



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.

"...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

## The Watchman's Prayer Letter

September 2011

### A New Arab Country?

*'...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 people Israel [our emphasis]. They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more." For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You: the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assyria also has joined with them; they have helped the children of Lot [and they] said, "Let us take for ourselves the pastures of God for a possession." Psalm 83:1-12*

This text may have been written between 2500 and 3000 years ago, but it reads like part of an article from any of the world's newspapers. Coming September has the potential to bring about many significant changes in the Middle East. When the UN re-commences its Autumn session in September, there is a great likelihood the Palestinian Authority will approach the representatives of the World's Nations to endorse the formation of the newest Arab State: PALESTINE!

So, one might say what is so wrong with that; aren't the Palestinians entitled to their own state? After all, the peace negotiations have dragged on long enough. Valiant thought! However, as we have asserted many times before, the issue is not a Palestinian State, but the destruction of Israel. That issue simply will not go away and is of deep concern to us as it should be for every Jewish person and Christian alike. Only in today's (August 18) news, Arutz Sheva reports that *"...Palestinian Authority kindergarten showed off what its young students had learned over the past year by having the five-year-olds act out scenes of terror and death for their families. The parents were moved to tears upon seeing their children pretend to die as "martyrs"...'. During the graduation ceremony two plays were performed by the children— glorifying death in battle with Israel for the sake of Islam."*

This process of glorifying death in the minds and hearts of Palestinian children has gone on since the early days of Yassir Arafat spanning two generations of Palestinians. So, our issue is not with an additional Arab State, but with a State devoted to the destruction of Israel!

Somehow it does not seem to bother the leaders of the West — be they inside or outside the church — that this proposed formation of a *State of Palestine* is squarely based on lies and fabricated history. It should raise the ire of every Bible-believing, or at least Bible-reading, Christian that the Arab world is permitted to rewrite Jewish history with full impunity and claim rights to lands that were never theirs in the first place. But, in recent times we have had several readers share with us that their own Pastors blocked them from speaking about Israel in their churches because “*it upsets some members*”. A major church in our region used to put the WPL on their bulletin board, but eventually blocked it due to complaints from visitors with a Muslim background!

May we ask, since the Psalms speak concerning the destruction of Israel by its neighbors and we see similar sentiments expressed and supported by actions in our day, what it would take for the Christian world to arise in a vigorous defence of the nation that gave us the Bible?

***Strategic Praise and Prayer Points:***

- Please pray that the churches would begin to see the need to support Israel in the International arena
- Please pray for all church leaders that God would open their eyes before it is too late
- Please pray that God would raise up the lay people to take a stand for Israel without fear of their leaders

\*\*\*

***God’s Mercy On Israel***

*“...dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge, nor is a cart wheel rolled over cummin; but dill is beaten out with a stick and cummin with a rod. Grain is crushed for bread, but one does not thresh it forever; one drives the cart wheel and horses over it, but does not pulverize it. This also comes from the Lord of hosts; he is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom.”* Isaiah 28:27-29

This passage comes on the tail-end of a very strong judgment upon corrupt rulers, priests, and prophets. The prophet highlights here the amazing goodness and mercy of God, after pointing out that God will judge Israel severely for its transgressions. This twin factor is forever present in God’s dealings with his chosen nation from the time He gathered them at Mt.Sinai (c/f. Leviticus 26:1-46)..

The universal church has had great difficulty coming to terms with these ancient prophecies to a People the world demonizes as a pariah and vermin. This struggle still continues today despite God's obvious involvement in the restoration of Israel as a nation in 1948 and the return of Jerusalem to Jewish control after almost 2000 years.

How much will it take for the church to comprehend Paul's admonition in Romans 11, that "*... God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all.*" Two thousand years of Christianity have not produced any more obedience unto God from the Gentiles than He had found among the Jewish people previously. Sharon Sanders describes Christian history in relation to the Jewish people as "the Church's Hall of Shame"! We all need God's mercy, for as the Apostle says, "*all of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory*" (Romans 3:23). This very thought should compel every believer to rise up in the praise of God that we are able to see the Mercy of God in action in the restoration of Israel in our day; and to seek the good of Israel with the compassion of God in our hearts and shield her from the hatred of the nations.

Isaiah writes, "*...no one calls for justice [for Israel], nor does any plead for truth [from among the nations]. People trust in the empty words of politicians and the lies of the Media [who] conceive evil and bring forth iniquity...*" [adapted from Isaiah 59:4; NKJV].

Although the words of this passage were addressed to Israel, they clearly fit the merciless approach almost the entire world – including the church - has taken toward Israel and the Jewish people. Someone referred to that as the longest standing hatred in human history! Worth pondering?

***Strategic Praise and Prayer Points:***

- Please pray that the church would recognize and publicly acknowledge the unjust manner by which Israel is judged
- Please pray that the churches would begin to cry out for justice in the UN's dealing with Israel

\*\*\*

**Rebuilding Jerusalem**

*"...Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! Jerusalem, built as a city which is bound firmly together, to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord."* Psalm 122:2-4

Ever since Israel recaptured the Old City of Jerusalem after 2000 years, they have tried to make it into a city where the three monotheistic religions could have a share its ancient sanctity.

Despite their *Goodwill* the Palestinians have done their utmost to wipe out any Jewish history of the city by any means possible and to bring the city back under total Arab control.

On August 10, 2011 PA TV (Fatah) broadcast the following, as part of a documentary which discussed Palestinian plans for the future of a divided Jerusalem along the 1967 lines:

*"They [Israelis] know for certain that our [Palestinian] roots are deeper than their false history. We, from the balcony of our home, look out over [Islamic] holiness and on sin and filth (Jews' praying at Western Wall) in an area that used to have [Arab] people and homes. We are drawing our new maps. When they [Israelis] disappear from the picture, like a forgotten chapter in the pages of our city's history, we will build it anew (residential area). The Mughrabi Quarter will be built here (on the Western Wall Plaza)."*

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2011/08/17/palestinians-incitement-western-wall/>

It is important to bear in mind that Israel had every right in 1967 to annex the Temple Mount. But, Moshe Dayan, the then Minister of Defence ruled that the Mount for which every Jewish heart had yearned for 2000 years should remain in Muslim hands for the sake of building relations with the Arab world.

The rhetoric of the above TV broadcast follows the pattern the Jordanians laid down in 1949 when they accepted the surrender of the defenders of the Jewish Quarter. The very next day they destroyed the only remaining Synagogue in the Old City and issued a blanket prohibition for any Jew to enter the city without express permission from the Jordanian authorities. In subsequent years they desecrated everything and anything that was holy to the Jews— not even the dead escaped the sacrilegious acts of the Arabs.

Of course, the West still lives in the illusion that the Palestinians would respect Jewish religious sentiments if the city was divided. Selah!

***Strategic Praise and Prayer Points:***

- Please pray for wisdom for Israeli leaders on how to respond to global demands.
- Please pray that the USA would not crumble under the weight of Arab demands.
- Please pray for much wisdom among Christian leaders to guide their people along Biblical realities.

\*\*\*

Please pray for Ray and Sharon as they prepare for their speaking tour in USA in November.

Please pray for all CFI Representatives throughout the world.

Please pray for the CFI conference in 2012.

Pray also for *Freedom* for Jonathan Pollard and Gilad Shalit.

\*\*\*

In Messiah

***Frank & Karen Selch***

info@theolivetreeconnection.com