

## **PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (February 14, 2011)**



*“And I said, ‘I see a branch of an almond tree.’ Then the LORD said to me, ‘You have seen well, I am watching over my word to perform it!’ (Jeremiah 1:11-12)n*

***Notice: BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL REPORT FROM CAIRO, WE ARE OFFERING A MORE LENGTHY UPDATE THIS WEEK.***

### **1. A NEW “SON OF MY RIGHT HAND” (Hebrew: Benjamin) OVER ISRAEL’S ARMIES.**

Today the Israeli Defense Forces received its 20th Chief of Staff, **Lt-Gen Benjamin** (“Benny”) **Gantz**. Among other military positions, Gen. Gantz has been Commander of the elite Shaldag Unit in the Air Force, Commander of the Paratrooper Brigade, Commander of the Israeli Northern Command, and he was Israel’s military attaché in the United States from 2005-2009. The selection process to bring about a replacement of the retiring General Gabi Ashkenazi, has been a long and stormy one, involving much ill feeling between Israel’s Defense Minister and several military leaders. But today, Israel’s armies have a new and respected leader at their helm. Regarding Gantz’ appointment, Prime Minister Netanyahu said, *“Maj. Gen. Benny Gantz is an outstanding officer and an experienced commander...His experience is vast both in terms of operation and organization. He is endowed with all of the qualities needed to be a wonderful commander for the Israel Defense Forces.”* Addressing the General, he continued, *“You are receiving the baton of command, and possess all of the attributes needed to be successful in the position...You must find your own special path, combining quiet determination, calmness and a pleasant approach to maintain the continuity and stability that are of so important in such a time of instability.”*

In I Samuel 17:45, David declares that he comes before Goliath “in the name of YHVH of Armies, Elohei Ma’archot Yisrael—God of the Arraying of Israel”. We believe that the LORD of Hosts has a “positioning” for every soldier in Israel’s army—both in the physical and spiritual sense. PLEASE PRAY: For Gen. Gantz, that the oversight with which he has been entrusted will be conducted in wisdom, integrity, courage and compassion. That he would humble himself and seek, hear and walk in the counsels of the God of great generals of the past, such as Joshua or Benaiah (I Kings 1:36-37)...not following the tragic example of Joab, who, though a mighty

warrior, followed the dictates of his flesh and “shed the blood of war in peacetime.” (I Kings 2:5-6).

## **2. AN EYEWITNESS REPORT FROM TAHRIR SQUARE IN CAIRO.**

This week we would pass on to you (with permission) a first-hand report from some friends that help staff a House of Prayer in Alexandria and who were in the middle of Tahrir Square in Cairo as the events leading to the resignation of President Mubarak reached their peak. We would specifically draw your attention to the “prayer point” paragraph beginning “For the believers to become strong in God...” Our God is a “Hope God” and has a pathway of Life in all circumstances. (Names have been withdrawn for protection of the writers.)

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Hi Everyone

Many blessings from us here in Egypt. You will all know the news of the last two days and the events that have culminated in the resignation of Mr. Mubarak. You will have read the news, possibly even reports from prayer leaders so we thought to give a personal journey through the end of the beginning:

Thursday 10th Feb:

We traveled to Cairo on Thursday afternoon as we sensed things were coming to a climax and wanted to pray in Tahrir Square where we had been in the beginning days of the unrest. It was an interesting trip as we were caught in traffic in Alex and just made the train which then stopped about 30 minutes outside of Cairo in the midst of the delta -on strike. No one informed us of what was happening and as nothing is usual these days we have become used to a moment by moment approach to situations (e.g. every time we have gone out over the last few weeks I have had to consider whether I should take extra clothing, vitamins etc., as there have been no guarantees of getting home again - so we have trusted God would lead us and tune us to what we needed to know moment by moment). Eventually we all clambered off the train, crossed the highway and 300 of us hitched to Cairo. “W” and I were taken under the wing of two Muslim Brotherhood 'angels' and were led to the metro and arrived where we stay in Zamalek, close to Tahrir square.

The speech by Mr. Mubarak, Thursday night, was an indescribable disappointment to the huge crowds gathered throughout the country as they had been led to believe that he would resign. Maybe it was a last ditch effort to turn the crowd violent so the army would have to mobilize against them - but people remained peaceful. Personally we thought it was more likely that the resignation would happen on the 11th (which symbolizes transition) not the 10th - so were not expecting the resignation until Friday 11/2/11.

Friday 11th Feb:

We went into Tahrir Square in the morning and walked amidst those camping in makeshift tents and the thousands gathering. The spiritual atmosphere was incredibly intense and swirling with the enemy's agendas. The only time I have felt a similar atmosphere was in Baalbek (Lebanon - headquarters of Hezbollah). We had specific Scriptures we prayed and spoke as we walked through the square - I was incredibly thankful to be back outside, as at this point it was not a place for foreigners - and then we walked and prayed around part of the perimeter before we headed to Maadi to a home worship/prayer meeting where everyone was in fervent prayer before the Lord.

During the meeting at 1:50pm (someone randomly asked me the time so I know this was when it happened) I felt the Lord said it was the 'beginning of the end'. I sensed that maybe something had shifted in the spirit which had released a new phase of end time events! (This is completely subjective but we are giving personal experience.) Later, back at Zamalek we were in the supermarket getting something for dinner when the news exploded that Mr. Mubarak had just resigned. This morning (Saturday) I realized that the supermarket we were in was Alfa Supermarket (ie: beginning - alpha). So we were in the 'beginning' of the end.

Later in the evening, after Mr. Mubarak's resignation, we headed back to Tahrir Square stopping on the bridge to pray for Israel and the issues concerning relationships and possibilities ahead. Having been in the square earlier in the morning we knew the spirits of darkness that would love to use the wonderful people of Egypt and we wanted to pray for protection over these thousands of celebrating, joyful Egyptians, honking horns, wild with joy and empowered with the incredible sense of victory and liberty.

We moved with thousands, millions?? of others to the center of Tahrir (Liberation) Square to proclaim true liberty is in Jesus and to give thanks to God for averting what we felt was a day that the enemy had planned for a lot of bloodshed and the release of a martyr/jihad spirit. The feeling in the square was so different to what it had been in the morning. For all who prayed for the situation in Egypt we believe God really moved to bring about such a peaceful outcome.

Nobody knows what is ahead for Egypt, Israel, and the world after this extraordinary revolution, but we can trust that God raises up and deposes rulers and that the times and seasons are in His hands (Acts 1:7). We are all privileged to be part of the process and it seems even more important to pray for the nation now the revolution has achieved its goal:

For the Nation: for righteousness and justice to be the foundation after so many years of corruption, for leaders who are called and appointed by God who will have wisdom, respect the desire for freedom of the people and, also, not succumb to Islamic agendas. (Isa 32:1-4)

For the relationship between Israel and Egypt to remain strong and the Spirit of Truth to release truth regarding Israel to the nation of Egypt. For the Peace Treaty to remain intact and fears and tensions allayed.

For the believers to become strong in God, fearless, filled and prepared for whatever is ahead. There is great opportunity in this window for greater freedom for the church to mobilize and move out of the restrictions they have been under, to have a voice and to break free of a slave

mentality. The window might not last forever but there is a chance right now. There is mixed reaction amongst the Christians but we just heard from a young friend who right now is in a meeting of young believers considering forming a political party. This would never have occurred to anyone as being possible ever!

There has been a lot of division and confusion in the church over the events of the last few weeks and it's impossible to explain the type of swirling of conspiracy theories, fears and confusing details that have assailed people as they are in the midst of trying to hear from God. It has been our intention in the [worship and intercession] watches to focus on God above it all and the opportunity of His kingdom breaking in. We need to pray for unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph 4:3) as church leaders move forward now.

We have just arrived back in Alex from Cairo this evening (Saturday) - back into watches tomorrow. Thank you for praying for us and more importantly Egypt. The immediate future is still uncertain so it's a critical time to pray.

May God release more courage and boldness to us all, that light and the radiance of Jesus might shine forth.

Much love,  
W & K

[CORRECTION: In the prayer points under our last week's report on the turbulence in Egypt, we wrote "Pray for the Body of Messiah in Israel to begin moving in signs and wonders as did Moses and Aaron..." Although we certainly desire this, the sentence contained a "typo"...and should have read, "Pray for the Body of Messiah in Egypt to begin moving in signs and wonders..." ]

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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 Ki Tisa—when you raise ("When you raise the head (i.e. take a census) of the children of Israel...").

**TORAH: Exodus 30:11—34:35**  
**HAFTARAH: I Kings 18:1-39**

**NOTES**

This week's readings encompass far more than we can but touch on here. The Torah Portion centers on the episode with the Golden Calf, the Haftarah on the confrontation between the prophet of YHVH (Elijah) and those of Baal on Mount Carmel. At issue in all of the readings is the Glory of God and man's relation to it.

\*Exodus 31:2-5. "See, I have called by name Betzalel...and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom in intelligence, in knowledge, and in all craftsmanship, to design artistic works...and I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiav...and in the heart of all gifted artisans [Heb: wise-hearts] I have put wisdom to make all I have commanded."

The name Betzalel means, "In the shadow of God." Aholiav means, "Father is my tent." The safe place for all creative beings is under the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1)—within the tent of our Father (Psalm 27:5). It is He who desires to fill artists (there are many artistic skills mentioned here) with His Spirit to "make all that He commands." Tragically, at the very time these instructions were being given to Moses on the mountain, Aaron (most certainly not moving under "the shadow of God"), was being coerced by the desires of those around him to use his creative gifts in fashioning an idol (Ex. 32:4). Rather than being used by the Holy Spirit to aid the people in worshipping the true God, the creative fashioning of his hands would itself be worshipped. PLEASE PRAY: for godly "Betzalels" and "Aholiavs" to be nurtured and brought forth in Israel today, that they will move in a humble awareness that their creative gifts, wisdom, intelligence, knowledge and craftsmanship are from God, to fulfill a work for His glory—His is their high destiny. Pray that they seek to be filled by His spirit—and resist the spirit of the world which seeks to divert the creativity of man (who was made in the Image of a creative God) away from honoring his Maker. Pray that they realize that He knows them and (as with Betzalel) calls them by name!

\*Exodus 32:11-13. "Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God [Hebrew: 'yearned after the face of YHVH his God'] and said, 'LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people...Turn from Your fierce wrath and relent from this harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, "I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your seed, and they shall inherit it forever.'"" In Exodus 32:32 Moses continues to stand in the gap, pleading that they be forgiven for their sin. PLEASE PRAY: for spiritual leaders to have the zeal, unction, love and grace to seek the face of God on behalf of errant Israel; to prevail in intercession to turn away His just wrath that His eternal will for her will be fulfilled on earth as it is in heaven.

\*Exodus 32:19. "So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain." Pray for the souls (Psalm 25:1, 20) of leaders—that they not be controlled by their emotions—that they allow the Holy Spirit to work His self-control. There is a

place for godly zeal, but the “anger of man does not work the righteousness of God” (James 1:20). It would be an eruption of this same anger some time later which would in the end bar Moses from entering the Promised Land.

\*Exodus 33:7-11. “Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the ‘tent of meeting’. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tent of meeting which was outside the camp...And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tent, and talked with Moses...So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.”

In Exodus 25:22, the LORD had given instructions regarding the disposition of the Mishkan (Dwelling Place/Tabernacle) so that He might meet at appointed times with a representative of His people. But here, Moses prepares a place so that he or anyone else might choose to make his own appointed meetings with God—and God honored those times with His presence. Although His face would not be seen (vs 20), He nevertheless met face to face with those who chose to draw near. Alas, besides Moses, only Joshua appears to have taken advantage of this wonderful opportunity. PLEASE PRAY: For Israeli believers, in all the rush and hurry, to go beyond ‘head knowledge’ of the Law and the Prophets and the Gospel—and avail themselves of the privilege of setting aside a ‘place’ for private, intimate times Face to Face with God!

\*Exodus 33:15. “Then he said to Him, ‘If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here...’ Here the word “presence” is literally “Face”. Psalm 44:3 says, “It was not by our sword that we took the land, nor did our arm bring us the victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the Light of Your Face, for You loved us!”

\*Exodus 33:13, 18. “Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people...Please, show me Your glory.” PLEASE PRAY: for leaders in Israel (both believers and those still secular), to like Moses be moved to call on the LORD for guidance to be shown His way. Pray that we find grace in His sight, that our leadership will be fueled and heartened by longings after his Glory and glimpses of His Beauty (Psalm 27:4).

\*Exodus 33:21-22. “And the LORD said, ‘Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by.’” Centuries later, the prophet Elijah fleeing from the wrath of Jezebel would come to this same mountain, and the Hebrew says He went into the cave to spend the night—and there the Word of the LORD came to him (I Kings 19:9). Jewish teachers have traditionally identified this cave with that same “cleft” in which Moses had been placed by God.



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[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week (20-26 Feb) is called VaYakhel—gathered (“Then Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together...”) and will include TORAH: Exodus 35:1-38:20; HAFTARAH: I Kings 7:13-26, 40-50.]