

Prayer Update From Israel (April 16, 2012)



**Migrating storks from Africa, circling Jerusalem
April 15, 2012**

“Even the stork in the heavens knows her appointed times...but My people do not know the judgment of the LORD” (Jeremiah 8:7).

Please pray for righteous judgments to be made in Israel’s national, civil and military governments. Pray for righteous judgment to begin in the House of God...the Body of Messiah in Israel.

1. YOM HA-SHO’AH.

Thursday is *Yom haSho’ah*—Holocaust Remembrance Day in Israel. Ceremonies will begin the evening before, and at 10:00 that morning a siren will sound throughout Israel. Traffic will come to a halt; in city streets and out on the highways Jews will emerge from their cars to stand silently. It lasts for two minutes, calling to remembrance the horror which less than 70 years ago arose, seeking the extermination of the Jewish race. The Hebrew word for “Holocaust” is ‘Sho’ah’ (Capitalized, when transliterated). It means catastrophe, calamity, cataclysm, desolation. The word appears several times in the Scriptures; in Ps 35:8 and 63:10 it is the destruction which the Psalmist’s enemies wish to bring upon his soul, but into which, he trusts in the LORD, they themselves will fall.

The birth of Israel as a “Jewish State” provided a haven for the survivors of the *Sho’ah*— a home and bastion for their descendants, hopefully against such an evil ever rising again. Indeed, the slogan “Never again!” has been passed from generation to generation since then. Much has been done with the establishment of museums and many books and programs in the belief that “education” and “being informed” is the best defense against something like it ever again taking place. Yet, we feel compelled to mention that those nations most at the heart of the ideology which spawned the Holocaust in the 1930’s had been considered for over 400 years the center of Western civilized education and culture. One thing we should have learned is that Education alone will never of itself stem a rising tide of evil.

Might there be another *Sho'ah*? Certainly the evil one would like for there to be. He realizes, with the establishment and growth of this nation (perhaps especially now that there is an awakened and growing Messianic remnant in the Land) that God's not-yet fulfilled holy purposes for His ancient people they are still on course. And so we see again a rising anti-Semitism—although one which now finds its focus more on the nation itself, cloaking itself behind a repeated assurance that it is not anti-Jew—rather, anti-Zionist. It is sobering to find this same word *sho'ah* in Ezekiel 38:9 (here translated 'storm'), "*You will ascend (an alliance led by Gog, the Prince of Rosh), coming like a storm, covering the land (of Israel) like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you.*" In that ultimate battle, the LORD will intervene in wrath against the aggressors. Yet, before that time, we see armies arraying against Israel and national and religious leaders calling for her annihilation.

This week, as Israel pauses to ponder a great darkness which singled out her most recent ancestors for destruction—while at the same time casting an uneasy eye towards a quickly clouding future

PLEASE PRAY:

***For revelation that the Word of the LORD in Jeremiah 29:11 is still alive and ringing, specifically and first of all for His people Israel— "*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*"**

***For a massive awakening of desire in Israel to put her trust in the LORD rather than in her leaders and military strength (Psalm 118:8-9; 33:16-17).**

***For the estimated 200,000 elderly Holocaust survivors living in Israel today. Because of what they have experienced and seen, these are often bound by the Accuser in a hardened, cynical world of darkness. Pray that the true Light which pierces the deepest darkness (John 1:5,9) will shine into their hearts—drawing them in Love to a life in which they have long since ceased to believe.**

***For a breaking in Israel of any 'identity' related to the extent of our persecution in the past. Pray that, while learning what we can from the past, we will begin to focus more on the future and what God's Word tells us about it.**

***Psalm 25:22: "*Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.*"**

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's portion contains a double reading.

The name of the first is “Thazria” (“Quicken with Seed”—“Conceive”. Related to the bringing forth of a child):

TORAH: Leviticus 12:1—13:59

HAFTARAH: II Kings 4:42—5:19

The second reading is called “Metsora” (Related to “leprosy”):

TORAH: Leviticus 14:1—15:33

HAFTARAH: II Kings 7:3-20

After last week's focus on the importance of Israel's being 'set apart', of her distinguishing between the holy and unholy, the unclean and clean (Lev. 10:10)—this week's portion continues in instruction of how this was to be worked out in everyday life. There needed to be purification and atonement made for a mother when bringing forth children; there must be measures of isolation and testing taken for outbreaks of surface diseases or blights (both on physical bodies and on dwellings), and for contaminating discharges from the body. And there was the way prescribed for restoration once healing had occurred. When Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus) came to be born in a stable, his mother Miriam (Mary) submitted to these same instructions for purification (Luke 2:22), and when it was time for the sacrifice, she and Joseph could only afford the humble offering mentioned here (Lev 12:8; Luke 2:24). Yeshua's coming was to “undo the works of the devil” manifest in all of these diseases, to bring atonement, redemption healing and cleansing. It is very significant that among his healing miracles, special mention is made of those involving lepers and a woman with an ‘issue of blood’. Please pray, as those in synagogues this coming weekend hear these words which so graphically picture the presence and result of sin in our midst and man's need for healing and being pronounced clean—that the Holy Spirit will convict of sin and righteousness and judgment, and draw Jews to seek cleansing through the One who washes white as snow.

**** II Kings 5:1: “Now Na'aman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master; because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, leprous.”***

Some important things stand out to us in this story. Present-day Syria is a nation still considered to be in a state of war with Israel. It is a nation with thousands of missiles pointed at us (many with poisonous gas or germ-warfare payload capabilities). Its president continues to respond to civil upheaval in his country with an iron hand resulting in thousands of deaths during the past few months. President Assad has chosen to almost totally ignore the loud reproaches of the nations, instead strengthening ties with Israel's arch-enemy Iran and with Russia. Nor is there any special reason to expect more friendly overtures towards Israel from the Sunni-dominated government which would presumably take his place were he to fall.

Yet it is very important that we not dehumanize an entire people, because their country is aligned against us as an enemy; God has redemptive purposes for the people of Syria. In Elisha's day, this region also stood as Israel's enemy. Nor were northern Israel's leaders in any sense walking with God at that time. The passage above shows us how an heroic general of this same region had actually been used by the LORD to bring victory (Hebrew: salvation) to Syria. Some of those victories had been at Israel's expense! But God had a bigger plan. Although Israel's king was a godless man, it was still God's promise that in Abraham's seed all the nations of the earth would receive His blessing. Through the compassionate testimony of a young captive Israeli girl, He purposed to bring further personal "salvation" and cleansing to Na'aman, and also the redeeming knowledge to Syria that there was a "prophet in Israel" (II Kings 5:8).

PLEASE PRAY:

***For the prophetic to be established again in Israel as in days of old, this time in the Body of Messiah (*"The testimony of Yeshua is the spirit of prophecy"*- Rev 19:10)—to the extent that even in the lands of our enemies there will come the testimony that *"there is a prophet in Israel"*.**

***Against the witchcraft over the Syrian government which seeks to strengthen itself through the blood-sacrifice of thousands of its own people.**

***That God will awaken heroic men and women in Syria, to the revelation that *"salvation is of the Jews"*—that there is cleansing for all men provided in *"Elohei Yisrael"*—the "Israel God". That His angels will minister on behalf of those in and around Damascus who will inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14).**

*** That Benjamin Netanyahu will be given divine counsel, strength and courage to follow God's purposes regarding peace with Syria. Pray that such peace will come in God's way—not man's. It is only He who can affect a lasting peace on Israel's borders (Psalm 147:14). The Golan Heights, which Syria demands be returned to her as a basis for any peace treaty, lies in the ancient territory of Og—a principality defeated by Moses, who gave the area including all of Mount Hermon to part of the tribe of Manasseh (Deut 3:13, Josh 13:8-11). We do not see any lasting peace or security coming for Israel or Syria by giving it away. Please pray that God will show and lead us in His better way. If He could influence the King of ancient Syria for good through releasing mercy through Israel on to one of his generals—might He not do something similar in our day? *"Ki le'Olam hasdo!"*—*For His Mercy endureth Forever!!***



**Martin & Norma
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[The readings for next week 22-28 April contain another "Double Reading": I. *Acharei Mot* ("After the Death"): TORAH: Leviticus 16;1—18:30; HAFTARAH: Ezekiel 22:1-

19. II. *Kedoshim* (“Be Holy”): TORAH Leviticus 19:1—20:27; HAFTARAH: Amos 9:7-15 (Ashkenazy synagogues); Ezekiel 20:2-20 (Sephardic synagogues)]

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