

PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (June 28, 2011)



Waterfall in the Golan Heights, the ancient domain of Og King of Bashan; taken by Moses and granted as part of the inheritance of Menasheh (See Torah Portion below).

1. FLOTILLA TO SAIL THIS WEEK

“There is a naval blockade on Gaza, it is obviously forbidden to breach it. Those who do, or who manifest their intention to deliberately do so, will not be allowed to proceed and will be treated according to the San Remo Manual and relevant Security Council resolutions.” -- Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor

“O our God, will You not judge them? 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).

Today or tomorrow an international flotilla of ships is set to begin sailing towards the Gaza coast in a bid to break a blockade which Israel implemented to keep weapons out of the hands of Hamas militants who forcibly wrested control of the rule there. The Israeli government has voted to stop the flotilla from reaching the Gaza shores. A number of countries have called for cancelation of the Flotilla. Both Israel and Egypt have volunteered to receive any humanitarian aid which is intended for the Strip and ensure that it reaches the citizens there. However, this seems to be the least of the concerns of many involved; some of the vessels are bringing no aid at all. Israel has been preparing for a number of scenarios, from a peaceable submission to directives of authorities to violent confrontation. Last night it was announced that Israeli intelligence had received word that a number of men had infiltrated the activists, boasting that they would kill Israelis. The reports further say that chemicals are being smuggled aboard to pour on officials and soldiers when they come aboard.

We believe that the spiritual powers behind this provocation would like to lure Israel into a confrontation resulting in death or wounding of a large number of those aboard the ships, and thus bringing an acute international condemnation of Israel.

PLEASE PRAY:

***For God's guidance among Israel's leaders as to "what to do" and how to do it.**

***For frustration to come into the counsels of those set on bringing unrighteous reproach on Israel. *"The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing, He makes the plans of the peoples to no effect"* (Psalm 33:10). That the flotilla will not proceed to confrontation with Israeli authorities.**

***For wisdom, restraint and courage for the military leaders and soldiers charged with stopping the flotilla.**

***That spirits of violence and lawlessness seeking occasion through this means to be bound.**

***For truth to be vindicated in what takes place.**

2. SHALIT...FIVE YEARS

***"For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary; from heaven the LORD viewed the earth, to hear the groaning of the prisoner, to release those appointed to death, to declare the name of YHVH in Zion, and His praise in Jerusalem"* (Psalm 102 19-21).**

It is five years last Saturday since a young Israeli soldier named Gilad Shalit was abducted by Hamas terrorists and hidden, presumably somewhere in the Gaza Strip. Since that time Israel has not been able to locate, much less rescue him. Prospects for the young man's release have been dangled repeatedly in a kind of cat-and-mouse game by Hamas, which demands the release of over a thousand prisoners in Israeli jails, including over 500 with "blood on their hands". There have been talks brokered by various nations, including Egypt and Germany, all to no avail. Is the young soldier still even alive? Although early on there were films of Gilad released, release of such proofs have long since ceased; and Hamas has steadily refused calls to allow the Red Cross to gain access to him to assess his physical condition. For some years there has been a tent set up in Jerusalem not far from the Prime Minister's house manned by volunteers providing information, pamphlets, posters, bumper-stickers...calling for the public and the government not to forget his plight.

In a particularly troubling development, recent weeks have seen members of his family gaining considerable media attention by resorting to bitter accusation and condemnation of the Prime Minister as himself bearing guilt for the incarceration of their son because of his refusal to release the masses of murderers and other criminals demanded by Hamas.

PLEASE PRAY:

***That if Gilad Shalit is still alive, angels will attend him, his mind and bearing will be preserved...he will be protected and released.**

***For miraculous 'intelligence' to be released to Israeli authorities as to Shalit's whereabouts...and guidance for rescuing him.**

***For wisdom, courage and decisiveness for Prime Minister Netanyahu in facing the dilemma of doing all possible to gain Shalit's release without rewarding the unlawful, violence which presumed to capture him for evil ends.**

***Grace for the parents and family of Gilad Shalit...that they will seek the mercies of God for their son; that they will be delivered from bitterness and wrongful accusation; that they will find the way to seek the consolation which comes only from Elohei-Kol Nechama...The God of all Comfort.**

3. PERSECUTION

"At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles...Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:1, 4).

Recently we have received reports of increasing persecution of Messianic (i.e. Jews who believe in Yeshua as Messiah and Savior) believers by Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem. During the past week a family has been repeatedly harassed by ultra-Orthodox extremists; a couple of days ago police contacted them that they had obtained information that a demonstration was being planned outside their home. In another case a pastor-friend of ours was forced into court to face false charges of having attempted to evangelize a minor—something which is illegal in Israel. He was acquitted...the Judge threw out the case when it became obvious that the trumped-up charges were false; but the man was nevertheless subjected to a tirade of abuse and accusation of leading a Messianic "cult". Later this same pastor was barred from attending a synagogue, and was singled out for attack in a city newspaper article along with Messianic Jews in general. His response was a request to **"pray that what was meant for evil will be turned to good, that truth and love will win out over lies and hatred; for wisdom how to respond to the article."**

We believe that the spirit which is behind these increasing number of attacks is the same which arose in the early Church as recorded in Acts. Messianic believers are similarly said to be speaking against Moses and the Torah, as seeking to steal the souls of Jews from their godly heritage.

PLEASE PRAY:

***For courage, love, power and direction from the Holy Spirit for Messianic Jews who are being persecuted by religious Orthodox Jews in Israel.**

***Acts 4:23-30...especially vs. 29: “Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”**

***For certain believing lawyers whom God has raised up in Israel who stand on behalf of the persecuted Body...that they may do their work with integrity and favor; that they will be able to find times of rest (most are under horrendously heavy schedules), and refreshing in the Holy Spirit. Safety for them, their marriages, their children.**

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 Jun3—2 July is *Chukat*—“Ordinance”:

TORAH: Numbers 19:1—22:1

HAFTARAH: Judges 11:1-33

Because of the dead who would be constantly in their midst as an entire generation passed away, Chapter 19 deals with a special ‘decontamination’ regarding death. Then 38 years silently pass; by Chapter 20, with the death of Miriam, they are already drawing towards a close. In this reading Moses and Aaron themselves enter into a rebellion which will bar them from entering the Land, and a further remnant of the complaining generation are killed by serpents—but the new generation begins to move into warfare and to prevail against the giants barring their way into their inheritance.

***Numbers 19: Ordinance of the Red Heifer.** With the death of those offering incense in Korah’s rebellion, the 14,700 who died by plague in the uprising shortly thereafter, and the prospect that hundreds of thousands would pass away in the wilderness wanderings, *Death* hung over the camp continuously. There was need for an especial cleansing from death. A cow, perfect and never yoked, was burned in totality outside the camp, with cedar wood, hyssop and

scarlet fed into the burning. Then the ashes were stored outside the camp. When needed, they were mixed with “living water” (vs17, Hebrew: *mayim haim*) and used as a decontaminant (literally, “water kept apart *for* sin”, vs. 9) for those who had come into contact with death .

PLEASE PRAY: from the letter in the New Covenant written specifically to Jews of the First century: *“For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the Living God?”* (Hebrews 9:13-14).

***Numbers 20:10, 24: Moses:** “Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?” **Elohim:** “Because you (both: Moses and Aaron) rebelled against My word at the water of Meribah...” A great leader of courage, compassion and humility, Moses nevertheless appears to have had a ‘blind spot’ regarding anger. One sees it quietly alluded to or mentioned a number of times during his life (Exodus 2:12, 11:8, 32:19, Lev 10:16, Numbers 11:10, 16:15). Although there is a place for anger, if it is released in the flesh or outside of God’s timing, it will “*not produce the righteousness of God*” (James 1:19). In the end, it triggered in him the very rebellion against God’s command which he accused the people of when he spoke to them rather than to the Rock. Titus 1:7 speaks of the necessity that God’s stewards be “not quick-tempered”.

PLEASE PRAY: For leaders in the Body of Messiah in Israel to be trained by the Holy Spirit in self control. Pray that we will deal with issues which the Spirit discloses, which otherwise could cause us, in moments of critical decision under intense pressure, to operate out of our emotions or woundings.

***Numbers 21:9/John 3:14-15/II Corinthians 5:21.** “*So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.*” “*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*” “*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*”

***Numbers 21:34-35/Deuteronomy 3:11** “*Do not fear him (i.e. Og, King of Bashan), for I have delivered him into your hand, with all his people and his land...So they defeated him, his sons, and all his people, until there was no survivor left him; and they took possession of his land.*”...“*For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of the giants.*”(Emphases ours). When Israel arrives 38 years late at the border of Canaan, only one of the fabled “giants” which had terrified their fathers remains. God gives them exactly the same directive he’d given their fathers...and this time they take Him at His word and destroy him. The significance of defeating this Og was huge—he is mentioned many times in Deuteronomy, Joshua, I Kings, Nehemiah and the Psalms.

The territory which this text says God Himself “delivered into Israel’s hand” is that area taken from Syria in the 1967 War—the present- day Golan Heights. That area became part of the territory allotted to the tribe of Manasseh. The territory southward to the Arnon River was taken from King Sihon of the Amorites and eventually became territory of the tribes Reuben and

Gad. This area is presently occupied by the north-western part of the Kingdom of Jordan. **PLEASE PRAY:** That the “different spirit” of Caleb and Joshua which motivated this younger generation of Israelites would awaken again in Israel—that we would come to trust God for defeat of the many giants which have arisen again in the land to which we have returned.



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[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 3-9 July 2011 will be *Balak*:
TORAH: Numbers 22:2—25:9; HAFTARAH: Micah 5:7—6:8]

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