

PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (June 20, 2011)



Spring Waters in Tel Dan, Northern Israel

1. “THERE IS A RIVER...”

“There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God...God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn” (Psalm 46:4-5).

“I will open rivers in desolate heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys...that they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it!” (Isaiah 41:18-20).

Builders working on Jerusalem’s new railway system have come across a river flowing deep beneath the city. In fact, it is being called the largest underground river ever found in the Land. It was located when a construction team broke through into a cave some 75 meters down and water began flowing out. Other major caves have been discovered in Israel, some with dripping stalactites, but this is the first discovered with an actively flowing stream. Geologists are being cautious— they are not certain where the present water is coming from, perhaps accumulated rainwater (as of this writing, even leakage from water pipes hasn’t been completely ruled out); and they are stressing that it does *not* contain enough water to significantly alter the present water situation in Jerusalem. The only other ‘living’ stream in Jerusalem is the small amount bubbling forth from the ancient Gihon Springs, which flows through Hezekiah’s Tunnel beneath the City of David and emanates in the Pool of Siloam. Today Jerusalem’s hundreds of thousands of residents are required to live off of water pumped in from coastal aquifers. Still, it is a surprising and heartening find...and a picture of a living Stream which will one day burst forth from Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:8), which will flow into the desert and bring to life the Salt Sea, filled with fish as far as En Gedi. It also brings to mind a *fountain to be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness!* (Zechariah 13:1).

PLEASE PRAY:

* For a longing thirst to awaken in Jerusalem for living water. Isaiah 41:17-20 prophecies that when this happens, The LORD will hear and begin opening rivers in unexpected places.

*For God to provide for Israel and her neighbors the water they need. Amazingly, since the end of the “latter rains” in early May, there have been two mornings of unseasonable rains in Jerusalem.

*For a river to begin flowing in Jerusalem...that God’s message of Good News will burgeon here from a little stream into a broad and flowing life-giving Stream.

2. FATAH-HAMAS ALLIANCE ON HOLD

“I will make justice the measuring line, and righteousness the plummet; the hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters will overflow the hiding place. Your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the overflowing scourge passes through” (Isaiah 28:17).

“The LORD calls off the counsel of the nations; He dissuades the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations” (Psalm 33:10-11).

A meeting scheduled to take place this Tuesday in Cairo at which establishment of a new Palestinian unity government was expected to be announced was abruptly called off today. Early in May the Fatah and Hamas parties had announced a reconciliation brokered by the new Egyptian government. Last week negotiators announced that they had reached agreement regarding the makeup of a joint caretaker Palestinian government to come into power until national elections scheduled to take place next year. But Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas (Fatah) and Hamas head Khaled Mashaal reportedly could not agree on which of the leaders would assume the title of Prime Minister in this unity government, and its establishment has now been postponed indefinitely. Israel has been against the alliance, since Hamas refuses to acknowledge Israel’s right to exist, and maintains rogue control over the Gaza Strip which it forcibly usurped after winning elections there in 2006. Hamas continues to bombard Israel with rockets and missiles acquired from outside its borders.

PLEASE PRAY:

* That alliances raised with a view set against God’s covenantal decrees for Israel will not be able to prosper.

*That God will raise up amongst the Palestinian Arabs in Judea, Samaria and Gaza those who will listen to and hear His counsels, who will receive His revelation and vision for life and a future for that people, a future path which will include co-existence with the Jewish inhabitants of the Land. Only He can ordain and bring this into place.

3. FLOTILLA II

It is a year since the notorious “Flotilla Incident” in which a group of vessels headed by the *Mavi Marmara* out of Turkey sought to break Israel’s embargo of the Hamas-held Gaza Strip. In the resulting debacle terrorist elements on the *Maramara* violently attacked an Israeli boarding party, resulting in the deaths of nine of the attackers and bringing angry recriminations against Israel from

around the world. To commemorate this event, a new flotilla of some 15 vessels has been being organized to arrive off the coast of Gaza later this month. Israel has offered to receive all the humanitarian goods (excepting those which might be used by militants against Israel) which are being transported and to transfer them openly to Gaza by land. However, organizers have refused. This Friday, the Hamas aligned IHH group behind the flotilla initiatives announced that its flagship, the *Mavi Marmara*, would not be taking part in the upcoming flotilla. Although the reason given was that the vessel has not had time to be adequately repaired after being captured by the Israelis last year, some analysts are considering whether the organization may have been ordered by the Turkish government to call off its participation due to warming US/Turkish cooperative ties developing to counter the violence in neighboring Syria. Meanwhile, yesterday it was reported that two French ships, one bearing radical left-wing French politicians as well as entertainment and sports personalities, would be joining the flotilla.

While relieved that the more dangerous element appears to have withdrawn, Israel continues to prepare for the arrival of the group. During the past year Israel has apprehended ships bearing thousands of articles of weaponry being smuggled into Gaza from Iran for use against Israeli citizens.

PLEASE PRAY:

***That the blatantly provocative voyage of the flotilla would be called off—that those genuinely seeking to transfer humanitarian aid to Gaza would do so through the channels provided by Israel.**

***For wise strategies for the governmental and military leaders and naval forces in confronting the flotilla if it continues with its plans to attempt to break the blockade.**

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 19-25 June is *Korach*—"Korah":

TORAH: Numbers 16:1-18:32

HAFTARAH: I Samuel 11:14—12:22

This week's Portion focuses on the rebellion of Korah.

***Numbers 16:3; 16:7b: Korah and His Followers to Moses:** *“You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?”* **Moses:** *“Take censers, Korah and all your company; put fire in them and put incense in them before the LORD tomorrow, and it shall be that the man whom the LORD chooses is the holy one. You take too much upon yourselves, you sons of Levi.”*

One sees here perhaps one reason for the severity with which the LORD dealt with Miriam and Aaron in Chapter 12. If those in the *office* of Prophet and Priest are discontent with their place in regard to the positions of others whom the LORD has chosen and appointed, will not their behavior be seen as license by those following to do likewise. Moses had not appointed himself as leader over Israel, God had. Ironically, Korah was speaking a truth when he claimed that *“all the congregation is holy, everyone of them”*—the congregation as a whole *was* holy (i.e. “set apart”) from the other nations, and within that congregations individual tribes and families and individuals were also “set apart”. Setting-apart implies boundaries both from without and from within which must be respected by those set apart to other responsibilities. **PLEASE PRAY: for unity amongst believers in Israel—for humility, respect and honour towards the gifts and callings of each. For realization that it is the Holy Spirit who makes these distinctions; it is ‘taking too much upon ourselves’ when we criticize or envy them. PLEASE PRAY for Godly discipline in the love and fear of the LORD within the Congregations. It may be helpful to read the Book of JUDE in this respect (especially vss 8-11) which prophecies how “rejection of authority” and “speaking evil of dignitaries—the “rebellion of Korah”—will resurface in latter days, and the spirit in which it must be addressed when it does.**

***Numbers 16:48:** *“Then Aaron took the censer as Moses had commanded, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and already the plague had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people. And he stood between the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped.”* Even in the midst of a rebellious people, the LORD is longing to find those who will “stand in the gap” on their behalf and on behalf of His land (*“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found no one. Therefore, I have poured out My indignation on them...”*—Ezekiel 22:30). **PLEASE PRAY: For sensitivity and readiness on behalf of God’s Intercessors—willingness, surrender and resolve to share His burden, so as to be released at just the right time to “stand between the dead and the living” (and to be able to differentiate between the two)—to “make a wall” and stand in the gap so that plague will be stopped.**

***I Samuel 12:21-22:** *“You must not turn aside, for then you would go after futile things which cannot profit or deliver, because they are futile. For the LORD will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the LORD has been pleased to make you a people for Himself”* (NASB). The word “futile” or “emptiness” is in Hebrew (*“tohu”*) the same word used of the state of the earth (Genesis 1:2) before Elohim began breathing His Life into it (Psalm 33:6).

PLEASE PRAY: For Israeli believers and those who intercede for her, that our faith not be distracted into reasonings which are emptiness and void—but rather that we base our hope and prayers on God’s faithfulness to honour His Name, that we be encouraged in the knowledge that it is “His pleasure” to make Israel a people for Himself



*Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem*

**[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 26 June—2 July 2011 will be *Chukat*—
“Ordinance”: TORAH: Numbers 19:1—22:1; HAFTARAH: Judges 11:1-33]**

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