to save the Hebrew people from the famine which is to come.

## **PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*Thanksgiving to God for His faithful care and blessings over us during the past month of Kislev.**

**\*For grace over Israel during this coming month of Tevet; for vision, hope, encouragement and guidance for believers here to walk in the ways God has prepared for them this month.**

**\*For protection and nurture of those whom God is raising up “for such a time as this.”**

**\*Psalm 25:22: That God “redeem Israel out of all his troubles.”—that He uncover plots, and hear and turn the threats of a present-day leading figure in Persia (Iran) who has publically advocated the destruction of Jews in Israel.**

**\*That “Josephs” and “Mordecais” and “Esthers” be sustained through tempering trials to the day when they may be raised into positions of governmental authority and influence which will release God’s favour and protection over His people Israel.**

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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. All texts are those of English translations of the Scriptures.

The readings for this week are called Vayiggash—“and [Judah] approached”)

**TORAH: Genesis 44:18—47:27**

**HAFTARAH: Ezekiel 37:15-28**

**\*Genesis 44:18; 46:28.** “Then he [Judah] drew near to him [Joseph]...” There is no question that the story of Joseph and his brothers provides a prophetic picture of Yeshua/Jesus and His “own” (i.e. the Hebrew people) who rejected Him—but to whom He will one day be revealed as “risen from the dead” to provide salvation. In a special way, He loves them with an everlasting love and draws them with lovingkindness. In His grace, many are already drawing near to Him, confessing their sin as did the brothers...and as they do so, He, like Joseph, miraculously reveals Himself to them! (Zechariah 2:9, 11).

**PLEASE PRAY:** for more and more in Israel to be led in God's kindness to repentance and to respond to His call to "draw near."

**\*Genesis 46:28.** "Then he (Jacob) sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him the way to Goshen. And they came to the land of Goshen." Beginning in Chapter 43 and more strongly emphasized here, the mantle of leadership shifts from Reuben to Judah. From here on, a special precedence will be given to this tribe, "Judah goes first": from Jacob's blessing regarding a scepter of royalty (Gen. 49:8); to leadership of the armies marching towards Canaan (Numbers 10:14); to the securing of the land in the time of the Judges (Judges 1:2), to the Kingship of David; to the birth of the Messiah in the City of David; to Zechariah's prophecy of the Last Days when "The LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem" but "will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah" (2:12; 12:7). There is much of significance which may be drawn from this...but perhaps the most immediate point would be related to the name itself which Leah gave at his birth—Yehudah (Judah). The word means "Thankful praise expressed by the raising of the hands".

**PLEASE PRAY:** for a fresh awakening of thanksgiving and praise amongst the Body in Israel, an awareness that this must come first (II Chron. 20:21-22). Praise will lead her into victories and her true place of inheritance in her Messiah. Pray that the Lord will indeed "take possession of praise" in the Holy Land (Zech 2:12) and that it will be released in Spirit and in Truth.

**\*Ezekiel 37:21-23.** "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel [Note: this expression "mountains of Israel" always bears with it a relation to Judea and Samaria, the present day so-called 'West Bank']; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will purify them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God."

**PLEASE PRAY:** that the Spirit who 'convicts of sin and righteousness and judgment' would be poured out on Israel in increasing measure, bringing her to a place where God can reveal the Purification which has been prepared for her—so that she may dwell in their land of covenant forever (vs. 25).



*Martin & Norma Sarvis  
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week (1-7 January 2012: VaYechi “and [Jacob] lived”) will be: TORAH: Genesis 47:28-50:26; HAFTARAH: I Kings 2:1-12]

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