



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

August 2010

### No compromise on the Temple Mount!

*‘For the Lord has chosen Zion - he has desired it for his habitation: “This is my resting place for ever, here I will dwell, for I have desired it.”’* Psalm 132:13-14

When Israel reconquered Jerusalem in 1967, the military leaders guided by Moshe Dayan permitted the Moslems to retain the Temple Mount, also known as the Biblical Mount Moriah. On the surface it may have appeared as an act of generosity by the victors and a sign of deep respect for the Islamic Faith, but with hindsight it may now be said that this same act of political generosity toward a vanquished foe, also laid the foundation for the nightmare facing the Jewish world today.

Since that time, and especially during the last decade, the Muslim Waqf on the Mount Moriah, have done their utmost to obliterate any archaeological evidence that might serve as proof for Jewish ownership. This archaeological vandalism was part of the general process of delegitimizing Israel. Ephraim Halevy, writing for YNET (July 7, 2010) warns against any deal with the Palestinians involving just the Kotel, saying that *‘Renouncing Jewish right for the Mount paves way to losing right for entire land...’*

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas recently expressed his willingness to let Israel maintain its control over Jerusalem’s Jewish Quarter and the Kotel, or Western Wall. Various Palestinian spokespeople and Knesset Member Dr. Ahmed Tibi were quick to stress, however, that this willingness comes with an unequivocal Palestinian position demanding full, exclusive sovereignty over the Temple Mount. Israel is confronted here with a typical Arab double speak. Based on the Geneva Accord, Palestinians understand by **‘Kotel’** *refers only to part of the Western Wall – the small section where Jews pray today. Hence, Abbas’ words only refer to the limited plaza at the Wailing Wall and not to the entire Western Wall, let alone the Kotel tunnels.* Halevy goes on to say, that *‘Israel’s demand for the Western Wall is not premised on the Kotel*

*being a holy Jewish site in and of itself. The demand is premised on the Kotel being a remnant of our Temple. Anyone recognizing our right for the Western Wall must recognize the fact that the Kotel is part of a structure or several structures that Jews have no less attachment to than the Muslims.'*

**The Key Issue**, according to Halevy is that, *'one, who has no right for the structure, also has no right for any wall of that structure'*.

The Temple Mount **IS** intrinsic to Jewish life— it always has been, is and will be its focal point; it is not an optional extra for Israel. If Israel loses the Temple Mount, it also loses the right to Jerusalem and possible its very existence as a Jewish nation. Many Christians are focussed on the 'Third Temple' event, but what matters now is not the Millennial era, rather the very hill on which the two earlier temples have stood. It is to this present political situation Christians need to lend their weight and rally behind Israel in any way possible to prevent International pressures from pushing Israel into an irreversible position.

### **Strategic Prayer Points:**

- Please pray for Israel's leaders that they would begin to recognize the significance of the Temple Mount – not just for the religious, but for Israel as a nation.
- Please pray that Christians everywhere would awaken to the reality that the Temple Mount and Israel are inseparable
- Please pray that all Israel would rise up in defence of the Mount

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### **The Coming War!**

The Jerusalem Post recently (July 13, 2010) reported a remark made by Youssef al-Otaiba, the UAE Ambassador to the US.

Otaiba said that the Arab States of the Persian Gulf cannot live with a nuclear Iran, that he supports military strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities and that if the US fails to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power, the Arab states of the Gulf will abandon their alliances with the US in order to appease Iran. Otaiba, in a series of statements whose bluntness was unprecedented, rejected the notion that a nuclear-armed Iran can be contained stated, *"Talk of containment and deterrence really concerns me and makes me very nervous."*

The article went on to say that Otaiba's concerns were echoed only the week before in a public lecture at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy by a former CIA spy, Reza Kahlili. He asserted that if Iran develops a nuclear arsenal it will use it to attack Israel, the Gulf States and Europe.

Iran's nuclear progress has frightened the Arab world so much, that, **for the first time**, Arab leaders are giving public voice to the concerns they have expressed behind closed doors.

This Arab concern should be seen as a lead sentiment for the whole world— especially for the Global Church. The President of Iran has **NEVER** rescinded his intention to obliterate the '*Zionist entity*', so if the Arab world is beginning to express concern for their own skins, we believe it is time to sit up and take note. Furthermore, if we add to this scenario the battle readiness of Hizbullah in Lebanon, with an [reported] arsenal of over 40,000 rockets, capable of reaching virtually any part of Israel and a heavily re-armed Hamas in Gaza, the emerging picture is anything but comforting.

However, whilst it is important to acknowledge such mind numbing developments, we must never lose sight of the God Who loves His people! We only need to humble ourselves as some of Israel's giants did in Biblical History, viz. when Jehoshaphat saw himself surrounded by the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir '*...he feared greatly*', the Bible says, '*and [he]set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, and cried out: "O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? Are You not our God? ... we will stand in Your presence and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.*' Here is a major key: '**...all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD!**

Then, the Bible says, '*...the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah...And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.'*' (2 Chronicles 20:1-15)

### **Strategic Prayer Points:**

- Please pray that God would open the eyes of the Jewish people to this great truth in the book of Chronicles concerning King Jehoshaphat
- Please pray that God would send prophets to the leaders of Israel
- Please pray that all who stand with Israel would begin to proclaim Jahaziel's message over all Israel

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**Please Pray especially for Jonathan Pollard and Gilad Shalit**

## Tisha b'Av

The Ninth of Av on the Jewish calendar is one the most difficult days in the Jewish world. Year after year they are reminded of the greatest calamities, which happened on that day that could befall them as a people.

On that day both **temples were destroyed** and in 135 C.E. **Jerusalem was turned into a Roman City**. On that day the **Jewish people were expelled from England, Austria and Spain** – albeit in different centuries. On that day in 1940 (5700) **Himmler presented his plan for the "Final Solution"** to the Jewish problem to the Nazi Party. On that day in 1942 (5702) Nazis began **deporting of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto** for the ‘final solution’. And on that day in 2005 (5765) **Israel expelled its own people from Gush Katif**.

It is said that the Second Temple was destroyed because of ‘*sinat chinam*’ (baseless hatred). Today Israel is in a very similar position where leftist groups have a massive grip on various Government agencies. Their influence is powerful enough to force politicians and lawmakers into anti-Jewish decisions, driven by a similar baseless hatred against fellow Jews who claim a Biblical right to the land.

Tisha b'Av this year will be particular painful for many Jewish people with so much Global hatred pitted against them and enemies within their own ranks howling for the destruction of the State of Israel.

### Strategic Praise and Prayer Points:

- Let us praise the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that He has not left Israel without hope
- Please pray that the Christian world would increasingly find ways of comforting and supporting Israel
- Please pray that with this Tisha b'Av a greater awareness would begin to surface among the Jewish people for the need of a whole-hearted return to, and a deeper personal as well as national relationship with the God of their fathers.

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In Messiah

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