

## *Prayer Update From Israel (May 8, 2012)*



**Day 31 of the “Counting of the Omer” to Pentecost.**

*The grain fields lying between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv are golden.*

*Matthew 9:37-38*

### **1. GOVERNMENTAL SHIFTS OF POTENTIALLY GREAT IMPORT FOR ISRAEL CONTINUE**

The past two days have seen France’s President Nicolas Sarkozy ousted by left-wing Francois Hollande, Vladimir Putin ascending to six-year term as president of Russia (his third term, after four years as Prime Minister). Then in a dramatic 11<sup>th</sup> hour turn of events in Israel even as the Israeli was voting on dissolving the government in the wee hours of Tuesday morning (after we had sent out the first draft of this Update)—Prime Minister Netanyahu suddenly announced that he has negotiated a deal with Shaul Mofaz, the new opposition leader of the Kadima party, to form a unity government. If this goes as planned, there will be NO early elections...Netanyahu will fill out his term into fall of 2013, with Mofaz coming aboard as Deputy Prime Minister, a folio in the Cabinet, a presence in security decisions, and probably other folios for members of party he is bringing into the government. We would mention that Mofaz has served in the military as a respected General who eventually became Chief of Staff; he later held the post of Minister of Defense.

In light of these developments, we turn for guidance in our intercession to the One Who, *“changes the times and the seasons...removes kings and raises up kings...gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding...reveals deep and secret things; He knows what lies in the darkness, and Light dwells with Him”* (Daniel 2:20-22).

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### **2. THE GOD FACTOR IN IRAN**

In light of the continually developing Iranian crisis and the relevance each of the shifts mentioned above may have in relation to it, we felt to submit this week for your prayerful

**consideration the following insightful and timely admonition recently released to the Body by Francis Frangipane.**

### **The God Factor**

By Francis Frangipane

Rarely does a night pass without my wife and I praying for the Muslim world, and increasingly so for Iran. We are praying in agreement with millions of other Christians around the world.

I'm sure everyone knows that the world is moving toward a pivotal juncture in time. Iran's leaders are aggressively pursuing nuclear weapons while simultaneously pledging to destroy Israel. Israel, on the other hand, has sworn that Iran will not get nuclear weapons. The watching world has increased crippling sanctions on Iran, but to no avail. It seems inevitable that these two nations will meet in a war that will leave few survivors.

America, meanwhile, has pledged to stand with Israel. The Muslim world knows America (and its European allies) are weakened economically and tired of war, yet the U.S. is resolved to face Iran militarily if sanctions do not stop Iran's ambitions.

Though the stage is being set for a massive conflict, I do not believe this dreaded confrontation is inevitable. Let me explain: Islam is divided into two major sects. Approximately 80% of the Muslim world is Sunni and the rest mostly Shiites and some smaller sects. These two major groups have coexisted but have an historical hatred and mistrust for each other.

Iran is part of the smaller Shiite sect. Thus, Iran's determination to develop nuclear weapons is not only a threat to Israel, but it is an unacceptable advantage that threatens most of the Sunni world. A nuclear Iran has the potential, not only to ignite a catastrophic war with Israel, but it could easily spread chaos and conflict throughout the Muslim world and beyond.

However, there is always a third component to determining the future, and that is the "God factor." The fact is, in recent years Christianity has experienced explosive growth in Iran. I recently met by email a remarkable Iranian woman. Nasrin was born a Muslim in Iran; however, she found Christ through supernatural dreams and visions of Jesus, which led to her study of the Word of God. She now lives in the USA. In a recent email she said,

God is working in Iran in a mighty way. Before the 1979 Islamic revolution, there were approximately 500 known converts in Iran. However, today many mission leaders believe that now close to one million Iranian converts serve Christ in underground house churches. The Lord is exposing the dark side of Islam to the people in Iran and Jesus is being revealed through visions and dreams. People in Iran have come to associate Islam with hate and war, and they are opening their hearts to the Prince of Peace.

Her testimony gives insight into one reason why Iran has been arresting Christians, especially pastors, as they try to slow down the rapid growth of the church in Iran.

Additionally, I had another experience with an Iranian who sat next to me on a flight to Atlanta. As he squeezed into the middle seat, he put a large book in the seat pocket in front of him. I

thought the book was the Koran, so I began to talk with him about Islam. He interrupted me and said, "This is not a Koran, it is the Bible. I am an Iranian. Many of my fellow Muslims have become Christians. I too am interested in learning about Jesus."

God is doing something in Iran. It is this divine initiative that gives me hope that a military option will not be needed. Therefore, I speak to you as people of prayer, faith and vision: let us join intercessors around the world in prayer for Iran! The focal point for our intercession should be the Muslim world in general, but in particular for the leaders of Iran. Let us also pray fervently for the church in Iran, and also Israel.

Can we dare to hope for such breakthroughs? Absolutely. It was not too long ago when the Soviet Union collapsed before our eyes. Since its fall more people have come to Christ worldwide than the sum of all conversions prior to its demise. We are close to the times of judgment, but we are not there yet. The Holy Spirit has yet to be poured out upon ALL nations (See Acts 2), and that includes the Muslim world!

I believe a great harvest is going to occur in the Muslim world. The first stage of an outpouring is the awakening of intercession in God's people. Indeed, let us beseech the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into this harvest field, and beyond into the entire Islamic world. Let us, as followers of Jesus Christ, never forget the God factor when we pray about the future.

[Nasrin Z. wrote an inspired book about her journey. You may be interested in buying a copy. It is called *Passing Through the Fire: Pathway to Freedom* and is available at both the Amazon and Barnes and Noble web sites.]

Please feel free to forward this message to others; acknowledging our web site would be kindly appreciated.

[www.frangipane.org](http://www.frangipane.org)

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## **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 6-12 is "*Behar*"—"At Mount (Sinai):**

**TORAH: Leviticus 25:1—26:2**

**HAFTARAH: Jeremiah 32:6-27**

**\*Leviticus 25:2, 23:** *“When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD...for the Land is Mine, for you are but aliens and sojourners with Me.”* The land in which Elohim ordained that the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob should dwell is precious to Him. Last week’s readings spoke of His causing that land itself to spit out inhabitants who defiled it with gross sin. In this chapter Israel was commanded to grant it regular times of rest, a command which she would unfortunately ignore. When Judah was eventually carried away captive in Babylon, the LORD said that for 70 years the land would now finally receive the rests which it had been denied. **Please pray that Israel will deal wisely with the land to which God has returned her, coming to realize that it is a holy charge as well as gift. That she will come into a relationship with her God which will enable her in His timing to be entrusted with *all* of the land He has promised to return to her oversight (Ezekiel 36:4-8 teaches of a time when the very land currently under contention in Judea and Samaria will “put forth its branches” to bear fruit for the returned children of Jacob).**

**\*Jeremiah 32:15, 17.** *“For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land.’ ... ‘Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You...’* **Please pray for believers in Israel to have means and favor to be able to purchase property—so as to truly “put down their roots” into the land for themselves and their descendants. That, as impossible as this often seems, we would realize that NOTHING is too difficult for our God to do on our behalf, who has promised again to root us and grant us ‘houses, fields and vineyards’ in His Land.**



*Martin and Norma Sarvis  
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 13-19 May will be: *“B’Chukkothai”*—*“In My Statutes”*. TORAH: Leviticus 26:3—27:34; HAFTARAH: Jeremiah 16:19—17:14.]

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