



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 Prayer Letter

June 2010

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.' Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good.
Psalm 122:6-9

This well-known Psalm is three thousand years old, according to the T^ēnakh. There is also a sequel to this wonderful prayer, it is in Psalm 132:13-14 by an unknown author who declares that, *'The LORD has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: 'I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body...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..'*

These two statements are extraordinary in themselves, but more so as they are extremely pertinent to our day in the light of the Arab-Israel conflict.

Psalm 122 is a cry of David for his beloved city. The word translated as *'pray'* actually means to ask, or inquire. The implication here is that the people of God ought to be concerned with the wellbeing of Jerusalem— *'for the sake of the House of God'*.

But what, where is this house of God?

A few days ago was *'Yom Yerushalayim'* – Jerusalem Day when Israel celebrated the 43rd Anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem on the 28th Iyyar 5727 (June 7, 1967). Since that day in 1948, literally millions of Christians have visited the ancient city and left inspired to pray for Jerusalem. However, in recent years the Media has presented a terribly negative image to the world! Are we prepared to ask the question, what influence all of this may have had on Global Christianity, along with the increase in the number of calls for boycotts of Israel, together with often uninformed, one-sided condemnation and demonization of Israel? How much of this earlier fervour for Israel has indeed remained?

Hopefully, with the continuing, strong flow of Christian tourism to Israel, an increasing number of faithful Believers world-wide will continue steadfastly to intercede for this holiest of cities and her people.

The Global Christian community with its awesome numbers of over 1.5 billion could have such an impact if collectively a formal stand were to be taken on behalf of Israel in her battle against the hostile forces surrounding her and the ongoing demonization and delegitimization .

Against this rising tide of a neo-Antisemitism stands the ancient prophecy,

‘...behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. 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 12:2ff.

So, what is the implication when David says, ‘...for the sake of the House of our God I will seek your good’? Since there is no longer a Temple in Jerusalem it is the people of God (Jewish and Gentile) who form the House of God built from living stones (1 Peter 2:5 ff.). In other words, we need to pray for the Holy City **for our own sakes** to stem the rising tide of hatred, which may even be in our midst— by seeking her ultimate good!

Strategic Prayer Points:

- Please pray for the nations that God in His Grace and Mercy may grant them an awakening that all believers would realize the significance of praying for Jerusalem
- Please pray for political leaders everywhere that the Most High will grant them the ability to repent from their intentions to promote the division of Jerusalem
- Please pray for church-leaders to repent from their indifference toward Israel and to become proactive in promoting the truth concerning Jerusalem
- Please pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

Shavuoth – Pentecost

Shavuoth is one of the three High Holy Days on the Hebrew Calendar the Israelites were commanded to observe in perpetuity forever. It is also the Feast of Pentecost mentioned in the New Testament (Acts 2:1) as that momentous day when the Spirit of God was poured out on the disciples of Yeshua in accordance with the prophecy of Joel c/f. Acts 2:17-21; Joel 2:28-29.

The significance lies not only in this ‘*outpouring of the Holy Spirit*’, but that it coincides with the day when 1500 years earlier the Israelites received the Torah on Mount Sinai. This outpouring of the Holy

Spirit seems to reinforce the importance of a partnership between the Torah of Sinai with the 'empowering from on high' promised by Yeshua (Acts 1:8) so that the righteousness of God may go into all the world.

The written Torah, with its foundational Commandments engraved in stone, restored the knowledge that God founded the Universe - His [visible] Kingdom - on righteousness, which stands on the legs of **Justice, Morality and Love**. But, to enact these we need the enabling power from on high!

Many call for justice to be done in the Middle East, but often only mean the Palestinian people alone and ignore Israel. However, there cannot be any true peace without Justice, there cannot be any true Justice without a moral basis. Yet, both will remain empty and legalistic gestures, without being clothed in Lovingkindness to nurture the human soul.

As Christians, who are empowered from on high by the Spirit of God, we can have great influence on the world around us and therefore we also hold in our hands a key to influencing the Middle East for the good of all.

Strategic Prayer Points:

- Please pray that Christians would seek that empowering from on high to become instruments in His hands for justice, (true) morality and love on behalf of Israel and the Palestinian people in their time of great need
- Please pray for Christians and Jewish people alike that the power and wisdom of God demonstrated at Shavuoth/Pentecost will begin to influence their lives for the good of our world.

Israel Without Zion?

A few days ago – prior to writing this Prayerletter – a rally was held in Jerusalem by Israel's ultra-left movement, 'Peace Now', and associated political groups. The purpose of the rally was to encourage Israelis to forego the dream of a country based on Biblical promises and visions. Although the memories of *Gush Katif* are still very much alive – especially in the minds of those who are still without a permanent home – the promoters argued that even a unilateral move to establish permanent borders would be preferable to the present stand-off.

Karen and I were shocked at the ugliness that issued from the protestors toward the few 'Religious Zionist', who had staged somewhat of a counter demonstration. Some of the left-wingers, flaunting the Communist insignia of 'Hammer and Sickle' on their T-shirts and carrying huge red banners in Russian (!!!) screamed hysterical abuse at the Religious. **Peace Now?**

Such hatred (according to Josephus) was also present in the first century when segments of Jerusalem wanted to surrender to the Romans. This hatred, and lack of love, among the Jewish population of Jerusalem is regarded by Jewish Sages as the true reason for the destruction of the 2nd Temple by Titus. This is also attested to by a plaque at the 'Burnt House' in Jerusalem.

How can there be a Zionism without Mt Zion? And where is Mount Zion? The term 'Zion' is a historic metaphor for the Jewish people, at times meaning all of Biblical Israel as implied by Isaiah 64:10. The Bible refers to Jerusalem as Zion (2 Samuel 5:7; 1 Kings 1:8; Isaiah 10:12, et al), but to the Temple Mount specifically as Mount Zion; c/f Psalm 2:6; 9:14; 132:13).

The reality is that Zionism without its basis in the Hebrew Bible is an immoral entity without any legal claim to the land. But where does that leave Tel Aviv and all the Leftists who condemn the Religious for their stand on the ancient promises?

Strategic Prayer Points:

- Please pray for unity among Israelis in the face of their common foe and that the younger generation may be given understanding of the true issues (Psalm 133:1-3)
- Please pray for an end to the deception young Israelis are exposed to on humanistic and godless University Campuses and other higher teaching institutions
- Please pray that Israelis as a whole may be granted insight to the real meaning of 'Zion'

In Messiah

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