

ISRAEL PRAYER UPDATE

Glory of Zion International Ministries



PARASHA—*Tetsaveh*



“They shall bring you clear oil of beaten olives for the light, to raise up a lamp perpetually...” (Exodus 27:20—See Torah Section below)

SHABBAT ZAKHOR

“REMEMBERING WHAT AMALEK DID.”

*This coming weekend Jews in synagogues around the world will be attending an observance intended to obey a command given them by the LORD over 3,500 years ago through Moses. On this Sabbath before Purim, in addition to the regular reading from the Torah, Deuteronomy 25:17-19 will be read: “**Remember that which Amalek did to you when you came out of Egypt...Therefore, when YHVH your God has given you rest from all your enemies around you, in the land that YHVH your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you shall not forget!**”*

And substituting for the usual closing reading will be I Samuel 15:2-34, which begins, “**Thus says YHVH of Armies: ‘I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the**

way when he came up from Egypt. Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them.” The passage goes on to recount how Saul failed in carrying out God’s command—and brought back the king Agag alive. In the end it was the Prophet Samuel himself who was required to “*hew Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal*” (I Samuel 15:33).

Next week (March 1) is Purim. We will read the Book of Esther—in which is recorded how, during the 4th century BC, another Amalekite—a direct descendant of this Agag (Esther 3:1)—initiates an evil scheme to exterminate all of the Jews in the realms ruled by Persia, a scheme which is thwarted by God through Mordechai and Esther. Also on *Purim*, we will read Exodus 17:8-16—which points back to when the Israelites found themselves in their first battle after leaving Egypt. That battle was with Amalek. After defeating this enemy, Joshua in the valley with the troops and Moses, Aaron and Hur on the hill holding up the Rod of God, Moses “*built an altar and called its name, **The LORD (YHVH) is my Banner**; for he said, ‘Because the LORD has sworn: **The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.**’*”

We have had reason often in these Updates to make mention of this evil power, whose activities God has commanded Israel not to forget. The Amalekites were a real people—who throughout the Hebrew Scriptures epitomize and symbolize a *covenant-hating* spirit, typically manifest in anti-Semitism. One of God’s names is *Elohim Haim*—the “God of Life”. As such, His covenants insure Life on behalf of all the children of Adam. “*All the paths of the LORD are loving kindness and truth to such as guard His covenant and His testimonies...The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, He will make them know His covenant* (Psalm 25:10, 14). Through His Covenant with Abraham He promised blessing to *all* families of the earth (Genesis 12:3). Belief in a covenant in opposition to those which God has established, is belief in a covenant of death. The Life-God will therefore grant “no quarter” to those who threaten His covenant purposes; their remembrance must be “blotted out from under heaven.”

We see a covenant-hating “Amalek” spirit at work behind the religious system of Islam. Genesis 17:19-21 records that although God promised blessing to Ishmael, He plainly declared, “*My covenant I will establish with Isaac.*” Yet, the spirit working behind this system hates the covenant with Isaac, and has deceived its followers into believing that God did in fact release His covenant through Ishmael. This spirit therefore deceives its followers into clinging to a false covenant, and consequently hating the covenant established through Isaac and Jacob (thus releasing hatred against the Jewish people). And if they hate that covenant, then they are bound also to disbelieve and hate the “New Covenant” which was released through that covenant people to the whole world through Jesus, the Messiah.

The influence of this spirit extends throughout Islam—both within the Shia and the Sunni streams. This is demonstrated in the Iranian Shi’ite leaders’ repeated calls for the annihilation of Israel, the “Zionist enemy” (i.e. Hatred of God’s covenant binding the descendants of Isaac to His land, Zion). It has also been seen in the Sunni ISIS’s recent slaughter of Christians in Libya,

northern Syria and Iraq (i.e. Hatred of God's Covenant through the Blood of Jesus [who came through Isaac, not Ishmael] along with all who embrace that covenant by placing their trust in Him). *And both of these streams desire the covenant-city of Jerusalem, where the God of Israel has said that His Son will reign forever.*

*Our victory is the banner that our God of Life has given us for the battle—the banner of His Promise that it is His war and we are not alone—and He will be at war with Amalek, from generation to generation until it is “blotted out of remembrance under heaven” (Exodus 17:14-16). It is interesting that in Exodus 17:14, God vows to blot out the remembrance of Amalek—but in the Deuteronomy 25 passage, it is Israel who is commanded to blot it out. Obviously, He is working together and through us—even as He did through Joshua and Moses, and Mordecai and Esther. For our part, it is the very Blood of the *New Covenant* in His Son (Matthew 26:28, Revelation 12:11) which will carry us through.*

PLEASE PRAY:

***That as Jews around the world are reminded this weekend of the evils “which Amalek did”, they would also receive understanding of Who it was delivered Israel from his power—and Who has vowed to pursue Amalek with and through them until he is eradicated.**

***That there will be revelation among the Jews in and outside of Israel of the deep meaning of the Covenants God has made with them—including the New Covenant made in the blood of His Son (Jeremiah 31:31; Matthew 26:28).**

***For Muslims who have been deceived by the Amalekite spirit to be freed from its power—to come out from under it and into God's Covenant of Peace with all Humankind in Yasuah/Jesus.**

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 18-24 February 2018 are called *Tetsaveh*—“Command/Charge”:

TORAH: Exodus 27:20—30:10 (+ Deuteronomy 25:17-19)

HAFTARAH: I Samuel 15:2-34 (Shabbat-Zachor)

NOTE: This is one of four special Shabbats before Passover having additional Torah and replacement *Haftarah* readings. Because this Shabbat comes just before Purim, it is called *Shabbat-Zachor*—“Remember! (what Amalek did to you).” It contains an additional Torah reading (see above); and the usual *Haftarah* (Ezekiel 43:10-27) is replaced by the reading from I Samuel.

Lights and Illumination

This week’s Torah reading begins and ends (Exodus 27:20-21; 30:7-8) with *Light and Illumination* (and in the middle are “Lights and Perfections”—See *Urim & Thumim* below).

Moses is told to command the Children of Israel to bring to him “*clear oil of beaten olives for the light, to raise up a lamp perpetually.*” Near the close, the High Priest’s duties will include servicing the wicks and flames each morning and evening, at which time he will also be burning incense before the LORD.

Chapter 28 contains instructions related to the holy garments for Aaron the High Priest and his sons, with special instructions regarding the clothing of the High Priest: the ‘breastplate’, the ‘ephod’, the robe, tunic, turban, and sash.

Chapter 29 addresses the consecration and ordination of priests, the altar at which they would be serving and the sacrifices required.

Ch. 30:1-10 describes the Alter of Incense, which would be placed before the veil.

All of this is “Holy Ground” indeed. Ask the Lord to “illumine” your reading! We would also recommend reading Zechariah 3 along with this, where the LORD Himself is revealed as standing against our enemy, and supplying the purification truly necessary for priests in ministering righteously before Him.

***Exodus 27:20; 30:7,8: “*And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you clear, pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually...And he shall burn it [fragrant incense] every morning when he trims the lamps. When Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense...*”**

Plain olive oil doesn’t burn well if at all. It needs to be *zach*—refined, pristine, transparent, pure, clear. The Light from the Menorah illuminated the Holy Place; its lamps were also positioned so as to shine onto the table bearing the Bread of His Presence. **Pray that we keep the lamps of our spirits trimmed, and fueled with the Holy Spirit, so that the truth of His Word and Presence**

will be illuminated.

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning . . .” (Luke 12:35 NIV);

“You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light” (Psalm 18:28 NIV).

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Yeshua the Messiah” (II Corinthians 4:6).

***Exodus 28:3:** *“So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans (Heb: “wise-hearts”), whom I have filled with the spirit (wind) of wisdom, that they may make Aaron’s garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.”*

Pray for those whom God has especially gifted in the Body of Messiah as ‘craftsmen’, that they realize their talent and grace in developing their artistic skills have been breathed into them by the Holy Spirit—and that they will devote their creativity to that which is holy. In Israel as in other countries, there is a ‘thief’ waiting to divert the artistic giftings of God’s people away to the adulation of the world.

Urim and Thumim

***Exodus 28: 29-30.** *“Aaron shall carry the names of the sons of Israel in the breastplate of judgment over his heart when he enters the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually. You shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron’s heart when he goes in before the LORD; and Aaron shall carry the judgment of the sons of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually.”*

The exact nature of the Urim and Thumim and how they were used is no longer known to us. But we may assume this: they were a divine means used by the High Priest in making ‘wise judgment’ for Israel (Num. 27:21; Nehemiah 7:65). *Urim* is a special superlative for “Light”—as it were, “Light of Lights” – and *Thumim* a superlative for “Perfection”—as it were, “Perfection of Perfections”. Light (Hebrew: *or*) is related to “revelation and illumination”, while (*tome*) the Hebrew root for the word perfection is often translated “integrity” (cf. Psalm 25:21—“Let integrity (*tome*) and uprightness preserve me, for I wait in hope for You.”). Righteous judgments for His people is near to God’s Heart, and He desired it to be near to the hearts of His priests. This required supreme *Illumination and Integrity*—from beyond the wisdom of man.

Finally, *Urim* begins with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet *ALEPH*, while *Thumim* begins with the last *TAV*. *Aleph* and *Tav* (Hebrew) / *A* and *Z* (English)/ *Alpha* and *Omega* (Greek). In the Hebrew translation of Revelation 22:18, Yeshua (Jesus) declares,

“I am the Aleph and the Tav, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last”.

PLEASE PRAY that intercessors in Israel would be guided by a longing for righteous judgment, a plea for revelation and integrity to the One who is the “FIRST and the LAST,” the “Righteous

Judge” (II Tim. 4:8)—the true Light shining in Darkness, who illumines everyone who comes into the world (John 1:9).

Exodus 29:43-46.** ***“I will meet there with the sons of Israel, and it shall be consecrated by My glory. I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar; I will also consecrate Aaron and his sons to minister as priests to Me. I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God. They shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them; I am YHVH their God” (Emphases ours).

Last week we called attention to God’s desire to “dwell with”, to “neighbor closely”, to *shokhen* with His people. **PLEASE PRAY: for a longing among the sons and daughters of Israel after the presence of our LORD—for an awakened desire to be “consecrated” by HIS glory.**

In the Synagogues there is an oft-recited prayer for the *Shekinah* (manifest presence of His glory) to return to Zion. He longs to ***“dwell among the children of Israel and to be their God”***—but there must be a purification and consecration to prepare the way (Malachi 3:2-3).



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[The readings for next week 25 February—3 March 2018 are called *Ki Tisa*—“When You Elevate”: TORAH: Exodus 30:11—34:35; HAFTARAH: I Kings 18:1-39. *PURIM* is March 1 at which time the Book of Esther will be read.]

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