

## **PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL** (March 23, 2011)



### **1. ROCKETS, MORTARS, BOMBS**

**This afternoon around 3:00 a large bomb exploded next to a # 74 bus pulled up to a crowded bus stop across from the central bus station in Jerusalem. As of this writing, a 59-year-old woman is dead, at least 31 are injured, between three and seven seriously.** The bomb was evidently left in a bag against a light pole alongside a bus stop across from Israel's central bus station. It was packed with shrapnel so as to cause as much injury as possible.

The attack came a few hours after two Grad rockets fired from the Gaza Strip slammed into Beer Sheva, one landing in a residential area, damaging a synagogue and lightly wounding one man and causing a number of people to need treatment for shock. Earlier still, seven mortar shells landed in the Eshkol region of the western Negev and another at the Gates to the Negev area—and another Grad exploded in Ashdod. Even as we write, there is a report of seven more mortar shells being fired into Ashkelon. Prime Minister Netanyahu has cancelled a trip to Moscow planned for this evening and called an emergency meeting of top ministers to determine what measures must be taken.

This past Saturday morning within a fifteen minute period *54 mortar shells* rained down onto Israeli communities near the border. Israel's diplomats were instructed to lodge a complaint in the United Nations. Israel's Foreign Minister said that it showed that the international support for establishment of a Palestinian state was in fact "support for establishment of a terror state whose primary aim is the destruction of Israel."

Yet the barrage on Saturday received scant coverage in the international media, as had the Israeli apprehension of a ship last week loaded with tons of Iranian weapons headed for the Gaza Strip, and the brutal murder of five members of a Jewish family in Samaria the week before. Instead, headlines in for example, the London Telegraph showed pictures of Palestinians wounded in a retaliatory strike by Israel with headlines such as

“Gaza and Israel Launch Attacks”, “Israel launches Five air strikes on Gaza Strip”, “Israel kills Four Gazans as border violence Spirals”.

Within Israel there is the sickening feeling of whether, after several years respite, we may be headed into the sort of terrorist violence in the streets, buses and other public places experienced during the last intifada (the last terrorist attack involving a bomb was over four years ago). And there is the grim realization that with the continued provocations from Gaza, Israel will soon be forced to make a serious response, just as she was forced to do with the *Cast Lead* incursion into the Strip in late 2008.

It seems almost certain that this last is what at least some of the militants are after. No entrance by Israeli military into the densely populated Strip, whether to simply put a stop to the provocative attacks on our sovereignty, or to attempt to dislodge Hamas itself, can be accomplished without loss of civilian life. Hamas has a history of using its own people as shields. Within a day there will again be cries around the world of “Disproportionate response!” and graphic pictures of torn and suffering civilians. Might it be possible that this is an attempt to capitalize on the recent scenarios of violent, ruthless Middle Eastern despots attempting brutally to quell the efforts of heroic freedom-fighters for democratic reform—only this despot will be Israel killing and injuring scores of innocent Gazan civilians long oppressed by Israel’s tyrannical rule (not that of Hamas itself which destroyed all government and wrested total control after being elected to power).

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*That “Elohei-Ma’arkhot Yisrael”—the “Arraying God of Israel”—will array His armies on her behalf. That Israel’s leaders will turn their hearts to God for counsel...and hear what they are to do.**

**\*For Israel not enter miss-step in regards to the timing of an entrance into Gaza.**

**\*For mercy and healing grace over those injured and traumatized by the bombing in Jerusalem this afternoon.**

**\*For believing soldiers in Israel...to be prepared in spirit and before their God...and allied together for the calls which may soon be sending them into combat.**

---

## **2. FORMER PRESIDENT SENTENCED FOR RAPE**

This morning former Israeli President Moshe Katsav was sentenced to seven years in prison, for two counts of rape while serving as a Cabinet minister and one count of sexual harassment while in the office of President. In passing the judgments, the court said *“Rape is one of the most serious offences in the statute book...The defendant committed the crime and must bear the punishment as any other man...Rape hurts and ruins man’s soul...sexual harassment trampled the dignity of the complainants...The defendant is a symbol. The fact that Katsav committed the*

*acts while serving in a high-ranking post is reason to judge him severely.*” The current President Shimon Peres called it *“a sad day, but everyone’s equal before the law.”* Prime Minister Netanyahu commented, *“This is an important day for justice in Israel. It showed that there is equality before the law and that no one is above the law. It also showed that women are equal and it is forbidden to harm them.”* Comparing Israel with its surrounding neighbors, he called her *“a fortress of the rule of law.”*

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*For an awakened zeal for righteousness government in Israel...for unrighteous, wicked, corrupt and violent practices to be exposed within the leadership of the land and judged with truth and equity.**

**\*For the respect and honour of women in all echelons of the government to be realized and insisted upon.**

**\*For healing of those women violated by this man...that they might come to know the One who can restore, make new, and release life and a future for them.**

**\*For the Fear of the Lord to come upon those who would violate His charge in placing them in high positions of authority over His people and Land.**

---

**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.

**This week (March 20-26) the readings are called *Shemini* (“Eighth” day...):**

**TORAH: Leviticus 9:1—11:47**

**HAFTARAH: II Samuel 6:1—7:17**

**\*Leviticus 10:3b: *“By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, and before all the people I will be honored.”***

**\*Leviticus 11:44-45:** *“For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean...For I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

This week’s readings center upon the Holiness of Israel’s LORD—including the consequences to his children of not honoring that holiness. In Leviticus 10, Nadav and Avihu offer “*strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them*”, and fire comes out from His presence and consumes them. In the II Samuel passage, Uzzah touches the Ark which was being carried improperly, and “*the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for the irreverence, and he died there by the ark of God.*” Malachi 3:2-3 says that “*He is like a refiner’s fire*” and will “*purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness.*” ***Please Pray—for a sense of the ‘holy’ in the Body of Messiah in Israel—that we will not be presumptuous in our worship, yet will at the same time yield ourselves to the refining, that the offerings which we offer up will be done in righteousness, in spirit and in truth.***



***Martin and Norma Sarvis  
Jerusalem***

**[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week (27 March-2 April) are called *Thazria* (“Quicken with Seed”--Conceive) and include TORAH: Leviticus 12:1—13:59; HAFTARAH: II Kings 4:42—5:19]**