

## **Prayer Update From Israel (July 3, 2012)**



*A narrow gorge near Sde Boker in the Negev south of Beer Sheva.*

***“Then the Angel of YHVH went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left” (Numbers 22:26, See Torah Portion below.).***

### **We wish to begin with Thanksgiving!**

**1.** Two weeks ago we wrote of 15 families in homes of a community outside Bethel called *Ulpana* who were ordered by the courts to vacate because their buildings were deemed to have been built illegally on land classified by the State as private property of Palestinians. At the time, even though, in an attempt to honor the Rule of Law the Prime Minister was offering an alternative which would establish a much stronger Jewish presence in Bethel itself, there was strong reason to believe that the community would not go peaceably—that even strong armed opposition might ensue. This past week, the families chose to leave peacefully (in fact, a few days later 18 more families also chose to relocate). Their homes will be dismantled and relocated within Bethel’s recognized borders...plus, 300 new homes will be built within the city. We bless the Lord, who loves this land and people, for hearing prayers and changing hearts from temptations which might have led to a release of lawlessness and violence.

**2.** We spoke last week of our Prime Minister’s meeting with Russian President Putin in Jerusalem, even as we wrote the Update. We are aware of groups of people who prayed during that day for God’s hand to move in those meetings. Two days later it was announced in Russian media that a planned sale of the powerful advanced S-300 surface-to-air missile system to Syria had been cancelled. It is speculated in the press that the cancellation may well be a result of the Russian President’s visit with Netanyahu earlier in the week. We give thanks for God’s grace over our Prime Minister, for his right hand

moving on behalf of His covenant land and people, that he can change the minds of Kings—and that these systems will not be being transferred into Syria!

3. We were dismayed, shortly after the winner of the Egyptian elections was announced at reports filling the media regarding a purported interview with an Iranian news service in which Morsi was quoted as planning to quickly pursue close ties on many fronts with Iran and to review the legitimacy of Egypt's treaty with Israel—a stand which seemed to go counter to Morsi's earlier overtures. A spokesman for Morsi, who was sworn into office this week, reported "President Morsi was never interviewed by Iran's Fars news agency. The interview was fabricated and his presidential office has begun taking legal action against the news agency." We bless our Lord who "reveals deep and hidden things, Who knows what lies in darkness and light dwells with Him" (Daniel 2:22-23). And we continue to pray Isaiah 19 over Egypt, to speed the day when "*they will cry to YHVH because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them. Then YHVH will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day...And the LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the LORD, and He will be entreated by them and heal them.*" (Isa. 19:20-22). We pray God turn the heart of the new Egyptian President to hear and follow a way of truth and integrity over his nation.

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## 1. TAMMUZ—THE FOURTH MONTH

***"From the straits I called to Yah. Yah answered me in a wide-open place. The LORD is for me, I shall not fear. What can humankind do to me...All the nations surrounded me. With the LORD's name I cut them down. They swarmed round me, oh they surrounded me. With the LORD's name I cut them down...You pushed me hard to knock me down, but the LORD helped me. My strength and my might [song] is Yah, and He has become my rescue [Hebrew: yeshuah/salvation]"*** (Psalm 118:5-14—Robert Alter translation).

A week-and-a-half ago (June 21<sup>st</sup>) we entered into the Hebrew month of *Tammuz*. It is not mentioned in the Bible by this (Babylonian) name—yet most certainly "*the Fast of the Fourth Month*" in Zechariah 8:19 refers to an ancient memorial set within this month to soberly remember the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. (II Kings 25:3-4; Jer. 39:2; 52:6-7). The fast, originally on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz, has since the destruction of the Second Temple been observed on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

The 17<sup>th</sup> of *Tammuz* marks the beginning of a three-week period (7-28 July this year \*) ending with the 9<sup>th</sup> of *Av* when the First Temple was actually burned, a period sometimes known as "the Dire Straits" or in Hebrew *Bein haMetzarim*. The expression comes from Lamentations 1:3: "*All her persecutors overtake her in dire straits*" (NKJV), alluding to terrible things which have historically and according to tradition overtaken Jews and Israel itself during this time of the year.

Yet, although we believe these three weeks (beginning next Saturday) to be a time for special sobriety and watchfulness—especially as regards Israel and the seed of Jacob, we would stress the sovereignty of *Elohei-Yisrael*—The God of Israel! The Earth is the

LORD’S—and He is expanding His Kingdom through both space and time. **Please Pray:** *for spiritual discernment over the Body of Messiah in separating the true from the superstitious!*

Our friend Chuck Pierce recently released a Word in America which we find most pertinent in praying over Israel during this period: ***“I am declaring that you will begin to hear differently, and that the enemy will not besiege your mind with all of the ‘what ifs’ or ‘this will bring you to destruction.’ Pray a guard over your minds and thoughts...Stand against the Bad Report! The Hebraic month of Tammuz is a time to be brilliant through worship. Radiate with His Glory!”***

We would also recommend praying Psalm 118:5-14 (See beginning of this section)—and Psalm 4:1:

***“When I call, answer me my Righteousness-God—In a narrow place you have made wideness for me. Grace me and hear my prayer!”***

\*Because this year both the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz and the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av fall on Sabbaths, they will each be commemorated on the following days, 8 & 29 July.

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## **2. ELAV—“UNTO HIM” YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE IS LESS THAN A WEEK AWAY!**

**[Because of the importance of the Conference we mentioned in our *Update* two weeks ago, we repeat below the prayer points we gave at that time.** Please continue to join with us for this—many things are now moving towards the final days of preparation. *Also please pray for a group of believing Indonesian young people who have sacrificed much to come—yet are running into obstacles with procurement of the proper paperwork and airlines tickets. Pray that all impediments will fall away in Yeshua’s name!*”]

On Saturday evening, July 7<sup>th</sup>, a powerful youth/young adult conference will begin at “Hangar 11” in Tel Aviv. It is called *Elav*—Hebrew for “Unto Him”. This is a unique annual gathering in Israel which we have seen increase in the intensity and power of the Holy Spirit each year. The young people include Israeli Jews, Israeli Arabs and Palestinian (i.e. living in Judea or Samaria) Arabs, as well as visiting youth and young adults from the nations. Last year saw well over 500 Jewish Israelis and 150 Arab youth worshipping, praising, praying and learning (as well as just ‘hanging out’!) together! The worship bands are both Jewish and Arab Israel and from the U.S. as are the powerfully motivating speakers. In recent years we have seen God anoint this event in wonderful ways, drawing these young people to Himself while crossing racial and cultural barriers for a new oneness of love and purpose between each other.

*Elav* is an outworking of *Succat Hallel* (Tabernacle of Praise), a 24/7 worship and intercession ministry in Jerusalem. To catch something of the spirit of what we are describing, we would recommend looking up the following sites into your browsers. The

first <http://succat.us.endis.com/Group/Group.aspx?ID=1000089668> contains a clip of Rick Ridings (Founder and Director of Succat Hallel) describing the event; then <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QK6B58f8ng> is a short promotional clip for this year's festival. Alongside is the same in both Hebrew and Arabic, plus clips from previous Elav conferences.

As we move through this summer with more roiling turbulence amongst nations surrounding Israel than we have ever seen, the future distressing and dark to natural eyes—especially amongst the young:

**PLEASE PRAY:**

\*That the Holy Spirit of God would prepare the way for Elav-12 in Israel. That the Love of God in Salvation, Equipping, Encouragement and Understanding will be released into those attending—while at the same time, *through them the High Praises of God will be released over Tel Aviv!*

\*That all youth and young adults who are meant to attend will be able to:

- That those under 18 will receive the required permission from both parents.
- That Jewish and Arab congregations throughout Israel will stand behind their young people attending.
- That Arab youth and young adults from outside Israel's presently recognized borders would be granted the required legal papers to come into Israel and attend the conference. There has been a strong increase in persecution against Palestinian Arabs in these territories over the past year.
- For safe passage and blessings for those young people from the Nations who will be attending—plus a new understanding of and love for their Jewish and Arab brothers and sisters in the Middle East.
- For Angelic enablement amongst this generation of Jewish and Arab young people "*who will inherit Salvation*" (Hebrews 1:14) to be able to come, to be protected (nightly accommodations are outside in a park under the stars!), and to return home safely.

\*For the staff and workers involved in mounting the conference to be granted divine wisdom and grace in attending to the myriad details and challenges which are involved.

\*For protection of all worship bands and speakers—that God grant them health, and joy, and exactly the sounds and words which he wishes to release!

\* That all of the formidable costs for mounting this conference and enabling all the young who wish to attend would be met. It costs close to 130,000 dollars to rent the venue, provide transportation, for security services, and to subsidize the costs for the

hundreds of youth who cannot afford to come on their own. ((NOTE: For those who would wish to contribute to this critically important event, you may find more information at [www.jerusalempraise.com/Giving](http://www.jerusalempraise.com/Giving).)

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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 1-7 July 2012 is called *Balak* :**

**TORAH: Numbers 22:2—25:9**

**HAFTARAH: Micah 5:7—6:8 (Hebrew: 5:6—6:8)**

**This week's Portion focuses upon the story of the pagan prophet Balaam (Hebrew: Bil'am), called from his homeland in the Euphrates area by the Moabite king Balak to come and curse Israel, at this time spread out on the plain just across the Jordan from Jericho. But Israel's God is in charge of the vocal chords of Balaam, and the intended curses pour forth as blessing, the oracles being amongst the most magnificent examples of Hebrew poetry in the Hebrew Bible. Some of these blessings continue to resound prophetically today.**

**\*Numbers 22:20.** *"...only the word which I speak to you shall you do."* In the Hebrew, this is not a command; rather, it is a simple statement of fact—"This is what is *going* to happen". **PLEASE PRAY:** that God's living, creative Word be released in Israel. It comes best through His willing servants—but He is Lord, and as such exercises sovereignty over the lips of all humankind (and even the beasts). **Pray** for spiritual discernment among the Body in Israel—to recognize *His* Word, to discern *"between the righteous and the wicked— between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him"* (Malachi 3:18).

**\*Numbers 22:22.** *"But Elohim was angry because he [Balaam] was going, and the messenger/angel of the LORD took his stand in the way as an adversary [Literal Hebrew: as a satan] against him."* The Hebrew word "*satan*" originally meant "one who is an adversary". In this case, the adversary was good— "The Angel of the LORD". In Zechariah 3:1-2, "*The Satan*" standing to accuse Joshua the high priest was evil. *Against whom one stands* as adversary is the issue. Better that the LORD's

adversaries be also ours and His angel standing with us against them, than that the Holy One *Himself* come to be revealed as adversary against *us*!

**\*Numbers 22:31.** “*Then the LORD opened [Hebrew: revealed] Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.*” **PLEASE PRAY:** that God will open the eyes of those who are allowing themselves to be spokespersons to the church in the nations regarding Israel, albeit with impure motives—that they will see that they are playing with fire. Pray that the eyes of the hearts of Israeli believers be opened to see into the heavenlies, where we are seated with Messiah—and that we will flow *with* God’s heavenly armies rather than contrary to them (Ephesians 1:3,18-21; II Kings 6:16-17).

**\*Numbers 23:3b.** “*So he went to a desolate height...*” This is exactly the same word (only in the singular) used in Isaiah 41:8, “*I will open rivers in desolate heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys.*” What God is about to release through Balaam is a torrent of prophetic truth which will stream through the centuries, still nourishing Israel today.

**\*Numbers 23:9.** “*...Behold, a people who dwells apart [isolated, secluded], and will not be reckoned [Literally: “thought of, considered”] as being among the nations [Hebrew: goyim].*” **PLEASE PRAY:** that modern Israel would rise up to her place of calling—that God would wean us away from the habitual longing to be “like other nations.” Pray for believing brothers and sisters in the Nations to release Israel to “be set apart” to what God has called her to be.

**\*Numbers 23:21.** “*He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, nor has He seen wickedness in Israel. The LORD his God is with him, and the shout [or royal shofar blast] of a King is among them.*” **PLEASE PRAY:** “*Your Kingdom come, Your will be done—in Israel—as it is in Heaven!*”

**\*Numbers 24:7, 20.** “*His [i.e. Jacob’s] King shall be higher than Agag, and His kingdom shall be exalted...Amalek was first among the nations, but shall be last until he perishes.*” As we have mentioned during our traversals of Exodus 17:8-16 and Deut. 25:17-19, *Amalek* signifies a covenant-hating spirit which has historically manifested in seeking to destroy God’s covenant-people Israel; this spirit is at the heart of all anti-Semitism. *Agag* was an Amalekite king (I Samuel 15:8) and *Haman*, the “Enemy of the Jews”, who sought to exterminate them out of the Persian Empire, was a descendant of *Agag* (Esther 3:1, 10). God’s covenants with Israel are covenants of Life, through which flows blessing for all humankind made in His image. Therefore, He has sworn war with *Amalek* from generation to generation until He has utterly blotted out his memory from under Heaven (Exodus 17:14-15). His King—His *Son* (Psalm 2:6-7) “*was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed*” (Daniel 7:14).

**\*Numbers 23:23.** *“For there is no sorcery [In Hebrew, the word used here for “sorcery” and that used for “serpent” are identical] in Jacob and no magic in Israel. It now must be said of Jacob and of Israel, ‘Oh, what God has done!’”*

**\*Micah 5:12.** *“I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you shall have no soothsayers. Your carved images I will also cut off, and your obelisks from your midst; You shall no more worship the work of your hands.*

Both this passage from the Torah and that from the Haftarah are very pertinent for us in Israel today. The enemy knows that his time is short—and he has sown sorcery throughout the land. In secular schools, children are often taught the horoscope and New Age in the early grades (we have seen the homework papers ourselves). Much of ultra-Orthodox Judaism is permeated with the occult. Often Israelis flocking to Asia (particularly India and Thailand) after military service, bring back Eastern mysticism to fill the void within. And there are New Age festivals several times a year which attract thousands. **Please Pray:** that the works of the serpent will be exposed and cut off in Israel. Pray for release of signs and wonders and deliverance from demons in the Name of Yeshua through the power of the *Holy Spirit*. **Pray** that curses made against this Land and people from outside will hit a wall and fall to the ground. **Pray** for God to raise up leaders like Josiah who will work with holy Zeal and Jealousy for the cleansing of our land.

**\*Micah 6:8:** *“He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the YHVH require of you but to do justly, to love lovingkindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”* PLEASE PRAY this verse from over Israel—God “*resists the proud but gives grace to the humble*”, and He longs to “walk” with her again!



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Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 8-14 July 2014 will be *Pinchas* (“Phinehas”): TORAH: Numbers 25:10—29:40; HAFTARAH: I Kings 18:46—19:21.]

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