



Pray for Israel.....

“...whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head” Ezek.33:4.

‘O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out to You, ‘Violence!’ and You will not save. Why do You show me iniquity, and cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me...’ Habakkuk 1:2-3

The Watchman’s Prayer Letter

April 2010

Demonizing and De-Legitimizing Israel

‘Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O God! For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, ‘Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.’ Psalm 83:1-4

Jewish people often ask the question, *‘Why does the world hate us so much?’* My standard answer is that it stems from a deep hatred for the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The most common reply to that answer is a simple why?!

The above passage from Psalm 83 provides us with the answer. The incomprehensible hatred of God’s people by most of the world is directly linked with Him. During the Passover Celebration the Jewish people remind themselves of the slavery of their forefathers and subsequent journey into freedom. Pharaoh’s reluctance to let the Israelites go was partly economical and partly due to his arrogance toward the God of Israel. The plagues serve as a stark reminder of his obstinacy in opposing the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to his ultimate detriment (Exodus 7:1-12:30).

The Israelites escaped from slavery and bondage to Pharaoh, but they had barely reached the other side of the Sea of Reeds, when they were attacked by Amalek (Exodus 17:8-16). After the battle was won Moses prophesied and said, *‘...because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.’* War after war followed them throughout their long history until the Babylonian Exile.

Although the Exile preserved them from wars for a season, the story of Esther introduces a fresh perspective. The intended destruction of the Jews of the Persian Empire, by means of

demonizing and de-legitimizing them, is masterfully enacted by Haman, who also happened to be a descendant of Agag, whose mother had escaped the sword of Samuel (1 Samuel 15:8-33). Throughout the annals of human history, whether Ancient, Medieval or Modern - the Jewish people have always faced the possibility of elimination and destruction as a race. The threat of extinction and annihilation as a people has existed from the time of Pharaoh until the present day.

As prayer warriors and watchman we too have been called for such as time as this. We need to make a stand on the (spiritual) walls of Jerusalem with unwavering, steadfast trust in the God of Israel and His promises - as revealed in the Scriptures concerning His purposes for Israel.

'... then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land... when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break My covenant with them; for I am the Lord their God. But for their sake I will remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the Lord.' Leviticus 26:42-47; and *'...again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall again be adorned with your tambourines, and shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice...for there shall be a day when the watchmen will cry on Mount Ephraim, "Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.'* Jeremiah 31:4-6,

In these difficult times we must also continue to persevere with courage as we beseech the heart of God in intercession. Let us therefore continue to confess God's promises concerning the restoration of His people - after their long exile in the wilderness of the people - as prophesied by Ezekiel 20:35-36. As Watchman we bear witness, and testify, before the unseen world of principalities and powers, that the God of Israel is faithful and His purposes will be accomplished, to the praise of His Glory!

Let us together become a people, who, after hearing the demonizing and de-legitimizing of Israel by the world around us will hold fast to the promises of God and stand with Israel in solidarity because the Holy One of Israel has spoken.

Strategic Prayer Points:

- Please pray, reminding God of his promises to the houses of Judah and Israel.
- Please pray that God would grant a deep awareness to Christians from every denomination concerning the promised restoration of Israel. Although the Jewish people are back in their land, more than 50 % are still in the Diaspora and often with an anti-Israel bias.

- Please pray that the Jewish people themselves would lay hold of their calling in God and their eternal purpose as His servant; let us say to them, *‘Be of good courage! You, Israel, are His servant, Jacob whom He has chosen, the descendants of Abraham His friend [our paraphrase]’* (Isaiah 41:1 - 44:28).

The Security of Israel

‘Thus says the Lord God: ‘When I have gathered the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and am hallowed in them in the sight of the Gentiles, then they will dwell in their own land which I gave to My servant Jacob. And they will dwell safely there, build houses, and plant vineyards; yes, they will dwell securely, when I execute judgments on all those around them who despise them. Then they shall know that I am the Lord their God. ‘ Ezekiel 28:25-26

Over the years we have been asked many times, during our walk of support with Israel, whether we had any concerns for our lives whilst in Israel. Karen always answers *‘As far as I am concerned, Israel is the safest country in the world!’*

Such a statement could be read by one, unfamiliar with the Scriptures, as frivolous or at best careless. However, when one walks in the light and security of God’s promises, the world becomes a different place. One is able to *‘dwell in a peaceful habitation’* as one experiences the assurance and peace that comes from trusting a God who is in absolute control of His universe.

But those who rely on their own strength are in a perilous position, because the Almighty has said to Israel on many occasions, *‘...whoever listens to me will dwell safely and will be secure, without fear of evil...’* – Proverbs 1:33; *‘My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places...’* – Isaiah 32:18; *‘I am your shield and buckler (Psalm 91:4), your rock, your fortress (2 Samuel 22:2; Psalm 18:2; 31:2-3); My strong right arm is your defense (Psalm 98:1; Isaiah 62:8)’*, et al. Elisha prayed that God would open his servant’s eyes and Gehazi saw the chariots of fire waiting for the bidding of God on behalf of Israel (2 Kings 16-17)!

As people of God we need to have compassion on all and therefore we need to pray that God would avert the coming tribulation for the nations. Although an unrepentant Israel will continue to experience much pain, as foreshadowed in the Bible, but ultimately **all nations** will find themselves fighting against the chariots of the God of Israel.

Strategic Prayer Points:

- Please pray that God would open the eyes of the nations that they may behold His glory to avoid the wrath that is to come (Romans 1:18 – 2:9) —NOT because they deserve it, but for the sake of His great mercy

Israel, the Sign of God's Existence

The following paragraph is from an article written by Rabbi Nathan Lopes Cardozo in 2009, in an article called *Zionism - A Phenomenon called Israel*.

'Israel was summoned to remind the world of God's existence, not just as a religious category or the concern of religion but as a historically reality. There is no security for Israel unless it is secure with its own destination. It must assume the burden of its own uniqueness which is nothing other than to assume its role as God's witness. And it must take strength from this phenomenon especially in times such as ours in which once more Israel's very existence is at stake. And once it recognizes its uniqueness, it will - paradoxically – also have security and undoubtedly be victorious'.

Notwithstanding the unique calling of the Christian world, the Jewish people and Israel as a nation do have an extraordinary calling like no other people on earth. They were destined by God to be a peculiar, set-apart people in order to testify, to the world, to the existence of a Supreme Creator who gave the world the most unique and perfect code of life by which he will hold all human beings accountable.

Strategic Prayer Points:

- Please pray that God in His Mercy may open the eyes of all humanity to His might and glory in the Creation around us, but especially to His revelation through the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Special (ongoing) Prayer Points:

- Pray especially for the faithful directors of CFI, Ray and Sharon, as they wisely lead the organization beyond the 25 year mark.
- Please continue to pray for all the volunteers and their Visa requirements; may our heavenly Father move upon the relevant people in Israel's Ministry of Interior that CFI Visa applications would find favour in their eyes.
- Please pray for the success of the 25th Anniversary Celebration from May 31- June 3

In Messiah

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