*WPL December 2020*

*“Even though the fig tree does not blossom, and there are no grapes on the vines; even if the olive harvest fails, and the fields produce nothing edible; even if the flock is snatched from the sheepfold, and there is no herd in the stalls—****as for me, I will rejoice in the Lord. I will find my joy in the God who delivers me. The Lord God is my strength—he will make my feet like those of a deer, equipping me to tread on my mountain heights****.****”*** (Habakkuk 3:17-19 ISV)

**TREADING ON YOUR MOUNTAINS**

The prophet Habakkuk lived in a time of terrible spiritual decline and was deeply grieved by what was happening in Judah. The Jews had turned their hearts away from following God’s word and had given themselves over to idolatry and many vile pursuits, just like the nations around them. Everywhere Habakkuk looked, he saw sin, violence, and injustice mounting up among the people of God.

When he cried out to the Lord, God answered Habakkuk, telling him to write down what He said and to share it with the people to give them hope for their future. God gave the prophet a glimpse of the hard, rugged times ahead in Babylon, but He also gave complete assurance of Judah’s restoration back to their homeland. The Lord encouraged Habakkuk to wait patiently even when it seemed slow in coming; God promised that it would most certainly come to pass.

After hearing the Lord’s response, Habakkuk's perspective changed. Instead of being in despair over the mountain of bleak circumstances, he chose to **rejoice** in the Lord because of God’s unshakable promise of restoration for His People. Habakkuk's words still remind readers today that it is God who delivers and gives strength in times of surmounting challenges.

In response to hearing God’s promise, the prophet offered a passionate prayer in Habakkuk chapter 3, which was set to enthusiastic music. In that song, Habakkuk compares himself to a deer that can effortlessly race up steep mountains without stumbling. *This deer can place its back feet exactly where its front feet stepped without being one inch off!* *It is able to run freely and securely in times of danger and not get “off track.”*\* Today in Israel, we can still see these graceful animals high upon the mountains leaping from one rocky crag to another. It is an amazing sight!

Like these deer, God can equip us to navigate through our mountainous, treacherous situations without losing our spiritual equilibrium! We need not fear falling or tripping if we trust wholeheartedly in Him―not in our own abilities. Through Him, we can scale the heights! *“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.”* (Zechariah 4:6 RSV) As we intercede for Israel and situations in our world, we must not be discouraged by grim circumstances that might emerge. We can choose to say like Habakkuk, *“…as for me...the Lord God is my strength—he will make my feet like those of a deer…”* Continue to **leap over** hopelessness! **Tread** on despair, and **scramble** overpast doubt! Remember to keep the word of God before you: “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”* (Psalm 119:105 TLV) As we persist in worshipping the Lord and proclaiming His promises aloud, joy and faith will **arise**! We will **ascend** and move securely, even in the rocky places!

\* hishighplaces.org/blog/what-is-the-significance-of-hinds-feet

**REMAINING STEADFAST IN PRAYER FOR ISRAEL**

* **Honor God** for giving usthe Holy Scriptures as a sure foundation for our lives. We can safely trust His promises. ***“Standing firm in the heavens and fastened to eternity is the word of God.”*** (Psalm 119:89 TPT)
* **Praise the Lord** for His sovereignty over everything! Nothing is beyond His control. ***“Adonai has set up His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all.”*** (Psalm 103:19 TLV)
* **Intercede** for Israel’s leaders.Many nations in the Middle East, Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central America now want to align with Israel. We need God toshow the leadership who genuinely wants to walk in peace and who are the deceivers. ***“*For they never speak shalom,but devise deceitful words against the quiet ones in the land.”** (*Psalm 35:20 TLV)*
* **Ask God** to restore the economy and bless the small businesses that have suffered greatly from two lengthy lockdowns**. *“Gladden us for as many days as You have humbled us, as many years as we have seen misery…Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us. Establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.”*** (Psalm 90:15, 17 TLV)
* **Pray**that the Jewish people would turn to the Lord for their answers, not to man. ***“From the days of your fathers you have turned away from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord*** ***of armies…”*** (Malachi 3:7 NASB)
* **Bless the name of the Lord** who gives us the ability to navigate through obstacles and overcome, in spite of hard situations. Let our prayers not be diminished by what we see; instead let them become more fervent!***“But thanks be to God, who in the Messiah constantly leads us in a triumphal procession and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of what it means to know Him!”***  (2 Corinthians 2:14 CJB)

Our Dear Intercessors:

Praise God for bringing us to the last month of 2020. What an unusual year this has been! We have had new experiences as we have walked with God. In the days ahead, we will experience even more aspects of His power as we move higher in Him and higher in our prayer life. The Lord has bestowed a privilege and a responsibility upon us as intercessors in His Kingdom.  *“We are workers together with God…”* (2 Corinthians 6:1 NCV)

Thank you for faithfulness in surrounding Israel with the Wall of Prayer. Please know that we are also praying for you in the nations. May we enjoy this season of light, Hanukkah and Christmas, celebrating Yeshua, the Light of the World.

In HIs love,

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