



July 2018 / Jewish Year 5778

A Peg In the Holy Place

“But now, for a brief moment, the LORD our God has been gracious in leaving us a remnant and giving us a firm place in His sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage” (Ezra 9:8, NIV). “But now, for a brief moment, grace has come from the LORD our God to preserve for us a remnant and give to us a stake in His holy place...” (Ezra 9:8, Berean Study Bible).



Ruth and Naomi by William Blake 1795

During these days of political uncertainty, and lawlessness, we need more than ever before, to cling to the Rock of Ages. *In Hebrew, He is the “Maaz Tzur.”* We sang it many times to Jewish audiences, at CFI. As intercessors, we need to firmly stake our claim in God’s Everlasting Promises, on God’s Word. His Words are abiding, eternal and do not fluctuate. We can assuredly place our confidence in what we pray for, *if we pray according to His Word.* By following this as guidance for our prayers, we secure our nail in a sure place – even more strongly – in His Kingdom, and not into the kingdoms of this world, which are always being modified.

The Jewish prophet, Isaiah, clearly told us to always stay close to Israel, and never separate ourselves from them, *if we are people who call upon the Name of the Lord. “...Do not let the son of the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord, speak, saying, The Lord has utterly separated me from His people...and choose what pleases Me, and hold fast My covenant, Even to them I will give in My house and within My walls a place and a name...that shall not be cut off “ (Isaiah 56:3-5, KJV).* Ruth, a Gentile, “clung” to and would not let go of Naomi, because she knew what she was doing was right, in the Eyes of the Lord. Even when shame and humiliation besets our people and nation, or God’s Chosen People and Nation, grace can be shown when repentance comes. It is then, the Lord strengthens our resolve to pray in humility for revival, and repentance. God can enlighten eyes, give a measure of revival (**Ezra 9:8**) and will not forsake His People, when we pray. We read in God’s Word, that every time Israel repented of her ways, God extended His Mercy, received them to Himself, repaired the House of the Lord, rebuilt the ruins, and even gave them a Wall at which to pray. We are at that Wall, with them today, in a spiritual sense, when we stand in the gap, beside them, asking God to draw them closer to Him. Before Israel returned home, it was foreigners who had polluted the Land, (**Ezekiel 9:1**). All nations everywhere, as well as our beloved Israel, need forgiveness from God for sins being committed today, which also pollute our Land, and God’s Land. God abhors sin, and desires for His People to follow His Commandments. Many in the Church today, sit back and watch the practices of the heathen even among them (**Ezra 9:11**). God has punished all of us less than what we deserve. (**Ezra 9:13**). **“He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities” (Psalm 103:10).** All have broken God’s commands and so has Israel (**Ezekiel 9:9,10**). Ezra prayed and then confessed the sins of his people, He bowed down, then wept bitterly. *Where are our tears for what we see happening? Where is our fear of trespasses?* Ezra fasted.

There can be no separation from the nation of Israel as we have read above in Isaiah; however, we must separate ourselves from the ways of the world, warn others, and pray that all Israel will separate themselves from the ways of pagans, and heathens, and rise to the standards which God requires in order to become **“...a light unto the nations” (Isaiah 49:6).** That light will shine forth, just as God has spoken it, and the “pegs” we place in His Holy Place, will stand unshakeable and firm. Since many areas of prayer need spiritual warfare – not carnal – penetrating through the darkness is often needed. Remember, that in Hebrew the word for “intercession” actually means *“to strike.”* Whether we are putting a peg in place, or hitting the nail on the head, we, as intercessors need to break through the wretched ways of man in today’s world. We praise God for each, and every intercessor!

Let us Press Into the Holy Place and Pierce the Darkness

Our Master taught us to **“watch and pray” (Matthew 26:41; Luke 21:36).**

“Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good” (Maya Angelou, Celebrations (2006)).

- **Give thanks to God that** some of Israel’s enemies are beginning to see the heart of Israel, which wants to be at peace with all of her neighbors. **“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, and giving of thanks be made for all men” (1 Timothy 2:1).** Some Syrians, as well as Iranians, and Palestinians are beginning to see the light. Thank God that Israel is doing much good to those who persecute them, as much as possible right now. Israel is not perfect. We never mean to imply this, but living in the Land, we see all that Israel does to try to work with her enemies, to make peace. This is the truth.
- **Pray that God** will show Israel any lurking places where weapons of destruction, terror tunnels, and explosives are hidden. **“See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hides, and come back to me with certainty...” (1 Samuel 23:23).** Even though in context, Saul was looking for David, wherever there are weapons of terror that disturb the peace of ordinary citizens, they must be found.
- **Thank God that** He is the “rock of escape” from their troubles. As David always turned to the Lord, may all Israel turn to God for help. **(1 Samuel 23).**
- **Pray for** God’s chosen men in the Israeli military to do their work well. May the Lord reward them for good **(1 Samuel 24:19).**
- **Pray for** the Iranian general who accused the Jewish nation of manipulating the weather as part of a plot to deprive Iran of much-needed rain, referring to the tactic as cloud “theft.” (Worldisraelnews.com, July 2, 2018). **“No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes” (Psalm 101:7).**
- **Fervently pray for** Israeli researchers who are working on a cure for late stage cancer. Immunotherapy treatments are being developed in Israel which may offer new hope for cancer patients. *(Arutz Sheva, 7/7/18).* **“He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him” (Luke 10:34).** We praise God for giving Israeli doctors ways in which many today can be healed from this dreadful disease. To God be the Glory! They are also binding up wounds, and pouring on oil and wine by searching continually for new ways to treat others medically.
- **Beseech God that** all law enforcement bodies in Israel will be honest, and clean from organized crime, which has been brought into Israel and is growing to concerning proportions. **“Thou shalt not steal” (Exodus 20:15).**
- **Pray against deception** as beloved Israel is the “Key to World Redemption” and strongly desires peace. Pray she will not take the bite of the apple, for the first peace offer made by other nations as the way to move forward. It may be a trap as the Word of God says **“While people are saying, “Peace and security,” destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:3, Berean Study Bible).** May Israel realize that Only God, and His Messiah, can usher in “true peace.” As Christians, we believe this speaks of the return of Israel’s King, Yeshua. May any doors open for deception, close, in order for truth to prevail, and “all Israel” be redeemed.

Every day we come closer to Messiah’s Coming. May we learn to persevere through our trials, press through our sufferings, and keep running the race set before us to make it across the finish line, as overcomers.

Keep looking toward the Eastern Skies,
Sharon Sanders

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