**RaisingThe Bar**

**Christian Friends of Israel**

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**Guarding the Gate**

*“So they and their descendants were assigned to guard the gates of the house of the LORD – the house called the Tent” (1 Chronicles 9:23, Berean Study Bible).*

We recognize that the above scripture describes the assignments the children of Israel had from God to take care of His Temple of worship in ancient Israel. Today, as Christians, while we do not usurp the place of Israel in God’s plan for salvation and redemption, we come alongside of them and we help to guard the gates against the enemies of Israel and to seek the welfare of today’s Israelites, called “Israelis”. I caught the headline of a rabbi recently who said, “All are not chosen, but all are loved.” We must realize that God Himself said ***“... so that your name will be great forever. Then people will say, ‘The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!’ And the***

***house of your servant David will be established in your sight” (2 Samuel 7:26 NIV).*** Indeed, the Lord Almighty is God over Israel and over the nations who will serve Him. Isn’t it wonderful to know that Israel and those of the nations who look after and keep an eye on Israel for her good join with Almighty God in watching over Israel night and day. ***“Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.” (Psalm 121:4-7 KJV).*** We are defenders and shields of faith for the wonderful people of Israel.

The prophetic word of God’s Promises to Israel and the Nations are taking place every day of our lives. Here in Israel, the prophetic headlines (see Israel 365.com) remind us daily we are walking and working in the Land of Promise. While Israel is under attack from Gaza and enemies surround her borders, God is at work in ways you would not imagine as we must realize first the natural and then the spiritual. **1 Corinthians 15:46.** First, Israel returns to her homeland through Aliyah – it must be built up, the people must work and learn to live together as they have been separated for many generations. He is giving them time to see that the ways of the world will not work as they grope to find their identity in HIM, to grow up spiritually in HIM, and to rise to the spiritual level which is needed for the Coming Kingdom of God to earth. It will happen. Watch and see. Your prayers, my beloved brothers and sisters, are rising to God like sweet incense as a burnt-offering and fragrance to the King. To know that YOU, on earth, are lifting up His Chosen People for such a time as this, brings Him much pleasure. We must increase our prayers for Israel but decrease in human ego and self-importance. It is all about GOD and the plan of redemption for Israel and the plan of salvation for the nations that He is working for all of our good. Even the rough paths will be made smooth **(Isaiah 40:4)**, and one day there will be no more plagues, sicknesses, pain or health problems; there will be total peace **(Revelation 21:4)**. As Guardians and Shields for Israel, continue on with your work. You are doing a marvelous job sending forth that sweet-smelling savor for the House of Israel all the way to Heaven… until He comes.

**Let Us Enter the Throne Room Together in Unity of the Spirit**

* **Thank God that** He has visited us, even during a plague, and watered His Land to beautify it for all the people to come and see what God has done here. ***“You visit the earth and water it...the river of God is full of water...”* (Psalm 65:9)**. Israel is in full bloom, former winter rains left us with meadows and a land full of color and beauty.
* **Praise His Holy Name that** many young Israelis are returning to the Land, i.e. working in agriculture and on kibbutzim and the countrysides tilling the ground once again. Perhaps many of these young men and women are seeing that the things of this world do not bring happiness, but are finding that God’s Will for their lives does matter. Agriculture blooms in the hearts of many younger ones today. **Psalm 65:13.** This season is good, the most bountiful I’ve ever seen it. **Psalm 65:10.**
* **Give Him Thanks that** pilgrimage will soon take place again and all nations will come to Zion to see it.

***“Nations will come to Zion...to you all flesh will come.”* (Psalm 65:21; Zechariah 14:16, Psalm 66:16).**

* **Proclaim His Promise that** He who keeps Israel will NEVER slumber nor sleep. It was reported by the Jerusalem Post that a Syrian missile landed near Israel’s Dimona nuclear reactor in April; however, the interception failed. A Patriot missile had to be activated in response. Whether an accidental launch, a misfire, or an attempt to harm Israel, the enemy is still trying to destroy Israel. ***“Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel’s name is remembered no more”* (Psalm 83:4).**
* **Read Aloud scriptures** which protect Israel especially from the Book of Psalms. The IDF is planning to hold a massive month-long military exercise, the first of its kind in Israel, which will simulate war in multiple arenas and multiple levels. (The Institute For National Security Studies (INSS) reported recently.) Hamas has urged terrorists to prepare missiles for attacks on Israel. And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ***“This is what the LORD says: If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that day and night cease to occupy their appointed time, then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant and with My ministers the Levites who are priests, so that David will not have a son to reign on his throne”* (Jeremiah 33:20-21).**
* **“Oh, bless our God, you peoples!” (Psalm 66:8).** Please pray for Christians in churches all over the world who never hear about the importance of praying for Israel and blessing the nation of Israel. We need to be a blessing to them in every way we can and prayer is a great way!
* **Watch Him Work** to bring home more of His People from the nations so that everyone would understand the spiritual and prophetical meaning of what they have done once they are home. ***“Who are these that fly along like clouds, like doves to their nests?”* (Isaiah 60:8).**
* **Intercede for** the Church worldwide to recognize that the ‘root’ (Israel) supports us! **Romans 11:1-8; Jeremiah 11:16.** Jesus is the root. **Revelation 22:16.** The Church in Europe is really battling against Replacement Theology. Some feel that the Christians who persecuted the Jews were not born again, although they wore a buckle that said: “God is with us.” They believe the Jewish people deserved God’s judgment and deserve what they go through. May God open the eyes of many. We have converted to the God of Israel. Israel gave us all we possess, and to Israel will Messiah Yeshua return. How can any ignore this?
* **Thank God for** the Israeli airline, Israir, which just initiated a new policy: There will be no flights on the Sabbath so that everyone can rest according to the Bible command. **Exodus 20:10.** Even without concern of financial loss, the decision was made. Thank God for this subsidiary of El Al, reported by Biblical News, David Sidman. ***“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.***

***... but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates”* (Exodus 20:10).** On top of this, an Israeli lawmaker calls on IDF to engage in battle accordance with the Bible. **Genesis 9:6, Israel Bible.** God is at work in Israel today!!!

To each and every prayer partner,

May you continue to guard the gates for our beloved Israel. What is not complete, GOD will complete. What is not clear, God will make clear and what is not happening yet will take place according to everything God has planned… His Way.

Lots of love and blessings,

**Sharon Sanders**

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