

ISRAEL PRAYER UPDATE

Glory of Zion International Ministries



“At the command of the LORD the sons of Israel would set out...even when the cloud lingered over the tabernacle for many days, the sons of Israel would keep the LORD’s charge and not set out.”

(Numbers 9:19. From this week’s Torah Portion; see below. Photograph of pillar-like cloud taken by the authors in the Judean Desert east of Jerusalem.)

1. US AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS NIKKI HALEY ARRIVES IN ISRAEL THIS WEEK.

On Wednesday morning, US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley will arrive for a three-day visit to Israel, her first since taking office last January. While here, she will meet with President Rivlin and Prime Minister Netanyahu, and also with Palestinian dignitaries. She will visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial museum in Jerusalem, travel to Tel Aviv, and will be flown by helicopter to Israel’s border with Gaza, and its northern border with Lebanon. She will be accompanied throughout this visit by Israel’s ambassador to the UN Danny Danon. Of the former Governor of South Carolina, Danon said, *“We’re happy to host in our country a true friend of Israel. Haley has been standing with Israel for many years now, and especially since she arrived at the UN. Her important visit is an opportunity to present to her our country and the join challenges that stand before us.”* Mr. Danon was himself last week elected vice president of the General Assembly, a one-year post he will assume in September. It is heartening

having these two voices of integrity resounding from such key positions of influence in the UN on behalf of Israel, which for so many years has been the object of continual disproportionate bias in that institution. As the US Ambassador to the UN arrives in Israel this week,

PLEASE PRAY:

*** That the Lord whom she serves will watch over the coming of Nikki Haley into His Land.**

*** For angelic protection for Ambassador Haley. That the “One Who has chosen Jerusalem” (see Haftarah below) would rebuke any Powers set to influence her in a false way. Pray that the Spirit of Truth would divide the true from the false—that any deception would be exposed.**

*** That she will come in humility, seeking God’s counsel on what she sees and hears. That she will truly be granted prophetic insight into “what is going on” in Israel—and how she, in her positioning on behalf of the United States at the UN, is to make use of that insight in decisions ahead.**

*** For protection for Mrs. Haley, her husband, and two children.**

*** That there will be a warm, communicative relationship established between Ambassador Haley and Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Rivlin.**

*** That the voices of Danny Danon and Nikki Haley in the UN will be informed with integrity and righteousness—and will have an influence for good on other ambassadors in that institution.**

2. CZECH REPUBLIC PARLIAMENT RECOGNIZES JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL.

On Jerusalem May 24th, the 50th anniversary of the city’s reunification under Israeli sovereignty, the lower chamber of the Czech Parliament, in a vote of 112 to 44, approved a resolution recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. In calling on the government to adopt this same resolution, they also condemned as incitement recent decisions by UNESCO which did not recognize the rights of Jews to Jerusalem, demanding that payments to UNESCO come to an end. This comes as the latest in a long record of friendly gestures by the Czechs towards the Jewish State. Sixty-nine years ago, the Czechoslovak Republic was one of the very few countries to assist Israel in obtaining weaponry during its War for Independence. On Jerusalem Day, the Czech president sent a special greeting on behalf of his country.

Presently, no country officially recognizes Jerusalem as the nation’s capital to the extent of locating its embassy there. This past week President Trump followed his predecessors in signing a postponement of moving the US embassy there “on security grounds.” (A 1995 US law mandates relocation of the embassy to Jerusalem, but allows the waver, which must be signed each six months.) The White House emphasized that Mr. Trump’s signing should not be seen as

an annulment of his campaign promise to move the embassy, but rather a decision related to the “timing” of the move.

As Israel moves towards her 70th year of rebirth, nations have entered a season in which they will be facing choices related to their alignment with Zion, choices, the results of which may have grave consequences in their destinies for years to come. Although we do not here suggest that “where a nation’s embassy is” will be the deciding factor, it may well be an indicator of where their alignment lies.

As we intercede after the peace of Jerusalem, let us pray for the leaders of our nations, our parliaments, congresses, presidents, prime ministers—that they will be moved to seek the good

of Jerusalem. Psalm 122.6 promises “tranquility” to those who love her—but the opposite (Zechariah 12:2-4) awaits those nations which attempt to coerce her and treat her, and the people to whom God has entrusted her oversight, with contempt.

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. The Haftarah, unless otherwise noted, will be that read in Ashkenazy synagogues around the world. The references for all texts are those found in English translations of the Scriptures.

The *Parashah* for this week 4-10 June 2017 is called *B’ha’alotcha*— “When you Light Up” (i.e. the lamps):

TORAH: Numbers 8:1—12:16

HAFTARAH: Zechariah 2:10—4:7

As we travel through the desert of Numbers (remember, the Hebrew name for the book is “In the Desert”), we will actually discover areas of very fertile soil for understanding both the human condition as manifest in Israel, and the “goodness and severity” (Rom. 11:22) of God as demonstrated towards His chosen people. Of the many important points present in this week’s narrative, we would point out the following:

***Numbers 8:14:** *“Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the children of Israel, and the Levites shall be Mine.” “God so loved the World”—yet in expressing that Love, He may in His*

own sovereign, holy purposes choose to set particular peoples (Israel), tribes (Levites), families (*Cohenim*-Priests), prophets (Miriam) and individual leaders (Moses, Joshua) apart. These are only a few examples as related to Israel—and He continues this in the Body of Messiah today. It is extremely important that we accept and honor those lines which it is plain *He* has drawn for us and for others. By the end of this Torah Portion, both Israel’s prophet (Miriam) and her priest (Aaron) get into serious trouble for becoming resentful regarding the ‘place’ of their brother Moses. **Please pray for a generosity and humility in the Body of Messiah in Israel, with regards to race, spiritual gifts, age, sex, and talents and acquired skills.**

***Numbers 9:18-21; 23:** “*At the command of the LORD the sons of Israel would set out...even when the cloud lingered over the tabernacle for many days, the sons of Israel would keep the LORD’s charge and not set out. If sometimes the cloud remained a few days over the tabernacle, according to the command of the LORD they remained camped...At the command of the LORD they camped, and at the command of the LORD they set out; they kept the LORD’s charge...*”

The word “charge” is the same as that used for a military “*watch*”, and “kept” also means “*guarded*”. So, twice here an essential element of Israel’s camp routine is described as “**guarding the Watch of the LORD**” --**keeping alert and obedient for His directive, whether it required immediate galvanization into action or the watchful patience necessary for an open-ended waiting.**

***Numbers 10:25:** “*Then the standard of the camp of the children of Dan (the rear guard of all the camps) set out according to their armies...*” We wrote two weeks ago of the place of Judah in taking the lead (followed closely in leadership by Issachar and Zebulun). Dan was to bring up the rear. His name is related to “godly judgment” (Genesis 30:6). The word for “rear guard” (Heb: *me’aseph*) bears within it the concept of “gathering”. A rear guard not only protected the rear from outward attack, it also kept stragglers from fraying-out behind—it was responsible for “gathering” loose ends, keeping the rear tight and pressing forward. Often, the older more-experienced warriors held oversight of this position.

***Numbers 11:1a, 4, 33-34 (NASB):** “*Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the LORD*” ... “*Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving.... the LORD struck the people with a very great plague. So he called the name of that place “The Graves of Cravings” because there they buried the people who had yielded to craving.*” Cravings” is Hebrew *T’aveh* which is related to physical appetites awakened into strong lusts.

***Numbers 11:29:** “*...O, that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!*” (cf: I Corinthians 14:5; 39-40: “*I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied...Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.*”).

This section and all of chapter 12 show that prophecy—the proclaiming forth in spiritual authority and timing of what the LORD is speaking—is an essential element of His government for His people. But it is also essential that recognized prophets know and work within their place

of authority. When Miriam leaves that place, it is, because of her recognized position, an extremely serious matter which must be dealt with strongly and, in her case, publically.

A REPEATED WORD FROM THE PROPHETS

It seems safe to assume that when the Holy Spirit allows God's Word to be repeated twice, there is something within it which warrants His people's special attention and understanding (Genesis 41:32). This week's *haftarah* from Zechariah is exactly the same passage as that used during the week of Hanukkah. This is presumably because the Zechariah 3:2 mentions a *menorah*—"lampstand" (This week's Torah Portion begins with instructions regarding the menorah in the Tabernacle; the Hanukkah season is traditionally celebrated with a special menorah). This passage contains so very much prophetically about the "Light" who would come into the world to cleanse us from our filthiness, whose Word would be our defense against that of our Adversary, whose oil would "keep our lamps burning", whose Spirit would be our Victory! **PLEASE PRAY:** *the illumination of the Holy Spirit on these words as they are read at the close of Hebrew services around the world this weekend. Pray that many Jews will realize and believe that the LORD has come to dwell in their midst--the BRANCH whose name is Yeshua, and that His Father, the LORD of Hosts, has sent Him!*

***Zechariah 2:10-11.** *"Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says YHVH, 'Many nations shall be joined to YHVH in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that YHVH of Armies has sent Me to you.'*"

We find this passage to be "Messianic" indeed! First, YHVH-the LORD says, "*I am coming and I will dwell in your midst*"—then presumably the same Speaker says, "*Then you will know that YHVH of Armies has sent me to you.*" There is nothing in the construction of this passage which demands that the last sentence is by Zechariah and the next-to-last the LORD. Only one who was "One with" the LORD would fit here. Yeshua/Jesus said something remarkably similar in John 11:41b-42, immediately before calling Lazarus forth from the grave, "*Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.*"

***Zechariah 2:12-13:** *"And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Hush! all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!"*

As the warfare intensifies over Israel, Jerusalem, the ancient City of David and the Temple Mount, **PLEASE PRAY for believers here—that we will not pray nor worship nor act merely out of our emotions—that in the power of the Spirit we will silence our flesh so as to hear clearly what the Spirit is saying to the Body of Messiah, finding our confidence in God alone who will 'take possession' and 'again choose Jerusalem'.**

***Zechariah 3:1-2:** *"Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and the satan standing at his right hand to "satan" (i.e. be an adversary to) him. And the*

LORD said to Satan, 'YHVH rebuke you, satan! YHVH who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?'

All of Israel today stands as a 'brand plucked from the fire' (The Hebrew for this expression is in fact sometimes used as a euphemism for 'Holocaust Survivor'). She is continually under accusation. Yet within her is an awakened Messianic Body, coming into its place as a "Kingdom of Priests". This remnant is also bombarded by the satan (the adversary, accuser). **Please pray for grace and growing maturity in spiritual warfare in the Body of Messiah in Israel to stand against the Adversary in the name of the LORD—while allowing, as did Joshua in this chapter, the LORD to provide constant cleansing from sin, and clean garments—including a head covering to protect her mind.**

****It rings significant to us** that part of the "word" wielded against the Adversary by the Angel ("YHVH rebuke you, Satan!") is the LORD's identity as *the One who has Chosen Jerusalem* ("YHVH who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you!"). Today, we may use the Name **YESHUA**, which bears within it in condensed form the words "YHVH Saves". From this example it can be inferred that a part of the "Word of our Testimony" (Revelation 12:11) which defeats the Enemy is a *confession of the LORD's choosing of Jerusalem!* Suspicion of the truth of this terrifies the evil one, who knows that Yeshua will one day dwell and rule from the Temple Mountain in Jerusalem.

***Zechariah 3:7.** *"If you will walk in My ways and guard my watch, then you shall also judge My house and likewise have charge of my courts; I will give you places to walk among those who stand here."* It is God's desire that we walk in His path and watch over the things to which He assigns us. As we are faithful in this, we will grow in judgment so as to be entrusted with other responsibilities and positionings—including, when necessary, movement among and in harmony with those other "armies"—the angelic beings.

***Zechariah 4:6b:** *"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the LORD of Armies.*"

This Scripture is written across the bottom arms of the menorah which stands in front of Israel's Knesset Building. **PLEASE PRAY:** *that more and more in Israel will come to see the necessity of spiritual power for finding hope and a future—through a HOLY spirit provided by her Father!*



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[The Parashah for next week 11-17 June 2017 is called *Sh'lach L'kha*— “Send for Yourself.” TORAH: Numbers 13:1—15:41; HAFTARAH: Joshua 2:1-24.]

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