

**Prayer Update From Israel (March 23, 2015)**



***“...before the coming of the Great and Dreadful DAY OF THE LORD.”***  
**(Malachi 4:5, See Haftarah below)**

## **1. NETANYAHU WILL CONTINUE AT THE HELM.**

***The results of last week’s governmental elections in Israel were astounding.*** For days polls had been declaring that Netanyahu’s Likud party was steadily slipping; two days before elections it was confidently forecast to have fallen several seats behind the opposition Zionist Union party of Isaac Herzog and Tzipi Livni. But on Wednesday morning Israelis awakened to the astounding news that the Likud had won an extraordinary 30 seats, to Zionist Union’s 24. All local as well as international media were labeling it a major upset. ***We attribute this amazing turn-around to the prayers of God’s people around the world***—God has raised and preserved this man, He is extending His scepter of governance towards him for a third consecutive term, and in doing so it is a great mercy to our nation.

Of course, the enemy hates this. The victory is seen as a major defeat by many foreign powers, some of which went to lengths to encourage Netanyahu’s defeat. Although Netanyahu’s election positions Israel’s government in many ways into a place of alignment with the present Republican-dominated U.S. congress, it thrusts it into even more violent opposition with the White House which has consistently been at odds with Netanyahu and his policies (and according to many reports was involved in efforts to prevent his re-election). ***During the closing hours of the elections, the Prime Minister in an interview made the stunning declaration that “no Palestinian State would come into existence on his watch.”*** Netanyahu has long been seen as having reluctantly endorsed the Nations’ “two-state solution” to the Israeli-Palestinian question at a 2009 speech in Bar Lian University. However, the stipulations imposed by him on that endorsement have never (and would likely never) been realized, and there have been oft-expressed doubts as to his commitment to such a solution. Still—Netanyahu’s blunt declaration that it would not occur on his watch, followed by his dramatic win, immediately awakened a host of hostile cries from all over the world.

***The day after elections Netanyahu was widely reported as ‘back-tracking’ on his vow of two days before; of, in fact, turning 180 degrees and re-affirming his commitment to a two-state solution. But this is not entirely so.*** He did not retract the vow that no Palestinian State would

come into being on his watch. Rather, he simply said that he had never rescinded or retracted the declarations he made in 2009...affirming “*a solution in which a demilitarized Palestinian state recognizes a Jewish state.*” Of course, the Palestinians are not prepared to become demilitarized nor to recognize Israel as Jewish state. Also, during the closing hours of the campaign, the Prime Minister issued a warning on Twitter to encourage reluctant right-wing voters to get out in vote, because the Arabs were turning out to vote against him “in droves”. He was referring to reports of wealthy donors outside of Israel who had hired buses to transport Arab-Israeli voters to the polls. As he later clarified, “*I warned of foreign money coming in to selectively try and bring out supporters of a list that includes Islamists and other factions that oppose the State of Israel*” (“Netanyahu to Fox: Comments over Arab voters need to be taken in context”: *JPOST.com*, 20 Mar 2015, 12:45 IST). His warning was valid, but the words (“droves of Arabs”) were ill-chosen, and soon, both within and outside of Israel, he was being angrily accused of racism. Angered by the reports of a turn-around regarding a Palestinian state, and the remarks about Arabs, the White House waited a significantly long time (over a day) in making the traditional call to the Prime Minister to congratulate him—and then it was with a warning that it is planning on re-assessing its position on the Palestinian situation (including, presumably, its past automatic veto of unilateral actions by the Palestinians towards Statehood at the UN).

*As of Monday afternoon, five parties appear to have agreed to join Netanyahu’s coalition, bringing the total seats to a comfortable 67, six above the 61 required.* But before the government is truly set, it must be determined which ministry portfolios will be given to members of each of the parties. The present setup would include the two ultra-Orthodox parties. The Sephardic party *Shas* is headed by a charismatic figure who was in the government in the past, after which he was convicted in 1999 for bribery for which he served time in prison. There is no question but that Arye Deri wishes to return to his old post of Minister of Interior. We believe it would be a grave error for him to be given this spot again. (It would certainly signal strong discrimination against believers in Israel, and against those seeking to become citizens.) Netanyahu seems almost to have a spiritual vulnerability in his integrity regarding this party. It is not to be trusted. It was they who brought down Netanyahu’s first government in the late 90’s. Yet he would have certainly included them in his last government, except other parties he was required to have would not allow it.

**We believe there to be no question but that the Lord has placed Benjamin Netanyahu back in office as Prime Minister of Israel at this critical time. As he goes about the difficult task of building and firming-up a coalition and distributing the high ministry offices of the new government...**

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*That God would rest His favor and integrity upon the new Prime Minister. Following his victory, Netanyahu went as is his custom to pray at the Western Wall. Pray that he will indeed seek the favor, wisdom and guidance of the Father of Lights as he assumes control of the new government.**

**\*That God would bring to light any hidden darkness in any of the parties up for inclusion in the government. Exodus 18:21 and Deuteronomy 1:16 make clear that in choosing leaders, they are to be “able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness”...who “do not show partiality in judgment”. We believe that the current leader of the *Shas* party has displayed failure in all these respects. Please pray against any witchcraft which may be working to put this man back in control of the Ministry of the Interior. That in the name of Yeshua, who is the true “Gate” –this ministry at the Gates of Israel will be overseen by a man of truth and integrity.**

**\*For favor for our Prime Minister in governments abroad—but that he will not sacrifice his integrity nor his charge from on High to coercion by the Nations.**

**\*FOR PROTECTION FOR BENYAMIN NETANYAHU AND HIS FAMILY. We are aware of prophetic words before the election from a source for which we have strong respect that if the enemy could not keep this leader from being reelected, he would attempt to take him out in another way.**

## **2. THE LIGHT OF MESSIAH THROUGH HANDEL’S *MESSIAH* IN ISRAEL...IN HEBREW.**

Last night saw a production of Handel’s *Messiah* with orchestra in an auditorium on the coast, but sung in the original Hebrew in which many of the Scriptures of this holy masterwork were originally written. It has been about eight years since *Messiah* (Hebrew: *Mashiach*) was painstakingly translated for the first time into Hebrew and presented by a believing choir in Israel. Last night’s performance was exceptionally special in that over 300 Holocaust survivors were in attendance. It was deeply moving to see these dear souls in the audience, whose lives were thrown into great darkness at young ages and their souls stricken and in many cases hardened by the enemy by what they experienced and saw...sitting rapt under the powerful, searching strains of the music as the words of hope and salvation from their own ancient Scriptures came out in their original tongue:

***“For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people. But the Lord shall arise upon you and His glory shall be seen upon you...For unto us a Child is born...He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and he shall gather the lambs with his arm...He was despised and rejected of men: a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...and with His stripes we are healed...He was cut off out of the land of the living. For the transgression of Your people He was stricken—But You did not leave His soul in the grave; neither allowed Your Holy One to see corruption...I Know that my Redeemer liveth...(And from the New Covenant): “For since by adam came death, by Adam came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Messiah shall be made alive...Behold, I show you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed, in a moment in the twinkling of an eye, at the last Shofar. O death where is your sting. O grave, where is your victory. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain...who washed us from our sins in His own blood...Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him who sits upon the throne and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen!*”**

There will be another performance this Friday at 1:00 p.m. in Jerusalem.

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*For the Whole Word of God which went forth in the music Sunday evening (and the texts of which were kept and taken home in the program notes) would break through the pain-calloused spirits of those Holocaust survivors who were there—that the Veil would be removed from their eyes and the Light of Truth and Life and Love of the Father would find its way into their hearts—and those of the other Israelis who attended the concert.**

**\*The Anointing of God’s Spirit will rest on the choir and musicians as the oratorio is performed again next Friday in Jerusalem—a week before Passover. That holy revelation would be released regarding the Lamb of God who carries away the sin of the world.**

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**THIS WEEK’S TORAH PORTION:**

*From ancient times there has been a weekly portion (Parasha) 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 Parasha for this week 22-28 March 2015 is called *Tsav*—“Command”.

**TORAH: Leviticus 6:8—8:36.**

**HAFTARAH (Shabbat HaGadol): Malachi 3:4—4:6.**

### **TORAH**

***Tsav*—“Command”**

**Leviticus 6:8—8:36**

In this week’s Torah Portion *Tsav* (“Command”), Moses is told to command Aaron and his sons concerning the offerings they will shortly begin making before God. Careful instruction is made concerning each of these—with emphasis on the holiness of their activities. Then Aaron and his sons are consecrated, clothed in their holy garments and anointed...and atonement is made for them before they began their duties on behalf of the people.

## HAFTARAH

### *SHABBAT HAGADOL*

The Sabbath preceding Passover is called *Shabbat HaGadol*—the “Great Sabbath”. It takes its name from *Yom Yehovah haGadol v’haNorah*—“*The Great and dreadful day of the LORD*” found in Malachi 4:5 of the special *Haftarah* which is read on this occasion. It is an important time for soberly “taking account” of the Day which is coming “burning like an oven”...but also for taking heart from God’s promise that “*to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings!*”

**\*Malachi 3:16-18.** “*Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name. ‘They shall be Mine,’ says the LORD of Armies, ‘On the day that I make them my jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.’ Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.*” This passage shows that believers who spend time with other believers in conversation characterized by the Fear of the Lord, and who also spend time meditating on the attributes signified by His name—these will be ones who are granted discernment so as to be spared the deception which will prevail more and more until the Lord’s return (Matt. 24:4, 11, 24; Daniel 8:25).

**\*Malachi 4:1.** “*For behold, the Day is coming, burning like an oven...*”

As darkness gathers (John 9:4; Daniel 12:1-3) we must as believers hold to each other, listening, “*not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...as we see the Day approaching* (Hebrews 10:24-25). As the world refuses to wait on God’s command, drawing instead the fire of His wrath, another voice will be calling—“*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the congregations . . .*” (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 13:9).

Next week at seders around the world, Jews will put a glass of wine out on the porch “for Elijah”. At the end of the seder someone (often a child) will be sent out to see if he “came”. It is a charming tradition—but one related to a very serious Word from God, who has promised that He will “*send Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful Day of the LORD*” (Malachi 4:5). Yeshua (Jesus) affirmed that “*To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things.*”, even though he had already come in the form of John the Baptizer, yet gone unrecognized. However may be the ultimate form of his next coming, the awakened body of Messiah in the land of Israel is in great need of the discernment and power of the gifts and office of prophet which he represented. For the desire for and discernment of these in Israel—and that this time they not go unrecognized.

**“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy...For the testimony of Yeshua (Jesus) is the spirit of prophecy”** (1 Cor. 14:1; Rev. 19:10).



*Martin and Norma Sarvis  
Jerusalem*

[Passover and the Week of the Festival of Unleavened Bread begins Friday evening April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The next reading in the regular cycle of Torah readings (*Shmini*—“Eighth”) will continue on 11 April.]

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