

## *Prayer Update From Israel (August 19, 2013)*

13 Elul 5773



### 1. “THE LORD REMEMBERS--GOD SEES!”

On Sunday archaeologists working in Jerusalem’s City of David announced the discovery of a pottery shard bearing ancient Hebrew letters and thought to be 2,700 years old (700 BCE). The nine letters form three words which could conceivably form the name “Zechariah Son of Benaiah”. An article in *The Times of Israel* cites II Chronicles 20:14, which mentions someone bearing this name as being the father of *Yahaziel*, upon whom the Spirit or YHVH fell with a message of hope for Judah, Jerusalem and the king Jehoshaphat during a time of severe national crisis (“2,700-year-old Hebrew inscription found in Jerusalem”: *The Times of Israel*, 18 Aug 2013, 11:20 am.).

Whether or not the lettering on this particular piece of pottery actually had anything to do with Yahaziel’s father, we have learned to take notice when such artifacts surface here in Israel, especially when their appearance stimulates the Israeli news media to the quotation of a passage in Holy Scripture which might be related to it. Might not the Author of that Scripture be through it seeking to awaken the attention of some of His people?

**Exactly three weeks ago in the July 29<sup>th</sup> Update we cited II Chronicles 20:11-12:**

***“Here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit. 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!”***

That is verses 11 and 12. In verse 13 “*all of Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children*” are standing before the LORD. What immediately follows is the passage called attention to by the inscription on the pottery shard: ***“Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Yahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah...a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and***

*you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s...’* (II Chronicles 20:14-15).

The people of Judah under Jehoshaphat (as Israel today) were in a seemingly hopeless situation where nations were “*coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit*”—but they humble themselves and cry out to God, standing with their families before Him, confessing that they, in and of themselves, “*don’t know what to do—but our eyes are upon YOU!*” **And God sends Yahaziel!** His father Zechariah’s name means “Yehovah Remembers”, and “Yahaziel” means “God (*El*) Sees (*Yachazi*)”; or “God Gazes Upon”. When Israel arrives at the end of her rope, when she comes to a point of desperation so as to confess her inadequacies, and to lift her eyes to seek God’s face, she will find that His loving gaze is already resting upon her. **And He does know exactly what she “needs to do”—for in the end, the battle is not hers, it is God’s!**

### **PLEASE PRAY:**

\*For the remnant in Israel to raise up children like Yahaziel upon whom the Spirit of the LORD may fall with a message of hope and instruction for Israel and her leaders.

\*For a deep desire to seek the Face of the LORD (Psalm 27:4,8)...and revelation that His gaze of Love and Hope and Victory is resting upon us.

\*For God to raise up leaders in Israel during the last days like Jehoshaphat who will humble themselves before God and hear and honor His prophetic word when it is released.

\*For revelation and insight from the Holy Spirit regarding the “signs” he sends His people—and how to interpret and walk in what He is saying through those signs.

## **2. PRAY FOR THE EGYPTIAN CHRISTIANS...**

*“But the people who know their God shall be strong, and do what is necessary. And those of the people with insight shall instruct many...some of those with insight shall fall, to refine them, purify and make them white, until the time of the end; for it is still for the appointed time”* (Daniel 11:32-33, 35).

As the recent forceful ousting of the Muslim Brotherhood from power by the Egyptian military has been followed by turbulent demonstrations violently suppressed with hundreds killed and wounded, one group singled out as a scapegoat by the Islamists has been the Egyptian Christians. During the year the Islamists were in power in Egypt, attacks on Christians increased sharply. Now, that the Brotherhood has been forced out, the Christians are seen as having been supportive of their overthrow. In the past week nearly 40 churches have been looted and burnt (including one of the oldest, built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century). Angry mobs have also attacked monasteries and schools, as well as Christian owned shops and individuals. This week the Bible Society of Egypt reported that bookshops in the large southern cities of Assiut and Minia were

burned and completely destroyed. Vicious attacks against Christians have also been reported in the lawless Sinai Peninsula.

At the same time, far to the north in Syria, rebels this week killed eleven people at a checkpoint near Homs, most of whom were reportedly Christians. An Op-ed appearing in Saturday's *ynetnews.com* analyses how the "Arab Spring has only served to worsen conditions for indigenous Christians of the Middle East". (We recommend reading this article, which may presently be accessed by googling *Endangered in their ancestral land*). It examines the rising scourge in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, pointing out how in many cases it has been met by large portions of the Christian populations simply leaving; how in Iraq, violent incidents have turned "any communal gathering into a potential massacre, forcing Christians across the Middle East to ask the ultimate question of faith: *'Am I prepared to die for Christian worship?'*" ("Endangered in their ancestral land": *ynetnews.com*, 17 Aug 2013, 07:40). Indeed, one wonders how long it may be before this question must be answered by brothers and sisters in many countries far outside the Middle East.

**PLEASE PRAY:**

\*For protection for believers in Egypt who are coming under persecution and great trials for their faith. For encouragement from Heaven, for restored hope, instruction and vision.

\*For boldness to speak God's work, by God's reaching out His hand to release healing and signs and wonders in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:27-29).

\*For grace in encouraging their brothers and sisters.

\*For a sober grace and determination in the Body in lands not currently under such persecution to remember and pray for our brothers and sisters who are currently undergoing these trials.

**3. ELAV! UNTO HIM...**

Monday evening the *Elav!* Conference in Haifa will culminate in a 3 ½ hour meeting of praise, exhortation, intercession and personal ministry to the theme "*Shifting a Nation*". If you receive this Update in time (10:30 am-2:00 pm US cst) please pray for a wave of God's power and anointing to sweep the teens and young adults gathered in the Convention Center in Haifa. We will give a report next week on what has taken place there—but so far, God has been releasing a deep work of His Spirit in realms of inner healing, forgiveness, and experiencing the Father's heart. The worship has been wonderful—with the Spirit falling on the soloists and bands as they lead this young end-time army in seeking the Face of the Lord. We have a report of spontaneous times of worship taking place last night in the big tents set up on Mount Carmel where the youth are ferried up by bus each evening after the meetings to spend the night—large groups of Jewish and Arab young people worshipping on to one or two o'clock in the morning!

**PLEASE PRAY:**

**\*That the outpouring of God’s mercy and equipping on these youth and young adults will continue—and leap forth to others around the country as they return to their homes. That it will truly “shift a nation”.**

**\*That alliances in the spirit which are made between these young Jewish and Arab Israelis and believing Palestinian Arabs will *REMAIN*. Pray for holy networking across the land.**

**\*For protection and a rear-guard to attend all who participated in the conference.**

**\*That the atmosphere which has been changed over that “gateway city” of Haifa will continue to be filled and remain filled with angels and the glory of God!**

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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 readings this week 18-24 August are called *Ki-Tavo*—“When you Come In”:**

**Torah: Deuteronomy 26:1—29:9**

**Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22**

In this week’s Torah Portion, Israel is given further instructions to those of Deuteronomy 11:29-32. Upon entering the land, she must travel to the two mountains outside Shechem (Modern-day *Nablus*). This was near to the place where God appeared to and spoke with Abram when first he entered Canaan (Genesis 12:7). Israel must now return there and verbalize what actions will bring Israel blessing in the Land—and those which will result in curses. Curses for specific sins are listed in 27:14-26. Then come the promises of blessings for obedience to God’s commandments in 28:1-15. The curses for disobedience begin in 28:15 and continue through verse 68. This is one of the most terrifying passages in the Bible; by choosing to be outside of God’s protection, one opens one’s self to horrors—“***Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies...***” (vs. 47). Tragically, much of the history of Israel may be traced in her choosing to walk out from beneath the “joy and gladness and abundance” offered her, eventually turning down the epitome of these in the rejection of her Messiah, and wandering for centuries in the nations. Yet there is an “everlasting love” which has kept watch over the centuries of her

wanderings, continuing to “*draw her in loving kindness*”, even as she labored under a curse. We believe that those years are drawing to an end. **This week’s *Haftarah* from Isaiah 60 heralds her awakening, an awakening which heralds light and hope to the gentile nations as well!**

**\*Deuteronomy 27:15-26.** “*And all the people shall answer and say, ‘AMEN!’* Twelve times the people are called to say this word. Its meaning is much deeper than a mere ‘period’ at the end of a prayer. In Hebrew “amen” is made up of three letters which happen also to form the root for the Hebrew words for *faith, faithfulness, belief, and to believe*. To say “Amen!” means, “*I have faith in this*”; “*I believe this to be true*” (*Emet*, the word for “truth” is itself etymologically related to this root). Believing God’s pronouncements regarding the sins listed in these verses, and affirming them to be true would bring life to those who obediently spoke them out. “*For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*” (Romans 10:10).

**\*Isaiah 60:14.** “*Also the sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, and all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; And they shall call you The City of YHVH, ZION of the Holy One of Israel.*” It is significant that the most virulent of Israel’s present enemies refuse to utilize the name given by God to Jacob—the offspring of Abraham’s covenant-son Isaac). Rather than *Israel*, they choose to utilize in a derisive way the name *Zion* (“the Zionist entity”). Neither will the deity they serve allow them to call on the name of the LORD (*Yehovah*). This passage reveals that one day they will have discerned the light of Truth—and bow to the Holy One over all the earth, who chose to eternally associate himself with the three names they despised—*Yehovah, Zion and Israel*.

**\*Isaiah 60:18-20.** “*Violence (Hebrew: *hamas*) shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; but you shall call your walls *Yeshu’ah* (Salvation) and your gates *Tehi’lah* (Praise). *The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory. Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the LORD will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended.*”*

“*For I,’ says the LORD, ‘will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst’*” (Zechariah 2:5).

**\*Isaiah 60:21.** “*Also your people shall all be righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I may be glorified.*” It is righteousness that exalts a nation. The final securing of Israel’s inheritance back in the Land is their having come into righteousness.

“*He made Him who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him*” (II Cor. 5:21).



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**[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 25-31 August is a “double reading”: TORAH I: Deuteronomy 29:10—30:20; TORAH II: Deuteronomy 31:1-30; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 61:10—63:9]**

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