



HOPE FOR ISRAEL

SEED OF ABRAHAM MINISTRIES, INC.

*"O Israel
put your hope
in the LORD..."*

- Psalm 130:7



IN THIS ISSUE Chaos in Israel...

W O R D F R O M M O R A N



Shalom from Jerusalem!

May the grace of our God strengthen you and give you peace in Messiah Yeshua until the day of His return. Lately, many people have asked me for my opinion about the current political climate in Israel, so I decided to share some of my thoughts from a spiritual perspective. I do not mean to offer a political analysis, but rather want to encourage you and suggest ways you can pray for Israel!

Before I get into the issue itself, I must admit how sad it makes me to see how divisive elections can be. This is especially true in the Body of Messiah, and I want to caution you, reader, from allowing differences of opinion to disrupt fellowship with others. We followers of Messiah are spending more time and energy in putting our hope in politicians, rather than in God; as a result, we run the risk of being blinded by a worldview that runs counter to what is written in Scripture.

After the elections in Israel in April 2019, and especially after Prime Minister Netanyahu failed to form a new coalition in order to

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form a new Knesset (Israel's governing body), I started to think about the current condition of the people of Israel. In reality, the vast majority of people are hopeless when they look at the current situation. Today, people are confused as a result of lies and government corruption. As Israeli politics become more polarized, people grow increasingly divided. The right becomes more right, the left more left, the religious more fanatic, and many secular people have simply given up hope!

I want to be clear that I am pro-democracy and am grateful for the right and privilege to vote. I also believe in praying for those who are in authority, as Paul clearly instructs us to do in 1 Timothy 2:1-2. Yet, we have to guard ourselves from putting our hope in man-made government!

I think about the biblical times, when Israel was asking for a king so they could be like the surrounding nations. They needed a man to lead them, yet as we look at the history of the kings of Israel we see a lot of godlessness, idolatry, and corruption. Often, this was a form of judgment over the people:

"Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day — in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods — so they are doing to you also. Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them." So Samuel spoke all the words of the LORD to the people who had asked of him a king. And he said, "This will be the procedure of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and place them for himself in his chariots and among his horsemen and they will run before his chariots. And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and of fifties, and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his weapons

of war and equipment for his chariots. He will also take your daughters for perfumers and cooks and bakers. And he will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. And he will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards, and give to his officers and to his servants. He will also take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys, and use them for his work. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants. Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day." 1 Samuel 8:7-18

These are some sobering words! In the current situation, Israel has no functioning, elected government, and the people have no man to look to. As I think about it, I believe that this could be a mirror image of the end times, when people will have no men to look to. Hopelessness will increase, the love of self will increase, and in reality, there will be only one direction to look at - God alone. We are quickly moving toward those times.

Our current situation is greatly frustrating not just for Israelis, but also for foreign leaders who are losing their patience with our ineffective government! This could be yet another cause for more people to hate Israel, and increase the drive to come against Israel. This could also possibly usher in a man who will rise up to power under false pretenses, promising peace and hope, only to be exposed in the end for his evil anti-Messiah stance.

Whether the time is now, or God is once again giving us a period of extra grace, and a chance to reconcile with Him, I believe we followers must take our eyes off of men, and refocus our hope in our God! We need to spend more time trusting Him, and interceding for the people of Israel until the day of His return. It's drawing near!

May His peace be upon us, all of Israel, and the world.

Moran



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Climate of Chaos in Israel

Hope for Israel Editorial Staff



ISRAEL is in a mild state of chaos; from the internal political chaos of the government, to the increasing threats of war from surrounding countries, pressure is slowly building from within and outside of Israel.

When Israelis went to the polls in April 2019, they narrowly reelected current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the freshman politician, Benny Gantz. Because Israel is a parliamentary government, the elected Prime Minister must successfully form a coalition comprised of the various political parties in order to establish a governing body (known as "Knesset" in Hebrew). For the first time in modern Israel's 71-year history, the prime minister failed to form the coalition, and new elections were called for September 2019. At the date of this writing, Israel does not have a functioning parliament.

Failure to form a government, however, is the least of Netanyahu's troubles. Dubbed the "crime minister" by his critics, Netanyahu is facing inevitable indictment for bribery, fraud, and building-zone crimes. Israel's Attorney General has rejected Netanyahu's request to delay the indictment hearing, and it is currently set for the beginning of October 2019. The timing with the September elections is a bit suspect, as many political commentators have suggested that the elections will give Netanyahu more time to pass an immunity law, basically protecting any sitting Prime Minister from prosecution. If Netanyahu wins the election in September, and is subsequently indicted, however, he will be required to resign.

PM Netanyahu is a strong ally of President Trump, and relies heavily on his support on the world political stage. This is especially true where the Israeli-Palestinian Arab conflict is concerned. There has been hope among the Israeli public that President Trump will be able to successfully find some kind of a solution to the decades' long conflict. The Trump administration has promised that a peace plan would be forthcoming, but it has been delayed multiple times due to terrorism or the elections in Israel. The big question now is how the "do-over" elections in Israel will impact the unveiling of this peace plan. This instability in the Israeli political scene may be just the thing to justify the US-drafted peace plan omitting any discussion of territorial disputes... for now.

The US-drafted peace plan is ruffling the feathers of all parties who have traditionally weighed in on such matters as this US-administration has continually stood firmly with Israel on matters of Israeli sovereignty and security. In addition, they have pulled hundreds of millions of dollars in US aid from Palestinian aid organizations, insisting that any further US aid will be conditioned on Arab Palestinians coming back to the negotiating table despite their discontent with US support of Israel.


In many ways, the recurring delay in the unveiling of the US-drafted peace plan has also meant mounting pressure on Arab Palestinian leaders to give up their demands for national recognition and border disputes in preference of pursuing real economic change for Arab Palestinians today. Until now, the corrupt Palestinian Authority leadership has often gotten away with pocketing money intended for economic progress in Arab Palestinian communities and Hamas has not only pocketed charitable donations but also invested millions into building rockets and furthering their terrorist aims.

The current US Administration has found the perfect climate within which to pursue real change in the pursuit of peace in the region. While we know that true peace will not come until Yeshua returns, by separating the economic aspect of the peace plan from the territorial disputes, the US is making room for progress that doesn't depend on the impossibility of splitting up Israel, and for good reason — political instability in Israel and approaching elections in the US means that any territorial agreements would be somewhat useless until such a time as they can be made with continued support from the US and Israel.

But more immediate concerns for Israel have to do with the emboldened and strengthened terrorist organizations along its border. In the north, Hezbollah in Lebanon is ramping up its rhetoric of impending war with Israel. From terror tunnels that reach deep into Israeli territory from Lebanon, to weapons caches, Hezbollah has been actively preparing for war with Israel. Recently, the Mossad (Israeli intelligence agency) foiled extensive plans for Hezbollah terror attacks on Israeli targets in various places throughout Europe & the Mediterranean.

Hamas in Gaza, which borders Israel's southwest region, has invested heavily in smuggling rockets and has been firing them at Israel en masse, making life in the south virtually unbearable. While there are periods of relative calm, the periods of attack are growing in both intensity and frequency. Recently, Hamas has taken to sending over incendiary balloons, where bombs or fire devices are attached, and are responsible for multiple blazing fires in southern Israel. The latest attacks have come in the form of soaking slow-burning fuses in explosive liquids, which cause the balloons to drip "fireballs" as they fly, creating fires in multiple locations. On average, twelve new fires are started every single day by these terror balloons. The devastation on the economy, nature reserves, and taxing of Israel's firefighting resources is immeasurable. Meanwhile, citizens in Gaza are starving, and infrastructure has essentially collapsed, all due to mismanagement and theft of aid funds by corrupt Hamas officials who rule the Gaza Strip.

Moreover, the BDS campaign is gaining momentum every day in all places throughout the world. This campaign, "Boycott, Divestment, & Sanctions", actively seeks the boycott of anything Israeli - products, academic institutions, professionals, technology, innovation, etc. It is an anti-Semitic pursuit, and the total destruction of Israel as a Jewish state lies at its core. This is a sinister and virulent enterprise, and is far-reaching in the world today, sadly.

Israel has always had the odds stacked against it, but we must remember: *"Israel's Keeper neither slumbers nor sleeps."* Psalm 121:4 (TLV) It can be disheartening to read all the challenges that Israel faces, especially considering Yeshua's prophecy of Jerusalem being trodden by the gentiles in Luke 21:20-4. But we must remember what He says right after: *"And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, stand straight and lift up your heads, because your salvation is near!"* Luke 21:27-8 (TLV) We can always take heart in Him because He loves Israel and will forever be Israel's Keeper and Redeemer. 

פינת התנ"ך BIBLE CORNER

Moran gives fresh insight to the Scriptures every week! This is one of his latest blogs on the Menorah in the Tabernacle. Sign up to get his blog sent to your inbox at <https://hope4israel.org/join/>

Yeshua, the "Face" of the Menorah Parashat Behaalot'ha (When You Kindle) Bamidbar (Numbers) 8:1-12:6

An interesting translation issue came up as I was reading the parasha for this week from the book Bamidbar (Numbers). The second verse of chapter eight in particular stood out to me because of a mistranslation from Hebrew to English of a certain phrase:

פְּנֵי הַמְּנוֹרָה

The verse in the original Hebrew is as follows:

דַּבֵּר אֶל-אַהֲרֹן וְאָמַרְתָּ אֵלָיו
בְּהִעָלְתְּךָ אֶת-הַנֵּרוֹת אֶל-מִלּוֹ פְּנֵי
הַמְּנוֹרָה יְאִירוּ שִׁבְעַת הַנֵּרוֹת:

In the vast majority of English translations I read, the verse is translated as:

Speak to Aaron and say to him, 'When you mount the lamps, the seven lamps will give light in the front of the lampstand.' Numbers 8:2

I believe that this verse ought to be translated differently to keep the integrity of the Hebrew intact. It is a much more literal translation, and therefore reads less smoothly in English. Here is my suggested translation:

"Speak to Aaron and say to him 'When you light (elevate, increase) the lamps toward the face of the Menorah (Lampstand), shine the light seven lamps.'" Numbers 8:2

As I read this portion, I pondered the meaning of the various specific elements,

which are mentioned here in Hebrew:

- The "Menorah" (lampstand) (הַמְּנוֹרָה)
- The "Pnei HaMenora" (the face of the lampstand) (פְּנֵי הַמְּנוֹרָה)
 - *This can be translated in Hebrew two ways; either as "in front of" or "the face of". I personally believe that the accurate translation here ought to be as the face of the Menorah
- The "Nerot" (נֵרוֹת) which are the lamps/lights/candles.

When we put these "pieces" together, I believe we get an amazing prophetic picture, which connects to the way Aaron was instructed to "bring up" the lights (lamps) before the face of the lampstand. God Himself is the Menorah (lampstand); Yeshua is the face of God through which the Father has chosen to shine His light:

"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." John 1:4-5

We, His followers, are the lamps through which He chooses to shine His light here on this earth. As Yeshua said, *"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."* Matthew 5:16

I also believe that John refers to this in his vision which he wrote in the Book of Revelation: *"And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle."* Revelation 1:12-13

As I continue to study from His Word, I continue to marvel at His Work here on this earth! God is The Light of this world; Yeshua is His face through which He has chosen to shine His light on earth; and, we are the ambassadors that He chose to represent Him!

Shabbat Shalom,
Moran

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HOPE FOR ISRAEL



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A banner for the "A Light Unto the Nations ISRAEL GREECE TOUR". The background is a photograph of the Parthenon in Athens, Greece, with scaffolding visible on the right side. The text "A Light Unto the Nations" is in a blue cursive font, "ISRAEL GREECE TOUR" is in large yellow block letters with a black outline, and "SEPTEMBER 20 - OCTOBER 1, 2019" is in yellow block letters at the bottom.

A Light Unto the Nations
ISRAEL GREECE TOUR
SEPTEMBER 20 - OCTOBER 1, 2019

A banner for the "Pastors' Solidarity Tour". The background is a photograph of a cityscape at sunset or sunrise, with a blue sky and orange clouds. The text "Pastors' Solidarity Tour" is in a white cursive font, and "JANUARY 8-18, 2020" is in white block letters below it.

Pastors' Solidarity Tour
JANUARY 8-18, 2020

A banner for the "EXPERIENCE ISRAEL Tour". The background is a photograph of a group of people outdoors, with Moran Rosenblit on the left. The text "EXPERIENCE ISRAEL Tour" is in large white block letters with a black outline, and "FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 14, 2020" is in white block letters below it. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo featuring a Star of David on a globe with a banner that says "20TH ANNIVERSARY HOPE FOR ISRAEL".

EXPERIENCE ISRAEL Tour
FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 14, 2020
20TH ANNIVERSARY
HOPE FOR ISRAEL

FINAL WORD

In order to accomplish the great work the Lord has for us, we do need your prayer and financial support. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Hope for Israel ministry. Please make all checks payable to Hope for Israel.