Christian Friends of Israel

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November 2017 / Jewish Year 5778

A Teaching Priest



"Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law" (2 Chronicles 15:3).

Édouard Movse 'Sermon in an Israelite oratory' (CC BY 3.0, via Wikipedia)

Azariah, the son of Oded, went out to meet, Asa son of Abijah, one of Israel's kings. Aza reminded Asa that for a lengthy period of time, Israel had been without a priest-teacher who taught the people from God's Word. Today in modern Israel, there are many, many schools, yeshivot (Orthodox Jewish colleges, seminaries, elementary and secondary schools). Many of the lower schools teach Scripture for young children and for the adults there are continual study classes and learning going on. Some of my Orthodox friends study Scripture five hours a day.

I believe this learning about God and His Ways, is more than any nation spends with its youth and adults; however, "a rabbi is not a priest...In the Christian sense of the term, a priest is a person with special authority to perform certain sacred rituals...In the Jewish sense of the term, a priest (Cohen) is a descendant of Aaron, charged with performing various rites in the Temple. Since the destruction of the Temple, the role of the Kohanim has diminished, and rabbis took over the spiritual leadership of the Jewish community" (Judaism 101). While the Kohanim/DNA Connection is being established, still the word "tsaddik" literally means "righteous" one". The term refers to a completely righteous individual, and indicates that the person has extraordinary spiritual power." Whether it be in the Heart of Judaism, or the Heart of Christianity, we both need that completely Righteous One to be our "Teaching Priest". For us, as believers in Yeshua, HE is the Only One that can teach the Word of God (the Torah) as it comes forth from Zion (Isaiah 2:3; Micah 4:2) in its complete understanding for all nations to comprehend and follow. In the Coming Kingdom to this earth, in which we as Christians believe, Yeshua will rule and reign. As the Bible tells us, He as King will teach Torah. It is a fact. We need to learn what Torah is. He will satisfy and cleanse the world with the washing of water by the Word. (Ephesians 5:26). He will nourish and cherish those in His Kingdom who follow Him. We will either accept the "Judaism of Jesus" as He teaches us, and Israel will accept "the Kingship of Yeshua" or none of us will be saved. I know, in full assurance, that Yeshua (Jesus) will come again and when He does, He will be our "Teaching Priest." Let's pray those days come speedily!

Let's Enter the Throne Room of Prayer

Rain is the most important item for prayer this month. Israel has desalinization plants in the Land and everything is still green; however, the "season for rain" is here and several years of drought have left our wadis (dry river beds), rivers and especially the Sea of Galilee depleted. Let us pray for the "reign of God's Spirit" and the "natural seasonal rain" to fall in abundance in this precious and special Land, this year!



OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

- Pray that the spiritual leaders of the Land will draw the People of the Land back to God and to His Ways always, not the ways of the world. "...the heavens have withheld their dew...I called for a drought... Ask the LORD for rain..." (Haggai 1:10-11; Zechariah 10:1, NIV). Pray for seasonal rain.
- Thank the Lord that His Promises to Israel include a Holy Spirit outpouring. The vine, fig tree, pome-granate, and olive trees are all bearing their fruit as God promised. Now we need the spiritual outpouring of God's Spirit as Joel prophesied. (Joel 2:28).
- Beseech in His Name for the whole nation to return to God, and that Israel will know how displeasing to God all evil ways that have been brought in from the nations are. "Therefore say to them, "This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Return to Me," says the LORD Almighty, "and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty" (Zechariah 1:3, NIV).
- Cry out for Mercy for Israel as she faces a war that she has been trying to avoid for a long time.
 "Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel..." (2 Samuel 21:15, KJV). Israel wants no
 wars. She does all she can to avoid harming or hurting any human being but when another country
 makes war with you, you must defend yourselves and the people. Cry for mercy in the day of conflict
 ahead.
- Give Praise to the Lord as we individually, or corporately, read the prayers of Asa in 2 Chronicles 14:11 and the prayer of David in 2 Samuel, chapter 22.

May Israel walk worthy of her calling as the Chosen People (2 Samuel 22:44). Also, further scriptures for rain can be found in Hebrews 6:7; Psalm 65:10; 2 Chronicles 7:13; 6:27, 30; 6:20, 40. In late October, many Jews began praying for a "full-blown appeal for rain" and to "Him who blows the wind and drops the rain." (Jewishpress.com)

We know that prayer is the key and the answer for all of Israel's woes, as well as for all of our nations and their problems. May God deliver Israel, as He so faithfully has done throughout history from the "hand of all kingdoms" against her. (1 Samuel 10:18). The sweet incense of love and care for God's People is surely a sweet smelling savor to the Lord, our God.

Until He Comes, Sharon Sanders

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