

Update from Israel: Special Purim Focus!

February 20, 2013

Dear Friends of Israel:

Daniel & Amber Pierce and **Martin & Norma Sarvis** provided updates earlier this week from Israel ... both with a focus on **Purim**. Therefore, we have combined their letters into a single email. Please take the time to read both of their reports below. And if you were not able to join us on Sunday for Robert Heidler's teaching on *The Feast of Purim*, you will want to set aside time this week to watch his wonderful on warring from prophetic destiny to overturn an evil decree! Just click [HERE](#) to watch the free webcast replay through Saturday evening.

Blessings,

Chuck D. Pierce

Allow the Difficult Place to Bring You to Your Esther Triumph!

An Update from Daniel and Amber Pierce

Monday, February 18, 2013

Do you feel like you are walking a fine line? Are you in an uncomfortable place or what others might even call a very dangerous place? I've reflected on this as I think of Purim (Esther's call for such a time as this), and some of the difficult things that we have walked through as a family living in the Middle East during a very shaky time. The call to have a child in a country where everything is so different and feels so insecure can be overwhelming when I start to wonder where and how I will have our baby and what I am supposed to do 6 months from now.

God has been speaking to me about places of comfort and safety, and how those places are not always where the Glory and anointing are. We seem to see the Lord best in these uncertain and insecure situations.

Last year Daniel took a picture of an olive press that hangs on a canvas in our living room. I look at it and think this country (Israel) is an olive press. ***Though it's been hard and the challenges are indescribable, we have grown so much from being in an insecure, uncomfortable, and sometimes dangerous location in the world.*** I'm sure that Esther had no idea of the full potential that God had put in her. God calls us to do things that we can't imagine we could ever carry out. That's because we can't fully see our God given potential!

Walking by faith and learning to say, "If I perish I will perish" is the place where our greatest victories lie. Esther was in a situation where the good of her own people was greater than her own comfort. She walked into a situation that could have easily led to

her death ... but God was leading her. Her position actually became the safest place for her to be because God had touched the circumstance.

When Daniel goes into the Bedouin village I feel like it's a tight squeeze. What I mean is that it's not a place where most people would go. He works in the largest Bedouin village in Israel and Hamas does have a presence there. These things make me nervous if I forget that God has touched the situation and put Daniel in that place.

I used to get very nervous at the idea of something being hard or dangerous. I'm now realizing that few things in the days ahead will be easy or what we used to think of as safe. This doesn't apply only to us because we live in the Middle East. Rather, this is a picture for all of us as a body. ***I don't see that things will get easier, but I do see that we have been equipped with faith and called for such a time as this.*** If we walk into every situation that God gives us with the attitude that Esther had then our faith will be great and with every situation we become the victorious ones that God has called us to be!

We only have a week and a half until we leave for the States! We are very busy until then finishing up commitments, meeting with ones who are traveling in, and securing our new home in Jerusalem. Daniel just signed the contract for our new house today. We will be in the U.S. until the middle of April, and are looking forward to being at the Passover Celebration with many of you on March 28-31. Then after returning to Israel, we will move into our new home on May 1.

Many blessings,



Daniel, Amber, Lily and Baby Pierce

Prayer Update From Israel (February 18, 2013)



*“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)*

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

Because this is the week preceding Purim (next Sunday), we feel to devote this Update to an examination of the dynamics surrounding that pertinent festival. At the same time, we would encourage you to pray:

* For wisdom, direction and courage for our Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu as the time nears when he must have formed a coalition if Israel is to go into this next season unified and strong.

* There have been signs in the heavens over this past week (Luke 21:25)—an asteroid coming nearer than any in recorded history to the earth, and a meteor exploding catastrophically over Russia. It is a time soberly to seek the Lord, and humbly to pray for “an ear to hear what the Ruach haKodesh (Holy Spirit/Holy Wind) is saying to the congregations.

*This week Pope Benedict became the first Pope in some 600 years to resign, saying he no longer felt physically capable of fulfilling his office. In a further act of humility, Benedict on Sunday called on believers, “I beg you to continue praying for me and for the next pope.” We believe it to be an act of humility on our parts, before an omnipotent God, to do so—and to pray a renewal in life, truth and guidance among the millions of Roman Catholics in the world. And we pray for the government of that body to be brought into God’s order and government for the season ahead. And that the next leader be one who blesses God’s sovereign purposes and pronouncements on His ancient land and people Israel.

PURIM

This coming Sunday (beginning sundown Saturday evening) is Purim—the day Jews celebrate their remarkable deliverance in 483 B.C. Persia (present day Iran) from a plot to exterminate them. The Scroll (book) of Esther will be read—there are Purim plays and

costumes, and special pastries and desserts and wine. In most of the Jewish world, Purim is celebrated on the 14th of Adar (24 February this year)—but in Jerusalem, Jaffa and other ‘walled cities’ it will be celebrated (as in ancient Shushan—“Susa”; see Esther 9:18-19), the following day.



200-year old Megilat-Esther (Scroll of Esther) on Parchment, handed down from Norma Sarvis’ Jewish ancestors in Belarus.

Although these are days for rejoicing and feasting (Esther 9:18-19)—they are preceded by days of soberness of spirit and fasting. Esther 9:31 tells of Mordechai and Queen Esther prescribing times for fasting and lamentation, recalling those which the Queen had called for her Jewish subjects when their entire race was in danger of annihilation and she was preparing herself to seek the *favor* of the King. Purim is a season when we are especially made aware of the Spirit of Amalek, with which our Lord continues to war, from generation to generation (Ex. 17:15-16). The Amalekites were a real people, who throughout the Hebrew Scriptures epitomize and symbolize the spirit of anti-Semitism. They were Israel’s first enemies after leaving Egypt. They preyed on her, picking off the weak straggling in the rear (Deut. 25:17-19, this week’s special additional Torah portion). God grants “no quarter” to those who threaten His Covenant purposes; their remembrance was to be “blotted out from under heaven.” When King Saul failed to do this (I Sam. 15—this week’s Haftarah), his kingdom was torn away from him; indeed, it would be an Amalekite who in the end claimed to have killed him (II Sam. 1:6-10). Centuries later, it would be Haman, a descendant of Agag (the Amalekite king whom Saul had spared) who, as recorded in the Book of Esther, would contrive to ignite the first Holocaust. With the hatred Satan has for Israel and her redemptive call, it is indeed a divine miracle flying over her (Exodus 17:15) which has sustained her and brought her, still an entity and with her ancient language restored, back to her native Land.

In recent years, this Spirit of Amalek has again manifest itself in Persia (Iran), whose leaders, having again prophesied annihilation of the Jews, are working furiously to devise weapons capable of bringing their prophecies to fulfillment.

Wednesday evening (February 20th at sundown) observant Jews began a one-day fast. We would encourage you to take this season seriously. Read through the Book of Esther; perhaps the Lord may lead you to join with us in the fast.

We find the following prayer points, written a year ago by our friend and Director of Succat Hallel in Jerusalem Rick Ridings, to be of even more pertinence and relevance today.

PLEASE PRAY:

1. That the Mordecais and Esthers of our time will hear the call of the Holy Spirit concerning the urgency of the hour, and will not be distracted or lulled into slumber by a false sense of security.
 2. For continued success of the covert war against Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon. On Nov. 8, 2011, I received a vision in one of our watches here in Succat Hallel in Jerusalem. I saw something resembling a Tower of Babel being built in Iran, representing a working together of various nations to stand against God. I sensed it represented their nuclear weapons program. As they were bringing final stones to place on top, then lightning from heaven struck it, and the top level of stones fell off (not all), producing a set-back to their nuclear efforts. Then waves coming from the worship in houses of prayer in the Middle East washed away sand in Iran, and uncovered and exposed hidden things. I felt this vision was confirmed by news reports on Nov. 11 of a great explosion at an Iranian top-secret, military facility, which “shook windows” 30 km. away in Tehran.
- Let us believe for much confusion and division upon the demonic powers bent on destroying Israel (2 Chron. 20).
3. For a clear understanding to come to the decision-makers in Jerusalem and Washington, DC to do the right thing at the right time. (Esther 7:3-6)
 4. Let us proclaim a reversal of every Satanic decree to destroy Israel, and that “Haman” will be hung upon his own gallows. (Esther 7:9,10; Ps. 33:10-12)
 5. For Iran (Persia), let us pray for the Lord to bring shame upon His enemies in such a way that they will begin to seek the Name of the Lord, to know Who is the True and Living God (See Psalm 83, especially verse 16).
 6. For Israel, let us pray that the God of Esther will once again bring great deliverance and joy to His ancient people, and that they will give all the glory to Him (Esther 9:20-22).

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.

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

HAFTARAH: I Samuel 15:2-34

(Note: This is one of four special Shabbats before Passover having additional Torah and replacement Haftarah readings. Because this Shabbat just *precedes* 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 1 Samuel about Saul's charge to destroy the Amalekites and his failure to *kill Agag (an ancestor of Haman)*.

Lights and Perfections

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 the enemy and supplying the purification really necessary in ministering righteously before Him.

NOTES

*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 tzach—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 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 Thumim, 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 (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 for You.”). Righteous judgments for His people is near to God’s Heart, and He desired it to be near to the heart of His priests. This required supreme Illumination and Integrity.

Lastly, 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 28:43-46. “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). We read last week of God’s desire to “dwell with” to “neighbor closely” 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).



***Martin & Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem***

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 24 February—2 March is called Ki Tisa—“When you Elevate”. TORAH: Exodus 30:11-34:35 (+Numbers 19:1-22); HAFTARAH: Ezekiel 36:16-38. NOTE: As with last week, this will also be one of four special Shabbats before Passover having additional Torah and replacement Haftarah readings. This one is called Parah (Cow) and recalls the ritual *involving* the ashes of a red *heifer* for purification from defilement by death. It contains an additional Torah reading (see above); and the usual Haftarah (I Kings 18:1-39) is replaced by the reading from Ezekiel.]