Christian Friends of Israel

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Entering the Gates of Prayer

"Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops" (James 5:17-18, NIV).

"Let us not underestimate what God is able to do in our crisis hours if we will earnestly seek His Face" (Lois J. Stucky, Herald of His Coming).



We sometimes imagine our favorite Bible characters, most from the Jewish world, as being supernatural human beings; however, the word of God tells us that they were **men and women, just like us.** No doubt, many times in the history of Israel, we have considered certain events that arose to be considered a time of crisis, but we should not take lightly the roles we play as Watchmen. Just as Israel's soldiers are on the ground, fighting for the safety and security of their people at all times, we also are soldiers, just like them, in the *spiritual* realm. In prayer, we are fighting alongside them during times of urgent **situations that require extra prayer power** to help avert catastrophes and disasters in God's precious nation and people. So, let us remember

that all of us who belong to the Lord, as individuals, are capable of praying as Elijah did and can make a difference in situations Israel faces (as well as for our own nations). Should we underestimate, or consider our calling as Watchmen, to be less important than it actually is, we will end up minimizing the importance of God's call upon our lives. **The Hebrew word** *darash*, means to "seek in prayer, ask in worship or diligently inquire, of God". Inasmuch as Israel lives daily in face-to-face combat with evil, from all sides, the call for intercession at this crisis hour should not be understated. As Israel searches for her own soul before God Almighty, and attempts to make steps to correct it, the enemy sends a flood of opposition and willful denunciation of everything God has called Israel to be. Please join with us, come to realize how the Spirit of God is moving in this Land, but also discerning the forceful and cogent warfare opposing Israel's becoming the "light to the nations". Our earnest prayers will make a difference as we "darash" in prayer, worship and beseech the Lord of Lords and King of Kings! We are all called for this crisis hour!

The Watchman's Call at a Crisis Hour

Praise God that there are Christians who truly follow Yeshua (Jesus) and know His Voice. When they hear His Voice, they are obedient, unlike a Christian pastor in the Bible Belt of the US who admitted personally to worshipping Allah (out of showing respect supposedly, to Muslim neighbors). Joining this St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Smithfield, North Carolina, were pastors from the United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ and three different Baptist congregations. (posted by Leo Hohmann, 5/15/17, APP Frontpage, Faith, Front Page, US). Deception seems to be rampant in the Church as well as in some serious areas here in Israel. Let us pray through and press on toward the gates, in intercession and prayer, until we see the cloud of deceit lifted. Satan's strategy is to get us to believe, through shady deviousness, and false teachings that Islam is ok. It is not. It is a false religion and must not be tolerated in our worship of the One True God of Israel. As Christians, we must not be deceived in these eleventh hour days. Praise God for those "listening", obeying and caring about this beloved Land and People. We may be mere human beings, but remember, so was Elijah!

Let's Face Toward Jerusalem and Pray:

• Call upon the Lord that He will command the foul spirit, which is at an all-time high support for gay marriage in Israel, to depart from the Land. More than 200,000 took to the streets recently in support of that vile spirit which the Bible (Hebrew Scriptures) speaks firmly against. It is an abomination to the Lord. We ask that the spiritual shepherds of Israel be honest with the people and speak against this disgusting trespass against Israel's King. "If a man goes to bed with a man as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they must be put to death; their blood is on them" (Leviticus 20:13, Complete Jewish Bible)



- Beseech the Lord that this moral decline in the nation will stop and that the religious hypocrisy will
 cease. Just as in the Church, many well-meaning Rabbis, have fallen into sin. It is a time when we need
 to bring spiritual leadership to the Lord for conviction and for leading the flocks (both Jewish and Christian) to think certain practices are "ok". Judgment will begin at the House of God.
- **Urge the Lord** that in His wrath, that He would remember mercy, for both Israel and the Church need spiritual correction. **(Isaiah 63:7).**
- Remind the Lord that singing about the beauty of the Sea of Galilee has all but stopped, because Lake Gennesaret (Sea of Galilee) has experienced a drought for the last four years. Pumping water for the land has now stopped with this drain on her waters. One has only to remember the 200,000 who are supporting gay marriage, transexualism, and other sodomic sins, to know "why" the drought has dried up one of the most precious possessions of Israel. Please pray for much rain this winter and for the repentance that needs to come. "If he holds back the rain, the earth becomes a desert. If he releases the waters, they flood the earth" (Job 12:15, NLT). When man can devise all sorts of technical and medical advances and yet, cannot control the flesh, all of the medical and technical advances in the world cannot bring rain. Repentance will.
- Stand on Behalf of the Jewish nation, which is preparing through drills, for a national disaster such as a major earthquake. Prime Minister Netanyahu has stressed that people need to "get out of the houses, get out of the buildings" which is the safest place to be in case of an earthquake. Pray that Israel will be in the safest place she can be and that is "in the Will of the Lord" at all times. Some will trust in military power and warfare but Israel needs to trust in the Lord God of Israel. "Some nations boast of their chariots and horses, but we boast in the name of the LORD our God." (Psalm 20:7, NLT).
- Thank the Lord that at the UN Headquarters, "...a Christian prayer group has been meeting for twenty years...in New York City to pray for the State of Israel...During their lunch breaks, UN workers gather in meetings rooms...This multi-denominational prayer group's special focus has remained the same... praying for world leaders and more specifically, for the State of Israel." (Breaking Israel News, Adam Berkowitz). "The King's heart is in the hand of the LORD as the rivers of water: He turneth it whithersoever He will" (Proverbs 21:1, KJV).
- Remember the Lord's Promises that He will make Jerusalem, the spiritual center of the whole earth as well as His Special Praise. "And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth" (Isaiah 62:7, KJV).
- Declare the Promises of God that even though war threats abound in this region of the Middle East
 and especially toward the Jewish nation, that Israel will go to prayer in huge numbers, from their hearts
 cry out to God, and ask for forgiveness for being too much like the rest of the world. God is a forgiving
 and merciful God but He wants Israel for Himself. "He has done this for no other nation; they do not
 know his laws. Praise the LORD" (Psalm 147:20, NIV)
- Thank the Lord for the path that brought Israel's President, Reuven Rivlin, to his position. He recently met in a meeting with church leaders in Jerusalem, and said "Christians and Jews are brothers" and decried the rising persecution of Christians across the Middle East. (Israel Today, May 2017). "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way" (Psalm 37:23, KJV).

We love the Nation of Israel and the Jewish people and we see many advancements in the spiritual realm which indicate that God is at work mightily here in so many areas, even preparations for the Coming of Messiah. We see the nations "glory" diminishing and in many ways seeing Israel on the rise; however, there remains serious issues that need to be dealt with in the Spirit, and so may the *Ruach*, (Hebrew for Spirit/wind) of God guide us as we pray in these times of crises.

Until He Comes,

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