

PRAYER UPDATE FROM ISRAEL (September 7, 2011)



The Mount of Olives in Jerusalem

(It lies within the proposed borders for a Palestinian State)

“Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east.”

(Zechariah 14:3-4)

1. NEARING THE VALLEY OF DECISION

Two weeks from yesterday on Tuesday September 20th at the annual gathering of world leaders at the UN General Assembly in New York, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas plans to present a unilateral request that the territories lying within the ancient Israeli areas of Judea, Samaria and Gaza be recognized as a sovereign Palestinian state and granted full membership in the UN. The request will likely be made initially to the General Assembly, so as to avoid a promised veto from the US were it to be presented to the Security Council. Such a vote in the General Assembly, while not able to result in full ‘membership’, could nevertheless serve to change the Palestinian Authority’s status (so far as the UN is concerned) from a non-voting observer “entity” to that of a non-voting observer “state”. As such

The change would pave the way for the Palestinians to join dozens of United Nations bodies and conventions, and it could strengthen their ability to pursue cases against Israel at the International Criminal Court.” (“U.S. Appeals to Palestinians to Stall U.N. Vote on Statehood; Myers, Steven Lee and Mark Landler, *The New York Times*, September 3, 2011).

It is presently assumed that following the proposal, an actual vote would take place in October. Some estimates see between 130 and 140 states voting in favor of the Palestinians. Although France’s President Sarkozy has pressed for the 27 European Union countries to

“express themselves with one voice”, the way most of the EU countries will vote is still uncertain; much is said to depend on whether the “wording” of the Palestinian demands is something they may find palatable. As of now, only five western countries have indicated to Israel that they will vote against recognition of Palestinian statehood at this time, The U.S., Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic. The US has been going to great diplomatic lengths to stall the vote, circulating proposals for renewed peace talks based on the so-called “1967 borders” as a starting point; but Mr Abbas has shown no interest in peace talks for quite some time now. Of course, unilateral declaration of statehood would mean immediate abrogation of the Oslo plan, which was set up on the premise that final status would be mutually arrived at by both the Palestinians and Israelis. But it would also fly in the face of agreements, in fact, international laws, which go much further back than Oslo.

On April 25th, 1920 the League of Nations, meeting in San Remo, Italy, signed into international law a treatise which among other things allowed Jews to settle throughout what was then called Palestine. This law has never been rendered null and void. In fact, a clause in the formation of the United Nations protects laws already ratified by the League of Nations from being superseded without due process of law. The pertinent laws related to Jews in Palestine put forth by the League of Nations at San Remo have never been officially altered. The “1967 Border” has *NEVER* been a true, internationally recognized “border” for Israel; it was rather a negotiated *armistice line* drawn up in 1949 to bring to an end hostilities between the newly born Israel and Jordan, which had illegally captured and claimed the West Bank as its own. During the years between 1949 and 1967, the Jordanians expelled all Jews from the territory and from Old Jerusalem, clearly violating existing International Law. More than one high voice in the Palestinian Authority has already made clear that a similar ban on Jews in the area would be reinstated after a state was formed.

It is amazing how many people including government officials are totally unaware of the existence of the San Remo laws and what they really say. We believe it is very important, both for Israel and for the nations which will be shortly called upon to cast their votes, that intercessors have as clear an understanding of this as possible. ***We would strongly encourage you to view the following excellent short film clips as an aid to this understanding—then pass them on to others:***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijS8mFP4I1A> (San Remo's Mandate: Israel's 'Magna Carta' - CBN.com) 4:20

<http://givepeaceachance.info/video/> (“Give Peace a Chance” European Coalition for Israel) 15:00

The *European Coalition for Israel* (who recently produced the 2nd video) has put forth the following statements, all of which we are in strong agreement:

- **We support negotiations and oppose any unilateral action.**
- **A just and lasting peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians needs to be based on historical facts and International Law.**

- **Jerusalem should remain the undivided capital of Israel. Only under Jewish sovereignty can the city remain open to people of all faiths.**
- **Jewish settlements are not obstacles to peace. Jews have the right to settle anywhere in the world, and according to International Law, they even have a duty to settle within the borders of the original Mandate for Palestine.**

We believe that the decisions made by nations over the next month will have great significance for the future of those nations. A vote for creation of a Muslim state in this location not only breaks existing international civil law, it rises up against a Law much more ancient and 'binding'. In Genesis 28:13-15, Jacob—lying on ground well within this disputed territory— beheld YHVH—the LORD standing above him and heard him say, "I am YHVH God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed..."

WE BELIEVE THAT THE DECISIONS MADE BY NATIONS ON THIS ISSUE IN THE NEXT MONTH AND A HALF MAY HAVE DIRECT BEARING ON THEIR WELFARE FOR YEARS TO COME.

PLEASE PRAY:

***That truth regarding the San Remo decisions will be disseminated amongst leaders and their counselors and influence them not to vote for statehood. (NOTE: This is not as unrealistic as might at first be thought. Within the past two weeks a close friend recently attended a social gathering in her country at which the Prime Minister was present. She was able to speak with him on this subject—he seemed to show a genuine interest and urged her to send him more material on it!).**

***That intercessors throughout the world will prevail in prayer for their governments that they will choose against a unilateral establishment of Palestinian statehood.**

***For Israeli leaders, that they and Israel be prepared for what is to come. Pray protection over Israel's borders (Psalm 147:13-14). If a "state" were to be recognized, there would no longer be a reason for the millions of Palestinians living in other lands to be regarded as "refugees"; the countries where they presently live might seek to expel them back across Israel's borders. *"Unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait in Hope on the LORD; be of good courage, He will strengthen your heart; Wait in Hope, I say, on the LORD!"* (Psalm 27:13-17).**

Our friend Rick Ridings (Director with his wife Patti of *Succat Hallel* in Jerusalem) has suggested that Intercessors consider praying through the following Scriptures daily until this crisis is resolved.

Psalm 9:3-5; 15-16. *"When my enemies turn back, they shall fall and perish at Your presence. For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the throne judging in righteousness. You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever...The nations have sunk down in the pit which they

made; in the net which they hid, their own foot is caught. The LORD is known by the judgment He executes; the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. (Meditation—Selah).

***Psalm 33:10-12.** *“The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.”*

***Jeremiah 12:14-16.** *“Thus says the LORD: ‘Against all My evil neighbors who touch the inheritance which I have caused My people Israel to inherit—behold, I will pluck them out of their land and pluck out the house of Judah from among them. Then it shall be, after I have plucked them out, that I will return and have compassion on them and bring them back, everyone to his heritage and everyone to his land. And it shall be, if they will learn carefully the ways of My people, to swear by My name, “As the LORD lives,” as they taught My people to swear by Baal, then they shall be established in the midst of My people.’”*

***Zechariah 9:5-7.** *“Ashkelon shall see it and fear; Gaza also shall be very sorrowful; And Ekron, for He dried up her expectation. The king shall perish from Gaza, and Ashkelon shall not be inhabited. A mixed race shall settle in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines. I will take away the blood from his mouth, and the abominations from between his teeth. But he who remains, even he shall be for our God, and shall be like a leader in Judah, and Ekron like a Jebusite.”*

NOTE: We see both this last passage and that from Jeremiah above it as offering a window of hope—in fact, a redemptive future for Palestinian Arabs. Many have already been plucked out of the land they once inhabited, and for those who persist defiantly to “touch” that which God has appointed for His people Israel, that plucking may continue. But there is compassion with God who is not willing that any should perish; He has a way of life and restoration. Yet this can only take place when He who has sovereignly chosen to identify Himself with Israel is acknowledged as True—when it is said with the Palestinian people as with Ruth, “Your God shall be my god!” There shall come a day when even as the House of David and Jerusalem will acknowledge whom they pierced, and will mourn (Zechariah 12:10), so there will be those in the land of the Philistines who fear, who are very sorrowful, and have their former expectations dried up. When the king which they serve is cut off with his pride and the blood-guilt taken away, those who remain shall worship the God of Israel and work among leadership in Judah and Jerusalem.

2. TURKEY

This week a long-awaited UN report on last year’s “Flotilla Incident” (in which Israeli security forces were brutally attacked while boarding a Turkish vessel seeking to break the Gaza Blockade, resulting in the deaths of nine Turkish citizens) was leaked to and

published by the New York Times. Since the report upheld Israel's right to the blockade (while faulting the way in which it was enforced), and Israel continues to refuse to apologize for what it considers acts of self-defense, Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan has reacted furiously, announcing a number of sanctions against Israel, including drastic alteration of diplomatic ties, suspension of defense and trade ties, plus expressing determination to sign a strategic alliance with Egypt and increase its warship presence in the eastern Mediterranean. We plan to write more extensively on this and its implications in next week's Update. Until then...PLEASE PRAY for Turkey...its Believing community to grow and be strengthened. We are aware of the establishment and flourishing of a number of "Houses of Prayer" in that land. Pray for grace and strength and an anointing for strategic intercession amongst the Body there. Pray that as darkness gathers, more holy houses of prayer and worship will be established as points of light in the increasing darkness throughout that land. Pray for Truth to cut through the lies about Israel with which the Turkish media has saturated its citizens. Pray that the "wells" of God's Presence which watered the 7 Churches in Asia (i.e. present-day Turkey) be re-opened in these last days...that Turkish and Kurdish Believers will come to the Lord, and have revelation and understanding about Israel.

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 4-10 September is called *Ki-Tetzeh*—'When you go out (to war)'.

TORAH: Deuteronomy 21:10—25:19

HAFTARAH: Isaiah 54:1-10

***Deuteronomy 21:21, 22:21, 22:22, 22:24; 24:7—Deuteronomy 23:14.** *"Thus you shall purge away the evil from among you"*. The word for "purge" may also be translated "to burn, kindle or root out". There are many situations and circumstances dealt with in these passages (some of necessity not making for the most pleasant reading) pointing to the fact that it is of great importance that God's people be 'set apart' and clean—both morally and physically, personally and as a community, *"since the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp to*

deliver you and to defeat your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy; and He must not see anything indecent among you or He will turn away from you” (23:14).

***Deuteronomy 23:5.** *“Nevertheless the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you.”*

***Deuteronomy 23:7.** *“You shall not abhor an Egyptian, because you were an alien in his land.”* **We believe this admonition to still be in effect today. PLEASE PRAY for a love for Egypt among the Body in Israel, even as it appears to be moving in a dangerous direction. Pray for the Body in Egypt that rise in faith and love and hope...and moving in the miraculous power of the Spirit of God.**

***Isaiah 54:2-3.** *“Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left, and your descendants will inherit the nations, and make the desolate cities inhabited.”* **PLEASE PRAY: That Israel will come into that place of righteousness in her Messiah which will allow God to extend her borders to encompass the territory which He has ordained for her, a territory from which she will never be plucked up.**

***Isaiah 54:5.** *“For your Maker is your husband, YHVH of Hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.”* **PLEASE PRAY: For revelation in Israel that God loves her in an intimate way—and has provided a “Redeemer” for her, who is One with the Father... “All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”**

***Isaiah 54:7-8.** *“ ‘For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,’ says the LORD, your Redeemer.”*

***Isaiah 54:10.** *“ ‘For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,’ says the LORD, who has mercy on you.”*



*Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem*

[The readings for next week September 11-17 *Ki-Tavo* “When you come in (to the Land)” will be: TORAH: Deuteronomy 26:1—29:9; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 60:1-22.]

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