



*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.*

## **The Watchman Prayer Letter**

**August 2009**

*'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

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### **Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem...**

'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you...  
Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces."  
For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you."  
For the sake of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good.'

Psalm 122:6-9

The first half of the first line of this Psalm is of course a wonderful, very well known and often used portion of Scripture. Quite rightly, it is used among, and by, Christian Israel lovers to stimulate others to prayer for both Jerusalem and Israel. However, the remainder of the Psalm seems to receive much less attention!

In these days where there is so much international attention on Jerusalem and the Temple Mount we would like to bring this passage to your special attention and into your prayer focus. The actual meaning of the Hebrew word that comes to us as *pray*, means to ask ... to petition ... to request! Implied is a fervent desire for the good of the city with a reward for the supplicant; *'may they*

*prosper...*'. The reader is called upon to desire more than just an absence of conflict for the city, rather a (godly) harmony within the city's perimeters – from humble dwellings along its walls to its most exalted palaces. But, says David, it is not just for the sake of his brethren and companions that he seeks the good of Jerusalem, it is for the sake of the Household of God.

With the death and resurrection of Yeshua, this Household of God now encompasses Jewish people and Gentiles. Therefore, the call of David to all of God's people now goes out to all who call upon the Name of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to actively and purposely, seek the good of Jerusalem.

As we have written on a number of occasions, there are clear signs emerging that the nations of the world are beginning to form a united front in their demand that Jerusalem **MUST** be (at least) divided between Jews and Arabs, but preferable returned to Arab control as it was before 1967. Such was foretold by the prophet Zechariah almost 2500 years ago that, '*...and it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it...*' Zechariah 12:1-10.

The telling verse is the last one in this passage, viz. '*...for the SAKE of the household of God!*' Based on all the Biblical evidence that is available to us, Jerusalem is more than just another city on this earth— she is more than just another city of Israel. Jerusalem is **THE ONLY PLACE** on this earth where the Creator of the Universe chose to focus His attention – a place He had set aside for Himself **FOREVER**.

*For the LORD has chosen Zion—  
He has desired it for His dwelling place:  
“This is my resting place forever;  
Here I will dwell, for I have desired it...”*

### **Strategic Prayerpoints:**

- Pray for harmony within Jerusalem— based on the verses quoted above (v.6-7)
- Seek God for insights on how to promote the good of Jerusalem (v.8-9)
- pray for wisdom among the leaders of Israel, concerning Jerusalem, as they negotiate for the nations right to exist
- pray for the church that God in His mercy may open the eyes of Christian leaders and laity to the Scriptures concerning Israel
- seek for practical ways to reach the people of the city with words of encouragement and support

## Palestinian Goal is Not Peace, but Palestine...

*Palestinian Media Watch* (PMW), directed by Itamar Marcus, reports on a panel discussion on a television program of the Fatah organization broadcast this past week (W/E 11/7), where Kifah Radaydeh, the deputy head of the Jerusalem chapter of Fatah, says openly that the PA will resume violence and terror against Israel when Fatah is ‘capable’ and ‘according to what seems right’.

***“It has been said that we are negotiating for peace”, she further stated, “but our goal has never been peace, it is a means; the goal is Palestine”*** – meaning the conquest of Israel.

Biblically speaking it is against the will of God for Israel’s politicians to even contemplate giving away as much as an acre of land that was given to the Children of Israel. Again and again the Almighty reminds Israel through the prophets that the land is His; it is His inheritance (Jeremiah 2:7;12:14; 16:18) that was given to the sons of Jacob by an oath of God (Ezekiel 20:28,40,42).

All of this has the potential to produce a righteous indignation against Palestinians and Arabs in general, but we also need to remind ourselves from time to time that Yeshua gave his life for ALL MANKIND and that includes those who are opposing Israel at this point in time— wherever they are. If the Scriptures are any indication, there is a terrible fate in store for those who turn their faces insolently against God. The following passage is from Ezekiel and, though it speaks chiefly against Israel’s immediate, ancient neighbours, people all over the world have pointed their fingers at the calamity of the Jewish people since the destruction of the second temple. It seems as if a limit to His patience is indicated here—

*The word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, set your face against the Ammonites, and prophesy against them. Say to the Ammonites, ‘Hear the word of the Lord God! Thus says the Lord God: “Because you said, ‘Aha!’ against My sanctuary when it was profaned, and against the land of Israel when it was desolate, and against the house of Judah when they went into captivity... ‘For thus says the Lord God: “**Because you clapped your hands, stamped your feet, and rejoiced in heart with all your disdain for the land of Israel, indeed, therefore, I will stretch out My hand against you, and give you as plunder to the nations; I will cut you off from the peoples, and I will cause you to perish from the countries; I will destroy you, and you shall know that I am the Lord.**” Ezekiel 25:1-7*

The forgoing is just one of many Biblical passages, which indicate that the existence of a National, geo-political Israel has always been part of God’s purpose. Although the prophet Zechariah wrote toward the end of the Babylonian exile, his words read in context seem to be speaking of a time far in the future— possibly our time?

*Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Behold, I will save my people from the land of the East and from the land of the west; I will bring them back, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in truth and righteousness.'* Zechariah 8:8

### **Strategic Prayerpoints:**

- Please pray that the light of God may come among the Palestinian people in relation to Israel and the Jewish people
- Pray that God would touch their hearts and convert their hatred into love
- Please pray that God will open channels of good information to the world in relation to the peace process
- Please pray that God would touch Christians minds and hearts and reverse the 'one-eyed' perception of the Israel/Palestinian conflict
- Pray through the Scripture passages of this letter that God would grant His Wisdom to spiritual leaders among the Jewish people and Christians alike to be able to discern the signs of our time in truth and righteousness.

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**'For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.'** Romans 11:29

In Messiah

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