

PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (May 16, 2011)



Day 28 of 'counting the omer' to Pentecost

1. “Naqba”—AND TWO SPEECHES IN WASHINGTON.

This past Sunday was what Palestinians and much of the Muslim world call *Naqba*—“Catastrophe”. May 15th is the day according to the Gregorian calendar when in 1948 Israel became an internationally recognized nation. That was also the day on which seven Arab armies mobilized for the purposes of snuffing out the infant nation. It has come to be a perennial day for demonstrations, often violent, against Israel’s existence, and against its refusal to repatriate the thousands of Arabs who fled into surrounding nations and territories during the conflict which ensued. **We wish first of all to thank God for all who prayed for Israel during the weeks leading up to and through this day.** In the event, things were certainly not so severe as it was feared they might have been. Still, it was a day of demonstration, riot and violence on a number of fronts. In Tel Aviv an Israeli Arab truck driver rampaged through the streets crashing into cars and a bus, wounding a number of people and killing an Israeli pedestrian. There were riots along the border in Gaza, and in Israel in parts of Jerusalem, resulting in the death of a youth in Silwan. In the north, thousands massed on the borders of Syria outside the Golan Heights and many thousands more were bussed from refugee camps in Lebanon to demonstrate on the Israeli border. On the Syrian front, several hundred managed to illegally break through the border and briefly occupy part of a Druze village; at least three were reported killed there, while across the border in Lebanon as many as ten were killed. As the crowds were approaching the border of Lebanon the Israelis were given orders to fire at the legs of those who would not stop. At the same time the South Lebanese army was filmed firing in the air over the crowds; the officers of the Northern Command issued a statement later strongly suggesting the likelihood that it was shots from the Lebanese army which caused the fatalities. Israel has submitted a formal complaint to the UN Security Council against both Syria and Lebanon for breach of UNSC resolutions and breaking international law. It is strongly suspected that the incursions from Syria were stoked by that government to draw world attention away from the slaughter which has been going on in recent weeks as government forces there have attempted to squelch riots of Syrian citizens against that despotic regime. In the end, by the end of the day, the

violence had been quelled, and the demonstrators withdrew. Nor were there signs of any beginning of a “3rd Intifada” as had been urged over Internet and Facebook.

On Monday Prime Minister Netanyahu delivered an address at the opening of the Knesset’s summer session in which he pointed out that for all the calls both within the Palestinian Authority and in nations around the world for Israel to return to the 1967 borders, the present conflict was “*not a conflict on 1967 but a conflict on 1948, and on the right of Israel to exist. You must have noticed that yesterday’s events did not take place on June 5, the day the Six Day War erupted, they took place on May 15, the day the State of Israel was established.*” The Prime Minister went on to comment on the recent “reconciliation” between Fatah and Hamas, “*A Palestinian government half of which is comprised of those who declare their willingness to destroy the State of Israel on a daily basis is not a partner for peace. Anyone who says ‘one makes peace with one’s enemies’ must add ‘one makes peace with an enemy who has decided to make peace.’*” Although Netanyahu has given lip-service to establishment of a Palestinian state, his stipulations for such are such that as of yet the Palestinians have given no indication of accepting—* *That they recognize Israel as a nation-state of Jews; * That a peace agreement with Palestinians will bring to an end future claims on the land; *That there be no “right of return” for Palestinian refugees; * That with any future state there must be an Israeli military security presence along the Jordan Valley; * That in any future scenario large pre-existing settlement blocks in Judea and Samaria will remain part of Israel; *That Jerusalem will remain the undivided capital of Israel.*

Prime Minister Netanyahu leaves Thursday night for the United States to deliver a speech before both houses of Congress. Earlier that day, US President Obama has chosen to himself give a speech with a portion devoted to Israel, the Palestinians, and peace talks. According to a draft of the speech obtained by the Israeli paper *Yedioth Ahronoth*, the speech will demand that the PA recognize Israel as a Jewish state and abandon terror. However, it is also expected to call on Israel to halt all “settlement” activity (the President has repeatedly expressed his conviction that these are illegal), and *to move in the direction of returning to the 1967 borders.*

We hope that this last will not be verbalized in the President’s speech. We must say here that we believe a reversion to those borders to be impossible. Those borders enclosing land claimed by Jordan between 1948 and 1967 included Judea and Samaria and ALL of the historic “Old City” of Jerusalem. Between those years, the Muslim inhabitants, having expelled all the Jews, destroyed over 30 synagogues, desecrated the Jewish holy sites and burial places, nor allowed any Jews access to any of the sites, such as the Western Wall, not to mention the Temple Mount for eighteen years (*Forever*, had not the war broken out). The present Palestinian leaders have repeatedly expressed their similar intentions of having *no* Jewish presence in any future Palestinian state. Chillingly, the world, in its coercion of Israel to allow establishment of this state, may be, wittingly or no, participating in reestablishment of a *Judenfrei* region in the Holy Land (*Judenfrei* (“free of Jews”) was the Nazi term designating an area made and kept free of Jews during The Holocaust. It is also ironic that those Jews presently living in Judea and Samaria, seen by much of the world as “occupiers” of land stolen as “occupiers” of stolen land, are in fact living on land to which they were granted *legal right* internationally by a resolution made by the Supreme Council of Allied Powers at San Remo Italy on April 25, 1920. The resolution was later ratified unanimously into Law on July 24, 1922 by the League of Nations,

laying down legal right for Jewish settlement anywhere in the area between the Jordan River and Mediterranean Sea (We will write more on this crucial, yet little-known, conference in future Updates, but we would encourage our readers to become acquainted with it by visiting the website of the *European Coalition for Israel* www.ec4i.org and selecting “San Remo Resources”. Another helpful article is a press release to the 90th Anniversary Conference last year http://www.mythsandfacts.org/article_view.asp?articleID=175).

PLEASE PRAY:

***That God will steer Israel through the narrowing straits towards the opening of the General Assembly at the UN on September 19 when the Palestinian leaders have declared their intention of declaring unilaterally a state in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. That our leaders will humble themselves and seek God for counsel—or at least receive counsel from one who has sought Him. “For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You” (II Chronicles 20:12).**

***That God will inform both President Obama and Prime Minister Netanyahu in what they are to say in these critical speeches at the end of this week—and that they will hear and respond positively to His promptings.**

***That governmental leaders in Washington, especially those present at the joint congressional assembly will weigh the words they hear and respond positively to what is true and of integrity.**

***Courage and protection in body, soul and spirit for Prime Minister Netanyahu and his wife Sara. That they warm to the presence of the Holy Spirit as they are being supported in prayers from around the world.**

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 reading for this week May 15-21 is “*B’Chukkothai*”—“In My Statutes:

TORAH: Leviticus 26:3—27:34

HAFTARAH: Jeremiah 16:19—17:14

With this reading we come to the end of the Book of Leviticus. Chapter 27 brings the book-proper to a close (Chapter 28 is an appendix “focusing on a variety of laws pertaining to voluntary offerings and taxed obligations to the sanctuary). Chapter 27 emphasizes the favour and blessing which will accompany walking in obedience to statutes and commandments of the Lord (vss 3-13)—Obedience will affect the very weather and soil of the land, even as Disobedience (in the Garden) had brought a curse on it. Then follow five necessary warnings of the consequences of getting out of the protection afforded by obedience to God’s directives. Each of these warnings is preceded by “*But if you do not obey Me*”—or, “*And after all this, if you do not obey Me*”—or, “*Then if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me*”—or, “*And if by these things you are not reformed by me, but walk contrary to me*”. The clear implication is that it is the LORD’s desire that these severe disciplines will draw His people back into His way of Life, not away from it. Verses 34-35 deal with the recovery of the Land if Israel is finally ejected, the plight of Israel in exile without God (36-39); and the restoration of the people when they at last humble themselves (“It is the Lord’s mercies which lead us to repentance”) and turn back to seek His ways. These closing words would be a comfort and encouragement to repentance and hope of a future for Jews—both during the future exile in Babylon, and through an even greater exile down to today.

***Jeremiah 17:5-8 (NIV):** “*This is what the LORD says: ‘Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.’”* **This is a wonderful passage to pray over the Body of Messiah in Israel. It is so essential that we be weaned from trusting in our own natural abilities—otherwise, we will not even see true prosperity when it arrives. We know that ‘heat’ will be coming, and in many forms (We have just passed through several “years of drought”). But it is God’s desire that we be so rooted in the streams of His living Spirit so that His grace will keep us green and fruitful during those times. Please pray that we be nurtured and trained in placing our trust and confidence totally in Him. We pray the same for you!**

***Jeremiah 17:14:** “*O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be ashamed. ‘Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the source of living water, the LORD.’ Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; Save me, and I shall be saved, For You are my praise.”* **HaTiQva—“The Hope”, is the name of Israel’s national anthem. The ‘hope’ in that song is “to be a nation free in our Land.” Israel will never be truly ‘free’ in her land until the Son has set her free and she is “free indeed” (John 8:36)—until she realizes that the LORD alone is her ‘Hope’. BUT THIS IS BEGINNING TO HAPPEN!! Please continue to pray that more and more of us will find the ‘Source of living water, our healing, and our Salvation—and that He become “Our Praise!”**



*Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 22-28 May will be *B'midbar*—“In the Desert” : TORAH: Numbers 1:1—4:20 ; HAFTARAH: Hosea 1:10—2:20.]

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