

Prayer Update From Israel (July 22, 2013)

15 Av 5773



The Windmill

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Ruach (spirit/wind),’ says the LORD of Hosts.”

(Zechariah 4:6b)

It is a year since we reported on the restoration of the windmill which was built in 1857 to benefit the first tiny community of Jews living outside the walls of Jerusalem. On most days it may now be seen happily ‘catching the wind’ and fully operable. It was restored in large part through the donations of Dutch believers, and its renovation was overseen by Dutch artisans.

1. EUROPEAN UNION ISSUES DIRECTIVE BARRING ITS MEMBERS FROM COOPERATION WITH ISRAELI ENTITIES IN ANY AREAS OVER “PRE-1967 LINES.”

European Union last week issued a directive whereby its 28 members will be restricted from dealing with all Israeli entities in all the territories beyond the 1949 Armistice Line which Israel crossed to defend itself from avowed annihilation by Egypt with its allies Jordan and Syria in the 1967 War. This extends to all of Judea, Samaria, the Golan Heights, eastern, northern and southern parts of Jerusalem including the Old City and the Temple Mount. The EU directive restricts Israeli institutions across the line from taking part in various EU programs, from eligibility for EU research grants, prizes and financial instruments. It also reportedly requires that any contracts which Israel has with any EU members must from now on include a clause stating that East Jerusalem and the contested territories are not part of the State of Israel. The directive, which one official described as an “earthquake” was insensitively released on the 9th of Av, a time when many Israelis were observing a fast mourning the twice-destruction of their holy Temple (which lay within the area which the EU now declares is not part of Israel). It was then

officially published on Friday, in spite of pleas by Israeli leaders to at least postpone its publication. Its tenets are set to go into effect on January 1.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu responded, *“As prime minister, I won’t allow hundreds of thousands of Israelis living in the West Bank, Golan Heights, and in Jerusalem—our united capital—to be harmed...I expect those who really want peace and regional stability to deal with this matter [of West Bank settlements] after they solve more pressing problems in the region like the Syrian civil war and Iran’s race to get a nuclear weapon... We will not accept any foreign dictates about our borders. This matter will only be determined through direct negotiation between the [two] sides”* (“Netanyahu lashes out at EU, rejects ‘foreign dictates about borders’”: *The Times of Israel*, July 16, 2013, 7:42pm). Tomas Sandell, Director of the European Coalition for Israel, labeled the EU directive a *“vicious move...to try to predetermine the borders of a future two state solution by boycotting Israel outside of the 1967 lines.”* He declared that *“Jews living in East Jerusalem and the territories have every right under international law to reside there”*, and cited Article 15 of the Mandate for Palestine, which states that *“No discrimination of any kind shall be made between the inhabitants of Palestine on the sole grounds of race, religion or language. No person shall be excluded from Palestine on the grounds of his religious belief.”* He also cites the Oslo Accords which the EU itself signed, which in Article 31 states that *“neither side shall take any steps to change the status of Gaza and the West Bank pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiations”*, and asks, *“What will be the next measure from the Nobel Peace Prize winner, the EU...perhaps banning Jews living in the territories from entering the European Union?”* (“Breaking the EU rules: by Tomas Sandell, *The Times of Israel*; July 17, 2012 8:22 PM).

Lastly, we would quote Calev Myers, Jerusalem lawyer and Chief Counsel of the Jerusalem Institute of Justice, who points out how the primary victims of this scenario will be the Palestinian Arabs themselves, how *“all of the Israeli factories located beyond the Green Line, without exception, employ Palestinian workers. These Israeli businesses provide 70,000 jobs for the Arab residents of Judea and Samaria. Who will provide their future employment, the European Union?”* Myers further describes how while thus depriving the working Palestinian citizens, the EU will continue to fund *“the UNRWA schools, which encourage Palestinian youth to carry out bloody jihad against the Jewish people, and hold elaborate ceremonies to honor the lives of suicide bombers.”* How Europeans will *“continue to fund the PLO government of Abu Mazen, an administration, which harshly abuses the human rights of the Palestinian people via forced suppression of the media, arbitrary arrests, torture, and executions without trial.”* He believes that *“If the European Union is sincerely interested in the welfare of the Palestinian people, it should precondition its financial aid to their government on genuine steps toward implementing human rights reforms.”* (“Palestinians should protest” by Calev Myers: *The Times of Israel*, July 17, 2012 9:03 AM.).

PLEASE PRAY:

***That God-fearing men and women in the 28 member states of the EU would rise up against the implementation of this unjust legislation being forced upon Israel and many Palestinian people.**

***That they will realize that not only Israel, but their own countries could be brought to suffering through this legislation. As our friend Avner Boskey reminded us in a recent *Final Frontier* Newsletter, “the God of Israel’s words in Genesis 12:3 apply to all mankind... ‘Those who bless you I will bless, and the one who scorns/derides/treats you with contempt or as unimportant (ed., the Hebrew word *meqalelecha* has these shades of meaning), him I will curse.”**

***That God will grant integrity and a wise course for Israel’s leaders to follow if these restrictions go into effect.**

***That as Believers in the nations see their governments more and more turning against God’s sovereign land and people, though dismayed, they will not be ‘cast down’—but shine as redemptive lights of truth in their towns and villages and regions of influence (Daniel 12:3).**

NOTE: We know and highly respect the authors of both of the informative articles quoted from above, which we would encourage you to read in their entirety. Mr. Sandell’s may be accessed by Googling: **Breaking the EU rules-The Times of Israel**; Mr. Myers’ by Googling: **Palestinians should protest-The Times of Israel.**

2. “CHILDREN DOMINATE NEWEST ALIYAH WAVE”

“The children you will have, after you have lost the others, will say again in your ears, ‘The place is too small for me; Give me a place where I may dwell...They shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders...For I will contend with him who contends with you, And I will save your children.” (Isaiah 49:20, 22b, 25b—From this week’s *Haftarah*; see below).

The above heading was the title of an article in *ynetnews.com* last Thursday. It told of a special flight of new immigrant Jews from the US which will be arriving this Monday, and of the 223 *Olim* (new immigrants) on the flight, 106 will be children under the age of 17—56 girls and 50 boys! Most of the children will be under nine years old; the youngest is two months old. Also on the flight will be the Israeli Gilad Shalit, who as a soldier was held captive for years by Hamas in Gaza. The Nefesh B’Nefesh organization which promotes and facilitates *aliyah* (Jewish immigration to Israel) from America and England has seen a 20% reports a 20% increase in Jewish children arriving in Israel from a year ago. A vice chairman of the organization commented, *“It warms the heart to see that more and more parents in North America understand that today, Israel is a great place to raise children. It fills us with optimism, because these children are the future of the State of Israel.”* (“Children dominate newest aliyah wave”: *ynetnews.com*, 07.19.13).

PLEASE PRAY:

***That these 106 children will be protected from the evil one—that angels will “minister on behalf of those who will inherit salvation” (Hebrews 1:14).**

***That their parents will prosper in the Land, come to know the God of Israel and their Messiah and Savior Yeshua, that they will they will raise their children in godliness and they shall be “saved” (see Isaiah 49:25 above).**

***For Jewish families around the world whom God is calling to return to the land of their Fathers—that they will hear the call and come up.**

***For the young people in the *Katzir* youth camp in the Galilee (See last week’s Update) which extends to this Wednesday—that they will be strengthened and equipped in the Spirit. That they will become Children of Light in their schools, able to befriend and share their faith with youth arriving new in the land.**

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 21-27 July 2013 is called *Ekev*—“In consequence of”:

TORAH: Deuteronomy 7:12—11:25

HAFTARAH: Isaiah 49:14—51:3

***Deut. 7:16.** *“Also you shall devour all the peoples whom the LORD your God delivers over to you; your eye shall not pity them...”* It is instructive to compare this “devouring” with that mentioned in the evil report of the ten spies 40 years earlier, *“The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants”* (Num. 13.32), and with the ‘bread’ in Caleb’s good report at the same time, *“The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land...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”* (Num. 14:7-9).

***Deut. 8: 3.** *“He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna...that he might make you know that mankind shall not live by bread alone; but by every utterance of the LORD’s mouth does the human live.”*

***Deut. 8:5.** *“And you knew in your heart that as a man chastises his son the LORD your God chastises you.” Cff: Heb. 12:7-11: “If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten...Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*

***Deut. 8:7-10.** *“For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.”*

***Deut. 8:16.** *“...that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end---“*

***Deut. 9:5-6.** *“It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Therefore understand that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.”*

***Deut. 9:21.** *“Then I took your sin, the calf which you had made, and burned it with fire and crushed it and ground it very small, until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.”* No mention is made of where the brook comes from in the original account of Exodus 32:20. In the previous chapter 8:15, the LORD is the One who brought forth water for Israel *“out of the flinty rock in a thirsty land where there was no water”*. I Corinthians 10:4 reveals that *“they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Messiah.”* Ezekiel 47:1- and Zechariah 14:4,8 speak of a future time when living water will tumble forth out from another mountain, this time the Mountain of the Lord in Jerusalem, bringing healing wherever it flows.

***Deut. 9:26-29.** *“Thus I prostrated myself before the LORD...I kept prostrating myself, because the LORD had said He would destroy you. Therefore I prayed to the LORD, and said: ‘O Lord YHVH, do not destroy Your people and Your inheritance whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand. Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; do not look on the stubbornness of this people, or on their wickedness or their sin, lest the land from which You brought us should say, “Because YHVH was not able to bring them to the land which He promised them, and because He hated them, He has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness.” Yet they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your mighty power and by Your outstretched arm.’*

Deut. 10:12-13. *Fear, Walk, Love, Serve, Guard! “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to **fear** the Lord your God, to **walk** in all His ways and to **love** Him, to **serve** the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to **guard** the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”

***Deut. 10:16-17, 21a.** “Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome...He is your praise...”

***Deut. 11:11-12.** “But the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, **a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.**”

“Comfort ye...”

AS MENTIONED LAST WEEK, we have entered a seven-week season (Until the Feast of Trumpets) in which the *Haftarah* readings are taken from the prophet Isaiah, and continue to speak words of *comfort* to Zion. The passages below are only some drawn from this week’s portion which may be used powerfully in praying for Israel to recognize her Comforter—and for the Body of Messiah to walk, as He walked, before her fellows in the land.

***Isaiah 49:15-16.** “Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; Your walls are continually before Me.”

***Isaiah 49:25b-26.** “For I will contend with him who contends with you, **and I will save your children.** I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine. All flesh shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

***Isaiah 50:4.** “The Lord YHVH has given me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens me morning by morning. He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple.”

***Isaiah 50:6-7.** “I gave my back to those who strike me, and my cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover my face from humiliation and spitting. For the Lord YHVH helps me, therefore, I am not disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed.”

***Isaiah 51:1-2.** “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, who seek YHVH: Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who gave birth to you in pain; when he was but one I called him, then I blessed him and multiplied him” (NASB).

***Isaiah 51:3.** *“For YHVH will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places. He will make her desert like Eden, and her arava like the garden of YHVH; Joy and gladness will be found in it, thanksgiving and the voice of melody!”*



*Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 28 July—3 August will be *R'eh*—“See!” (“–I put before you today a blessing and a curse:”): TORAH: Deuteronomy 11:26—16:17; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 54:11—55:5]

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