

~ Prayer for Israel ~

February 6, 2010

Nebraska House of Prayer

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

~ Prayer Focus: Purim – The Book of Esther ~

(February 28 through March 1)



*The Feast of Lots, or Purim, commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people through the heroism of Queen Esther in Persia. The name Purim, or "lots," was most likely given to this festival in a sense of irony, because Haman, the enemy of the Jews, had plotted against them to completely destroy them by casting the lot (Esther 9:24). Today Jews not only celebrate this great deliverance on Purim, but also the continued survival of the Jewish race. The book of Esther shows how God cares for His people and the importance of trusting in Him, walking with Him, and acting in faith, even when we don't understand the reason.*

**The Setting:** The Jewish nation was in exile. They had been forcibly removed from their homeland 100 years earlier and were settled in the vast empire of Persia. Many were enjoying the way of life in prosperous Persia having attained positions of influence in their Gentile surroundings. However, they were still hated for their refusal to fit-in. They would not compromise in the worship of God or worship the gods of Persia. Mordacai was one of these influential Jews, having an official position and regularly standing at the king's gate. This book records an important part of Jewish history. Now 2500 years later, it still contains valuable lessons concerning God's sovereignty, trust in God's direction, and even gives a lesson in the danger of pride.

**Sequence of Events:**

- King Ahaseurus (King Xerxes I), angered by his Queen Vashti's disobedience, banished her from his presence and started a search for someone to fill her position.
- The most beautiful young virgins of his empire were brought into the harem to be considered.
- A young Jewish girl, Esther (Hadassah), was among those taken into the palace to receive a year's worth of beauty treatments and to be presented to the King for his appraisal. Esther's God-given beauty caused her to be taken into the palace. Her fate was sealed and not of her choosing. There would be no godly Jewish husband for her. She would either be Queen or live out her life in the harem as a concubine. Her cousin and guardian, Mordacai, instructed her not to divulge her nationality. Even though Mordacai and Esther didn't know it at the time, God was protecting her in preparation for the saving her entire nation.
- Being the most beautiful and desirable, Esther was chosen by the King to be his Queen.
- Meanwhile, the king's right-hand-man, the arrogant Hamaan, was angered when Mordacai refused to bow down to honor him. He used his influence to persuade the King to issue a decree that all Jews should be killed in a single day. Lots were cast (called Pur) to decide the best day for the massacre. The lots landed on the 13th day of the 12th month. - the month of Adar (on the Jewish calendar), giving the Jews 11 months to live.
- After the first banquet with King Xerxes and Queen Esther, as Hamaan passed the King's gate, Mordacai still refused to bow down to him. As vile as he was, Hamaan was so enraged by the offense that he gave orders to build a gallows on which to hang Mordacai.
- That night King Xerxes couldn't sleep, so he decided to read from the book of the record of his reign. He came across a notation that Mordacai had provided information that had foiled an assassination attempt. - Mordacai must be honored at once! The King's right-hand-man, was chosen to honor Mordacai in front of all the people of the city. Hamaan had just arrived home to mournfully tell his wife of this experience when the King's servants arrived to hurry him to Esther's second banquet.
- At the banquet, the time was right for Esther to reveal her identity and beg the king for her life and the lives of her people, pointing to Hamaan as the cause of her grief. As Hamaan began to beg Esther for

forgiveness he accidentally fell on her causing the King to accuse him of attacking the Queen. Hamaan was immediately taken to be hung. ----- on the gallows that he had built for Mordacai.

- Mordacai received Hamaan's official position and all his property.
- A proclamation was issued allowing all the Jews to defend themselves and because of Mordacai's new position, they even received help from non-Jews. So on the day that Hamaan had planned for the annihilation of the Jewish nation, all the enemies of the Jews were destroyed. The people rejoiced.

Purim celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from one of many of Satan's attempts to purge them from the world. Mordechai gave Esther a great challenge then, "and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

**"For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14**

The Jewish people have been in captivity many times, and needed deliverance from many peoples and nations. Their situation in the days of King Ahasuerus is not unlike Israel's modern-day struggle in the Middle East, and the recent resurgence of anti-Semitism in many countries.

In each generation, God appoints men and women to rise up to the challenge of that age. We are alive in this day and in this hour and God is saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" He is awaiting those who will come forward and say "Hineni" here am I, in Hebrew! And if we fall short of this challenge, "deliverance may arise from another place!" Let's not let that happen — God wants to use us!

#### **PRAYER and PRAISE POINTS:**

##### **1. Praise to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Israel; His plan of salvation, His providence, provision, faithfulness, and His constant care for His people Israel and for us who believe.**

*"Who among the gods is like you, O LORD ? Who is like you— majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? Exodus 15:11; "And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt?" 2 Samuel 7:23; 1 Chronicles 17:21; He said: "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. 2 Chronicles 6:14; "for you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession." Deuteronomy 14:2;"Your righteousness reaches to the skies, O God, you who have done great things. Who, O God, is like you?" Psalm 71:19*

*"If his sons forsake my law and do not follow my statutes, if they violate my decrees and fail to keep my commands, I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging; **but I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness. I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered. Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness— and I will not lie to David—that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun; it will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky." Psalm 89:30-37***

*"Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy." Micah 7:18; "This is that Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will send you a prophet like me from your own people.'" Acts 7:37; "Salvation is from the Jews", John 4:22; "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16; "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9; Deut 4:32-38; 1 John 1:1-4*

**2. Thank God for the blessing Israel is to the World; Israel collectively is a major player in the plan for redeeming humanity:** *“and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”* **Genesis 22:18;**

Israelis seem determined to do all they can to help the inhabitants of the frail nation of Haiti thousands of miles away, people with no connection to Israel other than the fact that they both have a history of suffering. Israel, a land smaller than New Hampshire, sent hundreds of emergency workers, one of the largest contingents. When other countries started packing, Israeli said they will stay there at least another month. Israel has stepped into the gap with IDF medical teams. On their first day in Haiti (even though it was the Sabbath Day) they rescued eight students from a flattened university in Port-au-Prince. One highlight of the first week was the birth of a baby boy at the Israeli field hospital. His grateful mother said she would name the child Israel in honor and appreciation of the generous Jewish people who came to her aid. The field hospital established by the IDF is one of the most advanced and includes a medical lab, pharmacy and an x-ray center.

There are 17 million Jews worldwide—0.2% of the world’s population. But Jews make up 54% of the world chess champions, 27% of the Nobel physics laureates and 31% of the medicine laureates. Within the United States, Jews make up but 2% of the US population, but 21% of the Ivy League student bodies, 26% of the Kennedy Center honorees, 37% of the Academy Award-winning directors, 38% of those on a recent Business Week list of philanthropists, and 51% of the Pulitzer Prize winners for nonfiction. Between 1980 and 2000, Egyptians registered 77 patents in the US. Saudis registered 171. Israel registered 7,652 patents!!

*“In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.”* **Isaiah 11:10;** *“I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles”* **Isaiah 42:6**

*“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”* **John 1:14**

*Read:* Dr. Jim Eckman’s, “Israel as a channel of Blessing”, January 30, 2010, Issues in Perspective, which also cites articles by David Brooks and Ethan Bronner. [http://www.issuesinperspective.com/2010/jan/10jan30-31\\_2.cfm](http://www.issuesinperspective.com/2010/jan/10jan30-31_2.cfm)

**3. Pray that God would wake up the church to stand against anti-Semitism and replacement theology.**

The findings of an Israeli report says 2009 saw the most anti-Semitic incidents in western Europe since World War II. As the Holocaust is further and further removed from us, historically and mentally, and as the number of living survivors is rapidly decreasing, the forces of the new anti-Semitism are gathering strength.

Jews wearing items identifying them as Jews are no longer safe in the streets of Western Europe. Synagogues, cultural centers, and Israeli embassies need protection 24/7. Israeli representatives participating in public events are in need of bodyguards and the audience is often screened before being allowed entrance.

*“And it will be said: “Build up, build up, prepare the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people.”* **Isaiah 57:14;** *“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.”* **Isaiah 40:1** *“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?”* **Esther 4:14**

**Christians and Jews are inseparably linked.** *“This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”* **Ephesians 3:6;** **It is our duty as Christians to help Israel in earthly matters.** *“They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For, if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.”* **Romans 15: 27**

*“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”* **Ephesians 6:12;** *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* **James 4:7**

**4. Pray that Americans would stand with Israel and have fresh revelation and a renewed understanding of the God of the Bible and the role of Israel as a blessing and a light to the nations.** *“America was made for greatness. She does not have a covenant with God as Israel does, but she was birthed to spread the gospel and to stand by Israel.”* *Jan Markell, <http://www.olivetreeviews.org/>*

Israel is indeed our first line of defense standing before the darkness that would turn our world into a caliphate ruled by radical Islamists. The Jewish people have values that help them succeed extraordinarily in academic, scientific, business and artistic enterprises---and they have brought those values to Israel. *Am Yisrael chai!* Long live the people Israel!" *Jim Sinkinson* Director, FLAME (Facts and Logic about the Middle East) <http://factsandlogic.org/>

***"The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves."*** **Esther 8:11; Those who turn against the Jews turn against God:** *"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."* **Genesis 12:3;** *"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."* **Galatians 6:7;** *"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* **James 4:7;** *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."* **Ephesians 6:12**

#### **5. Pray for continued recovery of Ami Ortiz and the protection of the Messianic Jews in Israel.**

The bomb that severely wounded young Ami Ortiz (15) on March 20, 2008 was camouflaged as a "Purim gift." Ami is the youngest son of the Ortiz family who immigrated to Israel from the United States in 1986. David, Leah and their six children settled in the town of Ariel. Since their arrival David is working as an active Christian pastor. Leah, who shares her husband's religious convictions, is Jewish and therefore, according to Jewish and Israeli law, her children are also Jewish. The family's religious convictions labeled them as a "Messianic Jewish" family.

*"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."* **Ephesians 6:12**

*"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?"* **Romans 8:35**

*"For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him".* **2 Chronicles 16:9**

#### **6. Pray that all Israel will be saved, they have a hardening of heart because of us! Romans 11:25-26**

*"And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"* **Esther 4:14;** *"Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."* **Esther 4:15-16;**

*"But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood." "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me."* **Ezekiel 33:6-7**

**"Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me".** Reading Matthew 15:23-28, we find a Canaanite woman crying out to the Lord for mercy on behalf of her daughter. And she kept persisting to ask the Lord, even when His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us."

#### **7. Pray for the borders of Israel, the Prime Minister, IDF, police force, leaders, people of Israel:**

"The leaders of Israel are clearly under pressure from foreign governments," said veteran activist Benny Katz of the L'Herut Tzion (For the Freedom of Zion) organization. "During Netanyahu's first couple months in office he refused to use terms like 'Palestinian state' or 'two-state solution' but after serious arm twisting from [United States President Barak Obama and [US Middle East Envoy George Mitchell, our prime minister began to cooperate with their Middle East agenda."

"The Americans and Europeans want Israel to surrender Judea and Samaria. That agenda keeps being promoted regardless of the reality on the ground. The problem is that while this poll (taken by Knesset TV last week)

showed that the vast majority of Israelis are skeptical about the PA intentions, don't trust the PA, and don't believe they are achieving peace, they also don't believe Israel can survive without American money or political support. If we can get Israel to start seeing itself as an independent country, we will be able to translate the sentiments that everyone is feeling today into practical policies that advance the Jewish national interest."

*"For I will not trust in my bow, nor shall my sword save me. But You have saved us from our enemies, and have put to shame those who hated us. In God we boast all day long, and praise Your name forever". Psalm 44:6-8; "Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men; preserve me from violent men, who plan evil things in their hearts; they continually gather together for war" Psalm 140:1-2; "Daniel answered and said: 'Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding'" Daniel 2:20-21; "I will give this land to your children" Genesis 12:7; "And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD." Exodus 6:8*

#### **8. Pray for President Obama to come into a personal relationship with the God of the Bible:**

Jewish and non-Jewish support for President Obama's Middle East policies has fallen sharply since his "reaching out to the Muslim world" speech in Cairo last June, when he called Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria "illegitimate" as well as illegal. He also called for Israel to halt all building for Jews in the same region as well as in eastern Jerusalem.

*"Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: "Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?" 1 Chronicles 17:16; "I am the LORD, your Holy One, Israel's Creator, your King." Isaiah 43:15*

#### **9. Pray for the enemies of Israel that all will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus the Messiah:**

The leaders of dozens of Muslim countries in the Middle East and North Africa will hold their first summit in 30 years this October to discuss the worrisome connection between rogue governments and terrorist organizations, particularly the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and various rebel groups in Yemen, Lebanon, Somalia and the Gaza Strip, as well as al-Qaida. The African Union and the League of Arab States last met in Cairo, Egypt, in 1977. "Before the end of the year we will have a second summit between our organizations," said AU political affairs commissioner Julia Dolly Joiner. "We are looking at areas like Somalia, like Sudan and the Yemeni problem." The meeting will take place in Tripoli, hosted by Libyan dictator Muammar Ghaddafi.

*"In every province and in every city, wherever the edict of the king went, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them." Esther 8:17; "The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those seeking their destruction. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them. And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king's administrators helped the Jews, because fear of Mordecai had seized them." Esther 9:2-3*

*"The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God". Psalm 14:2*

*"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst". I Timothy 1:12-17*

**10: Pray for Jerusalem to be recognized as the undivided capitol of Israel:** *"I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth." Isaiah 62:5-6*

שאלו שלום ירושלים

Sha'alu Shalom Yerushalayim ~ Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem