**RaisingThe Bar**

**Christian Friends of Israel**

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**Pulling Back the Bow**

# “I set my bow (qashti) in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and between the earth” (Genesis 9:13 ).



***Rainbow*** *(by Eric Rolph, CC BY-SA 2.5, Wikipedia)*

A great Hebrew teacher, Ashley Lyon, says the Hebrew term for “bow” *(qeshet)* can refer to either a rainbow or an archer’s bow used in hunting or warfare. We often learn as children, that God set, or hung, His bow in the sky as a sign that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. Often we use the term ‘rainbow in the sky.’ Still, it should also be equally considered as an instrument of God’s judgment...the bow in the clouds would have signified the end of war between Himself and humanity.”

It seems as if this bow is resting in the clouds at the moment, and it will make another appearance around the time of final judgment. ***“God bends His bow and makes it ready, He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts” (Psalm 7:12-13).*** Here God is seen as an archer. ***“I will heap disasters upon them; I will spend my arrows against them” (Deuteronomy 32:23).***

Ashley Lyon tells us also that God hung up His bow as a sign that there would be lasting peace between heaven and earth, and yet we should look for that bow of war to be pulled back again. We know that God reminds us of His Covenant Faithfulness, and the waters of Noah will not again cover the earth. However, in my heart, I am looking forward to the day when ***“...the earth will be as full of the knowledge of Adonai’s glory as water covering the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14).*** What a wonderful day that will be. In the meantime, we watch for Our Divine Archer to send His bows whenever they are needed to protect the Nation of Israel against her enemies. We have the sure Word of God in these promises from Him. We also have all the promises of a new heart and a new spirit to come and when it does – watch out! It will be something that the world has not seen before. **In God we Trust!** During a filibuster in the Israeli parliament recently, Knesset Member Yitchak Pindross stood up and recited the morning prayers known in Hebrew as ***‘birchot hashachar’***. The prayer is a set of blessings that goes as follows:

# “Praised be You, Adonai our God, Master of the Universe, Who gives our hearts understanding to distinguish daytime from nighttime. Praised be You, Adonai our God, Master of the Universe, Who has made me a descendant of the nation of Israel. Praised be You, Adonai our God, Master of the Universe,

***Who made me a free person. Praised be You, Adonai our God, Master of the Universe, Who gives sight to the blind.”*** Thank the Almighty for prayer opening up the session.

**Let’s Pray With God’s Word**

* **Pray for** the government of Israel to be a true body of unity. Nothing is impossible with God. ***“For no word from God will ever fail”* (Luke 1:37).**
* **Intercede for** those who feel gay rights are the correct way for Israel to go forward, succumbing to the lie that gay life is ok and Biblical. ***“...Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detest- able things that are done in it”* (Ezekiel 9:4).**
* **Thank God for** the newcomers making Aliyah today. Around 250,000 are expected to come within 3-5 years. ***“They will come trembling like birds from Egypt and like doves from the land of Assyria. Then I will settle them in their homes, declares the LORD”* (Hosea 11:11). *“...his children will come trem- bling from the west”* (Hosea 11:10).**
* **Ask God for mercy** to keep any virus variants away from the Land and people and to keep us free. ***“For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath”* (Deuteronomy 4:31).**
* **Pray** against Christian antisemitism, which Israel has asked us to help obliterate in the worldwide church. ***“ ‘No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judg- ment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me’ says the LORD”* (Isaiah 54:17).**
* **Thank the Lord for** our Orthodox Jewish friends who build the bridges of relationships with us as we work together as friends helping one another. ***“He has said, ‘It is not enough that you are merely my servant to raise up the tribes of Ya’akov and restore the offspring of Isra’el. I will also make you a light to the nations, so my salvation can spread to the ends of the earth’ ”* (Isaiah 49:6).**
* **Please remember** the believing community in Israel today and pray that they will have harmony and unity together and be a praying community. ***“Nevertheless, brothers, I call on you in the name of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah to agree, all of you, in what you say, and not to let yourselves remain split into factions but be restored to having a common mind and a common purpose”* (1 Corinthians 1:10).**
* **Praise God for** modern warfare utilizing robots that can be substituted in combat with enemies on Israel’s borders. ***“Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God. They have bowed down and fallen, but we have risen and stood upright”* (Psalm 20:7-8).**
* **Pray for CFI** as we prepare Scripture posters for the soldiers in the Israeli army that commanders on the bases will approve. Here is one verse we will use; ***“Then said David to the Philistine, “thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied”* (1 Samuel 17:45).**

The headlines could be frightening if we did not know the Lord Jesus. Let us keep our eyes securely upon Him. Each time something negative happens here, go to the Scriptures and ask God to fulfil His Word regarding Israel, for He has raised His Hand in an oath **(Ezekiel 20:42)** toward His Chosen People and declared He would always keep them from their enemies. We are standing on the right side, so let us continue to pray with fervent hearts and blazing faith that what God has said, God will do!

In His Service Together,

**Sharon Sanders**

Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem