

Prayer Update From Israel (September 8, 2014)



**Rainbow above King David Hotel
coming down into the Hinnom Valley in Jerusalem**

*“All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey YHVH your God...
The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty,
to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands.”
(Deuteronomy 28:2,12 See This Week’s Parashah below)*

1. SEEING “THE BEGINNING OF THE END” IN EUROPE?

“Hear the word of YHVH, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and guard over him as a shepherd does his flock.’ For YHVH has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than her. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, Streaming to the goodness of YHVH” (Jeremiah 31:10-12).

“ ‘YHVH lives! who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers. ‘Behold, I will send for many fishermen,’ says YHVH, ‘and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. For My eyes are on all their ways...’ (Jeremiah 16:15-17).

In a recent article in the UK's oldest Jewish newspaper *The Jewish Chronicle*, Natan Sharansky voiced his belief that ***“we are seeing the beginning of the end of Jewish history in Europe.”*** According to the former *refusenik* and present Jewish Agency chairman,

“Europe is abandoning its basic values of respecting identities while at the same time guaranteeing full freedom for its citizens... On the one hand, Europe opens its gates to immigration, to people who are not asked to share its values of freedom and tolerance. And on the other hand Europeans are rushing back toward the right-wing parties who are hostile to ‘the other.’ Then there is the intellectual atmosphere which asks Jews to choose between their loyalty to Israel and their loyalty to Europe. All this creates an impossible situation for Jews” (“Jewish Agency chairman responds in part o the rising wave of anti-Semitism crashing over the continent...”: *JPOST.com*; 14/08/2014 15:56).

All of these factors appear to have been verified by the manifestations of anti-Jewish vitriol erupting across the continent on the occasion of Israel's recent 50-day battle with Hamas. From huge violent public demonstrations in London, Berlin and Paris, to a mock medieval-style public “execution” by hanging of Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu and former President Peres in the town square of an eastern Hungarian town (presided over by the town Mayor who ended his speech by grinding an “Israeli flag” into the dust with his heel); to a Spanish imam's anti-Semitic rant describing Jewish people as treacherous, war-mongering killers, and calling on Allah to “destroy the plundering Jews...do not spare a single one of them”—these all served to suggest that in large areas of Europe, a latent hostility towards the seed of Jacob is already in place and spreading—awaiting only a certain catalyst to bring it out into the open. Yesterday French Prime Minister Manuel Valls warned that with beleaguered President Francois Hollande's popularity at an all-time low, “In France, the extreme right of Marine Le Pen is at the gates of power.” Le Pen is daughter of French politician Jean-Marie Le Pen whose xenophobia and anti-Semitism are legendary. Although she has sought to distance herself from her father's policies, her rapid rise to popularity at the helm of the far right has been viewed by many with great unease. Polls yesterday suggested a strong possibility that she might win, were an election for President to be held today.

This week it was announced that for the first time France has become the country with the highest number of Jews making aliyah (immigrating to Israel). Citing as stimulus, besides economic difficulties, a *“climate of anti-Semitism that is losing its taboo,”* Jewish Agency head for France Ariel Kandel expects 6,000 new immigrants to arrive in Israel from France during 2014. At 500,000, the Jewish population in France is the largest in Europe, and this constitutes about 1% of that population. (France is also now home to the continent's largest—around 5,000,000—Muslim community.) “In the Western or free world,” commented Kandel, “we've never seen one percent of the Jewish community immigrating to Israel,” (“Jewish World: Anti-Semitism drives largest ever French immigration to Israel”: *ynetnews.com*, 5 Sept 14, 23:22).

Thank God that there is a strong acts to identify and come against the anti-Semitic trend in Europe. On Saturday German Chancellor Angela Merkel vowed to do everything within her power to fight anti-Semitism in Germany. She deplored the fact that Jewish institutions in Germany are still in need of police protection, and called for a big turnout at a rally against anti-

Semitism which she will be addressing next weekend in Berlin. There have also been counter-demonstrations in Paris, London and other cities.

Yet, the growing general view appears to follow the opinion verbalized by European Congress president Moshe Kanto last April in Tel Aviv—that unless the fear in which Jews live can be substantially mitigated, “normative Jewish life in Europe is unsustainable”—that “Jews do not feel safe or secure in certain communities in Europe” anymore. Reports released last fall suggest that already almost a third of Jews living in several European countries are presently mulling emigration (“Jewish Agency chairman responds...”).

PLEASE PRAY:

***That God would visit His covenant people in the Diaspora (lands outside of Israel to which their forefathers were scattered). That they would hear and listen to the call in their hearts to “return to the LORD and obey His voice” in order that their God will “bring them back from captivity, and have compassion on them, gather them again from all the nations where YHVH their God has scattered them”—there, to “circumcise their hearts and the hearts of their descendants to love YHVH their God with all their hearts and with all their souls, that they may Live!” (Deut. 30:2-6).**

***For anointing among Messianic Jews in Europe to share with their Jewish brothers and sisters the message of the Lamb of God who carries away the sin of the world. Pray that the veil be removed from Jewish eyes to know their God and the name of His Son (Prov. 30:4) their Messiah, Savior and Brother.**

***For believers in Europe to have revelation how to pray into the redemptive purposes of their nations—that those which are wavering in their regard for the people and nation of Israel would not turn against her.**

***For Gentile Believers in certain parts of Europe where it will become necessary to provide temporary havens for Jews fleeing persecution—that they will hear clearly and follow the Lord’s instructions in making the necessary preparations.**

***That Jews in Europe will respond to the “fishermen” sent by God to draw them back to their Land—and not wait for the “hunters” (Jeremiah 16:17).**

***For the thousands of French Jews pouring into Israel—that they will be absorbed quickly into the community there, take root and survive in God’s grace. The first few years can be very difficult, especially for those older ones who cannot quickly learn the language or find jobs like what they had in their native lands. Pray for them to be given new clean Hearts, a living Hope, redemption, a New Covenant with their God in His Son (Ezekiel 36:24-29; Jeremiah 31:11, 17, 31).**

2. RAIN.

“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 YHVH your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year” (Deuteronomy 11:11-12).

Rain has from the beginning been a sign of God’s favor and blessing upon Israel (Deut. 28:12; from this week’s Torah Portion). A lack of it (I Kings 8:35-36) generally is a call for Israel to take account of his ways, and to turn towards and call upon his maker and Lord. ***Last year Israel received less rain than she has in decades.*** There was a freak snowstorm in December, and a few sporadic showers—but for both the Former and Latter (Fall & Spring) rainy seasons, it should have been classed as a major disaster. ***So why wasn’t it even in the news?*** Why weren’t Israelis placed on water rationing as in the past? It was because of a modern blessing—Israel has finally during the past few years developed and built vast desalinization plants, which this year, for the first time proved capable of meeting the drinking needs of the population. Coupled with the waters from the December snows and the resources still available in the Sea of Galilee from previous well-watered years, even the crops were able to be irrigated.

We are grateful for this provision—and for the prudence exercised by our leaders in building the plants. ***Yet it still behooves us to pray for Rain.*** The aquifers along the coast are still running very low, as is the Sea of Galilee. While the desalinization plants sustained us this past year, they cannot in the long run stave off a major drought. The plants are extremely expensive to operate—and they will not cover the water necessary to irrigate crops. Also, only this past week came news that that honey will be in short supply this year—partly because this past dry year adversely affected the bee population. This is of course very dangerous on other fronts—such as the pollination of fruit trees and various grains which depend upon bee population being strong. Lastly, Israel cannot from a security standpoint allow himself to be placed in a position of total dependence upon water desalinization. The present physical mechanism for accomplishing this is enormous. One plant can cover the area of several football fields—making them easy targets for enemy attack from the air.

PLEASE PRAY:

***For God’s mercies and blessings in sending abundant former (fall) and latter (spring) rains upon Israel this year.**

***For Israel to turn her heart to hear what God is saying when the rains cease to fall.**

***We give thanks for God’s blessings in allowing us to develop drip-irrigation and water desalinization from the Sea. But we pray for grace to ask and depend upon Him to give us the rains we need in season (Zechariah 10:1).**

***For hearts in Israel which are drawn to fear the Lord and long for His kindness. Psalm 33:14: “Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who yearn for His loving-kindness, to deliver them from death—and to keep them alive in famine.”**

THIS WEEK'S PARASHAH:

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 7-13 September are called *Ki-Tavo*—"When you Come In":

TORAH: Deuteronomy 26:1—29:9

HAFTARAH: Isaiah 60:1-22

TORAH

***Deuteronomy 26:1-11. Principle of "First Fruits"** *"And it shall be, when you come into the land which YHVH your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that YHVH your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where YHVH your God chooses to make His name abide... 'I declare today to YHVH your God that I have come to the country which YHVH swore to our fathers to give us...and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O YHVH have given to me.' Then you shall set it before YHVH your God, and worship before YHVH your God. So you shall rejoice in every good thing which YHVH your God has given to you and your house, you and the levite and the stranger who is among you."*

***Deuteronomy 27-28.** In these chapters 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 and very source of these Blessings 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*” (Jer. 31:3), even as she labored under that curse. We believe there are many signs that those years are drawing to an end. **This week’s Haftarah from Isaiah 60 portends 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).

HAFTARAH

***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*” (Emphases ours).

It is significant that the most virulent of Israel’s present enemies refuse to utilize the name “Israel,” a name given by God to Jacob (the offspring of Abraham’s covenant-son Isaac) and his descendants. 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 (YHVH, *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 that 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).



*Martin and Norma Sarvis
Jerusalem*

[The Torah and Haftarah portions for next week 14-20 August is a “double reading”:
TORAH I: *Nitsavim*—“You are Standing”: Deuteronomy 29:10—30:20; TORAH II:
VaYelech: Deuteronomy 31:1-30; HAFTARAH: Isaiah 61:10—63:9]

You may give to our work in Israel by donating online (click [HERE](#) and add Sarvis Support in the comment line) or by calling *1-888-965-1099* or *1-940-382-7231*.