

Prayer Update From Israel (May 27, 2012)



Entrance to the “sealed room” in the authors’ apartment. For some years now it has been required that new apartments built in Israel contain a sealed room with reinforced walls. The boxes on the stool at the entrance contain gas masks, and injections for use in case of the release of nerve gas in a missile attack. On the box is the simple designation in Hebrew, “Defense Kit”. Within the room are also water supplies, and a radio with which to monitor for the ‘all clear’ signal.

1. NATIONAL EMERGENCY WEEK

This morning the rising-and-falling wail of the “incoming missile” siren sounded over all of Israel. It wasn’t for real this time; a drill rather, for people in businesses and children in schools to practice getting to where they will need to be when they really are coming in. Tonight it will sound again, a practice for families at home. This is all part of a two-day nationwide chemical warfare drill, as part of an entire week devoted to examining and testing the nation’s readiness for national emergency. At his weekly cabinet meeting yesterday morning, Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke of Israel as being “the most threatened state in the world.” After all, the largest stockpile of poisonous gas in existence lies a few miles away in Syria. This week it was finally publically acknowledged what was already known, that the Shi’ite Hezbollah forces based in southern Lebanon are fighting, with Iranian support, in Syria on behalf of the besieged Assad. The Syrian President is also being aided by Russia. But it is also now clearly known that among the leading factions fighting against Assad are jihadists openly linked with *al Qaeda*. If Israel sees the WMD’s headed for either the Hezbollah or Al Qaeda, she will take measures to stop them. Although they are enemies following separate streams of Islam, these two groups harbor a common hatred of Israel. For his part, Assad has, according to a *Sunday Times* report deployed long-range missiles capable of carrying 1,100 lb. warheads with their coordinates set on Tel Aviv, with orders that they be prepared to fire should Israel attack again.

Meanwhile, a *Foreign Policy* “Middle East Brief” examined the ways in which Iran is continuing to expand its nuclear activities. Israelis were encouraged by a US Senate resolution last week demanding American support should Israel find it necessary to attack the Iranian nuclear facilities. The resolution, which was passed with the approval of all but one Senator read:

"If the Government of Israel is compelled to take military action in legitimate self-defense against Iran's nuclear weapons program, the United States Government should stand with Israel and provide, in accordance with United States law and the constitutional responsibility of Congress to authorize the use of military force, diplomatic, military, and economic support to the Government of Israel in its defense of its territory, people, and existence."

This Sunday our Benjamin Netanyahu ended his remarks to the Cabinet on “Emergency Week” by asserting, *“In the end, no protection can be a substitute for the striking power of the IDF and the stamina and strength of the Israeli public in time of attack.”*

We are grateful for the American Senate’s initiative; and we think we understand where our Prime Minister is ‘coming from’ with his remarks. But of course, neither the support of our allies, nor the “striking power” of our military, nor the “stamina and strength” of our citizens is enough. Yes, we are in need of wise and skilled strategy and timing by our governmental and military leaders, and prudently planned preparations for our citizens. But most of all we are in need of the counsels and protection of God. Psalm 33:11 tells how those counsels “stand forever”—the thoughts of His heart “from generation to generation”.

We mentioned the boxes for Israeli gas-masks bearing the description “Defense Kit”. The word for “defense” here is the word *magen* which, in the English translation of the Hebrew Scriptures is at least 45 times translated “shield”.

PLEASE PRAY:

***That Israel will be adequately prepared on the ‘home front’ for any future attack from outside her borders. Pray for the mercies of God to release His divine counsels into the consciousness of those formulating and implementing these preparations.**

For the truth of Psalm 44:3 to come into the awareness of our leaders, *“It was not by our sword that we won the land, nor did our arm bring us the victory, it was Your right hand, Your arm and the Light of Your face, for You loved us.”

***THE FOLLOWING AND OTHER *MAGEN*—“SHIELD” PASSAGES OVER ISRAEL:**

Genesis 15:1. *“Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”*

Deuteronomy 33:29. *“Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, the shield of your help and the sword of your majesty!*

Psalm 3:1-3. *“LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me, ‘There is no help for him in God.’ But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head.”*

Psalm 28:7-9. *“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him...Save Your people, and bless Your inheritance; Shepherd them also, and bear them up forever.”*

Psalm 33:20-22. *“We wait in hope for the LORD, He is our help and our shield; in Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name. May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You.”*

2. A BETTER WAY

The horrendous slaughter in broad daylight of a young soldier in the streets of London this week, the bombings at the Boston Marathon a few weeks ago, the mass murder at Fort Hood, Texas in 2009—these are impossible to be explained away as unrelated, isolated incidents involving troubled or deranged individuals’ misinterpretations of a peaceable and benign ideology. They all, rather, bear witness to the manifestation of a common deadly catalyst. What is to be our understanding and stance as Believers as these violent outbreaks attributed to “militant Islamists” increase across the world. We believe that the truths in the following short analysis by Francis Frangipane can help us. Through such classics as *The Three Battlegrounds* and *Holiness, Truth and the Presence of God*, this wise and godly brother has over the years been used by God to enlighten, equip and encourage many in the realities of spiritual warfare, and of the place of strength, life and victory in relation to our holy and loving God. In the context of the steadily increasing outbreaks of Islamic-related violence throughout the world, we find the following illuminating thoughts from Francis to be especially timely and edifying, filled with *hesed v’emet* (“loving kindness and truth”).

A Better Way By Francis Frangipane

May 24 2013: A man might be a nominal Christian, mostly unaffected by spiritual things, until one day he reads the Bible and the Holy Spirit ignites in him a fire. If that person remains steadfast in his inspiration, he will increasingly pattern his life after Jesus Christ - that is, he will become more loving, more forgiving, and more ready to give his life for the redemption of others. Spiritual gifts will accompany his life as He becomes Christlike. As Jesus said, "The works that I do, he will do also" (John 14:12).

However, if a nominal Muslim begins to read a Koran, if he continues his daily reading and feels an increasing zeal toward obeying the precepts of Mohammed, if he continues on, this man will ultimately desire to possess true Islam – that is, total submission to Allah. The works Mohammed did the follower will also do. The zealot will police his community, seeking to preserve obedience to Islam. He will seek to convert unbelievers by all means, including violence and terror, and he will consider it his duty to kill those who resist the

spread of Islam. If one carries true Islam in his or her soul, but does not use violence, they will at the very least sympathize with those that do.

Thus, the radicalization of at least some Muslims is inevitable, for the normal growth of an unrestrained zealot will eventually conform him to the founder of his religion. This means that as long as there are people reading the Koran there will be a small percentage who pledge their lives to Islam's spread even by use of violence. We who live in the predominantly non-Muslim world will have to cope with the violence of these "true believers."

It also means that the moderate Muslims must realize, unless they desire war with their non-Muslim neighbors, they will have to expose and denounce the radicalized Muslim, especially in communities where Muslims and non-Muslims live together.

Are you Muslim? Do you want the radical extremist to represent you and your people? If not, then you must find ways to direct the radical Muslim into a spiritual jihad against the sins of his soul rather than a violent jihad against the people of a community.

Are you Christian? You must guard against prejudging all Muslims, for many people turned to Islam as a reaction to the sinfulness of the West. In a real way, they were seeking Christ and stability and the church failed them. *But in this present atmosphere, they are doubting the choice they made to follow Islam.* Therefore, we must reveal Christ and the love He has for all men if we hope to win Muslims.

And finally, as Christians, we must forgive and pray for Muslims. My wife and I pray daily for Muslims, that the Lord of the harvest would send laborers into the Muslim world and that Jesus would be revealed to them, including the most radical who are ready to kill.

The radical Islamist will only be won by the radical Christ follower. We must show them a better way.

[Please feel free to forward this message to others; acknowledging our web site (Ministries of Francis Frangipane www.frangipane.org) would be kindly appreciated.]

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 26 May—1 June is *Sh'lach L'cha*—"Send for Yourself" (--men that may scout out the land of Canaan).

TORAH: Numbers 13:1—15:41

HAFTARAH: Joshua 2:1-24

This week's reading focuses on the 12 spies sent out by Moses at the command of the LORD to spy out the land of Canaan soon after Israel left Mt Sinai. It relates the differing reports which were brought back and the spirits behind those reports. It then recounts the judgment released over the entire adult generation of those who followed the spirit of fear and unbelief. In the *Haftarah*, it is almost 40 years later and spies are once again being dispatched, this time from the next generation and from a different border.

***Numbers 13:16:** *"These are the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun, Joshua."*

Hoshea means "Salvation". *Joshua* (in Hebrew pronounced *YehoSHUah*), is a contraction for "**YEHOVAH SAVES**". Over 1500 years later a still-shorter form of that name *Yeshua*, would be given by the angel to Joseph (and in Luke 1:31 to *Miriam*—"Mary", his wife), "...and you shall call His name *Yeshua*, for He **will save** His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

***Numbers 13:30; 14:6-9:** *"Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it....Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh...spoke to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them.'"*

It is remarkable that the Hebrew root for the word "war" and that for "bread" are identical (The two-edged sword in the hands of God's warriors (Psalm 149:6) is literally a "*many mouthed*" sword to devour His enemies—while the mouths of the warriors themselves are filled with His praise!

***Numbers 13.33.** *"There we saw the nephilim (the sons of Anak came from the nephilim); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."*

Nephilim are mentioned by name only one other place in the Bible, Genesis 6:4. It is by no means certain that the spies saw *nephilim*—or in fact, that these fearful beings have ever existed on earth since the Flood. In fact, II Peter 2:4 appears to be referring to them as having been cast into a place "below the earth" where they were delivered "*into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.*" The "parentheses" around English translations of the statement that "*the sons of Anak (giants) came from the nephilim*" is of course not in the Hebrew. We believe it likely that

this statement was itself made by the terrified spies—allowing stories from antiquity about the monstrous pre-Flood beings to color their perception of the large people they had actually seen. The Biblical narrative itself only mentions the “children of Anak (giant)” (13:22) as had the spies themselves earlier (13:28).

***Numbers 14:24** *“But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.”*

PLEASE PRAY against Israelis responding to the giants we face in a spirit of fear...that we realize that if we trust in God, he will not allow the land to devour us. Pray against cynical conversation amongst older believers in the Land about the land devouring those within it; this only serves to discourage and dishearten the generation God wishes to raise up for strength, victory and governance here. Please pray that men and women of “a different spirit” would rise up in Israel, not focusing on the giants but trusting in the God who made the heavens, and Who has promised to give us a land flowing with milk and honey in which righteousness dwells.

***Numbers 15:38-40:** *“Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God.”*

The “blue” thread in these tassels or fringes (Hebrew: *tzitzit*) was “*tehellet*”, a sky-blue dye thought to have been made from a particular species of snail (For centuries this creature was assumed to be extinct and consequently the colored thread was not placed in the fringes of observant Jews. In the past 15 years this crustacean is believed to have been rediscovered in the Gulf of Aqaba; now many are again wearing the “sky blue” thread in their “*tzitzit*”). Much of the specific significance for the fringes and the colored thread remains uncertain—some have suggested that they served as a reminder that because of the “harlotry to which our hearts and our own eyes are inclined” victory in overcoming these inclinations can only be obtained by calling on the Holy One who dwells in the heavenlies (sky-blue). It was these ‘fringes’ on the garment of Yeshua which the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:25, Luke 8:43) touched and “power went out of Him” and healed her. **Please Pray that Israelis would be convicted of their need to obey God, but also aware of their natural “inclination” against doing so. Pray that they would seek salvation in the One out of whom comes power to be Children of God (John 1:12), to please and draw near to the Father.**

***Joshua 2:12; 2:18: RAHAB:** *“Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father’s house, and give me a true token.”* **SPIES:** *“We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father’s household to your own home.”*

There is a wonderful picture here. Rahab requests that the spies show her and her family “loving kindness” (Hebrew: *hesed*) and give her a token of “truth” (Hebrew: *emet*). The token of loving kindness and truth (*hesed* and *emet*) is a scarlet thread which, when seen, will protect them from a destruction of judgment soon to come upon all of her wicked nation. When God the Father sent His Light into the world, we are told that although the Torah had been given through Moses, “*Loving kindness and Truth* (Hebrew translation: *hesed and emet*) *came through Yeshua the Messiah*” (John 1:17)—“*in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of God’s Loving kindness* (Hebrew: *hesed*) (Ephesians 1:7). **Please pray for revelation in Israel regarding the urgent necessity of being saved from the wrath to come—and of the loving kindness and Truth which are offered to those who will put their trust in the finished work of the Messiah! Psalm 33:18-19 says that “the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him and whose yearning hope is in His hesed—to deliver them from death and to keep them alive in famine!”**



*Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 2-8 June will be *Korach*—“Korah”:
TORAH: Numbers 16:1—18:32; HAFTARAH: I Samuel 11:14—12:22 (For *Rosh Codesh*:
Isaiah 66:1-24, 23; I Samuel 20:18, 42)]

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