

September 28, 2024

## The Blessing and the Curse

I trust most of you had an opportunity to watch Israel's Prime Minister speak at the United Nations on Friday in a near empty room. A room of 190 nations represented yet many of them absent

It was a very interesting speech. Information you won't hear from any media source in that they are complicit in spreading the lies of Hamas and the Palestinians. Lies that led to the passing by the city of Portland's city council at the beginning of the month that not only spoke against what they identified as the atrocities resolved...

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council urges that the City Manager divest the City of Portland from all entities complicit **in the current and ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and occupation of Palestine**, including, without limitation, all entities on the Divestment List when it is feasible and carries no financial penalty to the City; and*

If you haven't listened to it yet, I encourage you to do so.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MV8U31\\_ECC4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MV8U31_ECC4)

It was interesting because he was speaking from this week's Parshah Nitavim where he held up to maps, expressing the distinction between what was happening with Israel and Saudi Arabia moving towards a normalization of relations, prior to October 7<sup>th</sup>. A prosperous blessing where Israel and Saudi Arabia would be the conduit to a regional prosperity.

Yet, the reality of October 7<sup>th</sup> caused that blessing to disappear, and in its place a curse inflicted upon the region.

A very stark contrast.

Bibi, provided a wonderful image of this week's Parshah, though more outward in nature than that of what is conveyed by Moshe when Israel is to enter the land...

**Deu 30:11** For this mitzvah which I am giving you today is not too hard for you, it is not beyond your reach.

**Deu 30:12** It isn't in the sky, so that you need to ask, 'Who will go up into the sky for us, bring it to us and make us hear it, so that we can obey it?'

**Deu 30:13** Likewise, it isn't beyond the sea, so that you need to ask, 'Who will cross the sea for us, bring it to us and make us hear it, so that we can obey it?'

**Deu 30:14** On the contrary, the word is very close to you—in your mouth, even in your heart; therefore, you can do it!

**Deu 30:15** "Look! I am presenting you today with, on the one hand, life and good; and on the other, death and evil—

**Deu 30:16** in that I am ordering you today to love Adonai your God, to follow his ways, and to obey his mitzvot, regulations and rulings ; for if you do, you will live and increase your numbers; and

Adonai your God will bless you in the land you are entering in order to take possession of it.

The promise of blessing and safety living within the land. Netanyahu was conveying something similar to the region and thus conveying the promise Adonai made to Moshe...

**Gen 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

The Middle East was moving towards a blessing because God was moving upon the hearts of other Arab nations. By normalizing relations, it can be seen as a blessing. I will bless those who bless you.

All the families of the region would have experienced this blessing. Yet, I believe it has been delayed and not destroyed. There is hope for this to come to fruition with strong leadership and not spineless, directionless leadership which is not leadership at all but appeasement and tolerance.

The stark reality of what transpired on October 7<sup>th</sup>, led to a change, a drastic change. Saudi Arabia got cold feet and has not full normalized relations with Israel yet.

Iran and its proxies have inflicted a curse upon the region by attacking the nation and people of Adonai.

The impact of October 7<sup>th</sup> is far reaching, well beyond the borders of Israel and the region of the Middle East. It has impacted the world. It has intensified the anti semetic rhetoric, creating more violence against the Jewish people, on college campuses and elsewhere. Heightened security threats are prominent today.

To where Netanyahu conveyed the other part of Deuteronomy 30...

**Deu 30:17** But if your heart turns away, if you refuse to listen, if you are drawn away to prostrate yourselves before other gods and serve them;

**Deu 30:18** I am announcing to you today that you will certainly perish; you will not live long in the land you are crossing the Yarden to enter and possess.

**Deu 30:19** "I call on heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have presented you with life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore, choose life, so that you will live, you and your descendants,

While instilling the second part of Genesis 12:3...

**Gen 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, **but I will curse anyone who curses you**; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Showing the map of start contrast, highlighting Iran, Iraq and Syria, all nations that spout the trope "from the river to the sea" Iran, the head of the serpent with their proxies being an extension of them.

It was reported today that Hassan Nasrallah, head of Hezbollah, is dead. Action taken while Netanyahu

was at the United Nations, saying that Israel would defend itself, not because it wanted to, but because it had to. Because of the constant attacks, the barrage of missiles that have been raining down on the nation even before October 7<sup>th</sup>. No nation truly understands what Israel must endure yet they are quick to chime in on what should be done. Many speaking from positions of ignorance and influenced by the squeaky wheel of outrage, fed by false information and a false narrative.

The false information being the numbers reported by Hamas Health Service.

The false narrative being the land belonging to the Palestinians.

Hence the impact of October 7<sup>th</sup> has impacted the world.

It has impacted this city. As I had shared with you last Shabbat about the Resolution to sanction Israel and divest of any investments by the city of Portland as a result of October 7<sup>th</sup>, they have attached to it "the occupation of Palestine" by Israel...

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, regardless of current investments, that the City Council urges the City Manager to not make any future directly held general fund investment in any entities complicit in the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and occupation of Palestine, including, without limitation, the entities on the Divestment List or make any investments in the Israeli military in the form of Israel Bonds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolve will remain in effect as long as the occupation of the Palestinian Territories and the violations of human rights and international law, such as those described above, continue.

The one thing I didn't share with you last Shabbat was the impact of what transpired here on September 4, 2024, some 11 months after the unprovoked attack by Iranian proxies.

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, when the Portland City council passed this resolution.

It opened the door for a curse to be placed upon this city by Adonai.

UN member states debate a Palestinian-led proposal on Tuesday (September 24<sup>th</sup>), pushing for a formal demand to end Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories within 12 months. The resolution, facing strong opposition from Israel, is based on an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice, declaring Israel's occupation since 1967 "unlawful." The opinion, requested by the General Assembly, states that "Israel is obligated to end its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as quickly as possible."

Talk about October 20<sup>th</sup> – Sukkot – A call to the body of Messiah and the Jewish community to stand with Israel

Talk about Pastor's meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup> and the first real test of the unity Adonai has instilled upon us.

