Raising the Bar - December 2020

***“The earth is the Lord’s and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it”.* (Psalm 24:1)**

**The Heartbeat of Earth**

* Our Hebrew word this month is “**Geulah**.**”** In Hebrew it literally means “**redemption.”** We are living in a time of redemption for Israel and the whole world, i.e. “the last days”. In Jerusalem, there is a neighborhood where Christian Friends of Israel had their very first offices. It is near the center of Jerusalem and populated by mainly Haredi Jewish families.  Rabbi Stern explains that the word ***pidyon*** also refers to redemption on a case-by-case basis (i.e. the redemption of the individual), while ***geulah*** refers to mass redemption (i.e. redemption of the public, or nation of Israel at large). It is a time of *restitution, reclamation, reparation and retrieval a*ccording to the sages.

All around us, all we have to do is take a look at nature and everything our Wonderful Creator God made by His Own Hands. Anyone who cannot see God in nature, in the way it was so beautifully designed, is sightless and very deceived. To even “think” that this world might have been created by a “big bang” is not even intelligent. I came across a very informative, and inspirational article from a science related magazine, *Discover,* by Anna Funk. The headlines say: “**The Earth Is Pulsating Every 26 seconds, and Seismologists Don’t Agree Why**.”  Just like clockwork, seismometers across multiple continents have detected a mysterious “pulse” since the early 1960s. Every 26 seconds a little “*blip*” is seen on their detectors. No one can agree what it is;  however, the researcher, Jack Oliver, working at the Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory on tectonic plates, did not have the digital seismometers that we have today. Then one day in 2005, another graduate student was working on seismic data at his lab at the University of Colorado, and discovered the sound was located in the Gulf of Guinea, off the western coast of Africa. Still no real answers. Fast forward another six years, when another graduate student, Dou Wiens, in a lab at Washington University narrowed down the source of the pulse even more, to the Gulf of Guinea called the *Bight of Bonny*.  According to *Discover* magazine, it still remains a **mystery**. It was at the same time I saw this article that I found another article from Rabbi Lazer Brody, and American-Born Hasidic rabbi who teaches on his *Lazer Beams* blog about the 26-second pulse of earth. It inspires him. “There are so many secrets, places where we can discover HaShem (God, literally *“the name*”), “ Brody told *Israel 365 News.* “I focus on simple faith, and science is just a different part of that.” His sentiments are echoed by other rabbis. “It is very consoling,” Rabbi Shlomo Katz of Efrat, Israel, said “...in *these last stages before the geulah (final redemption*), it is clearly important to be in tune, even literally, with the planet...to see how the entire world fits into God’s plan...the 26-second duration of the microseismic pulse is explained by the gematria (Hebrew Numberology) of God’s name **(Y-H-V-H**), spelled out by the Hebrew letters equals 26… In English, the name of God has been transliterated as YHVH, with the meaning often rendered as “I AM” which carries the value of 26 also. God could have made the world in an infinite number of ways but here we see that every detail is for His glory”, he added. Rabbi Shaul Judelman, former director of the Ecology Beit Midrash, says the Bible itself actually refers to what he called, “**the earth dancing for the Name**.”  How wonderful to think that “maybe” this is **a heartbeat of earth** dancing for Him. It is something to think about. True treasures are found in the Words of the Everliving God. They never grow old. We only need to search for them. As the scientists continue to search for the “blip” that sounds like a heartbeat for earth, let us also search for God in new ways of being with Him, concentrating on Him, and the width, breadth and height of His Great Love for His World and for all of us. May “**Geulah**” come soon and may the King of all Kings come to usher it in. We wait for Him.

Let Us Enter the Throne Room of His Grace:

Our Prayer Points:  The **Duty of a Watchman** is to stand on the wall of prayer and look for approaching dangers and (for us) to pray.

* **Intercede** that hearts everywhere, especially in Israel, will become humble before a Mighty God, for God’s Hand is outstretched at all times for all who come to Him in honest prayer. ***“The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is just."* (2 Chronicles 12:6)**
* **Thank God** that the Israeli IDF has recently discovered a very large underground tunnel―one of the largest ever found which would have perhaps caused many casualties.  Thank God that the Bible says that ***“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight***.***”* (Hebrews 4:13)** We thank Him who led the soldiers to discover this hideout and that it was laid bare for all to see and prevented many deaths of innocent people in Israel.
* **Fervently pray** for a unity government in Israel as Israeli possible elections come to pass. May the leaders of Israel seek God for the leader God has prepared for the people at this time**.** ***"Is it a fast like this which I choose, a day for a man to humble himself?” (Isaiah 58:5)***
* **Praise His Name** that Israel will be protected by the Almighty as He is Our Defender. ***“Yes, your protection comes from the LORD, and he, the Holy One of Israel, has given us our king. “* (Psalm 89:18).**
* **Beseech His Face** for Israel’s Prime Minister as he is under much pressure and attacks even upon his life. “***Whoever is pregnant with evil conceives trouble and gives birth to disillusionment*.*”* (Psalm 7:14)** ***“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.”* (Psalm 91:1).**
* **Pray** for a Godly leader in Israel to arise, one that has the fear of the Lord in his heart. Naftali Bennett and Yossi Cohen are candidates for the Prime Minister’s successor. It is an historic time for the people of Israel as they experience a common crisis with the rest of the world. They are working with their brothers in the Diaspora and praying that they will support one another through many personal difficulties. As one solidarity campaign put it: “Make us look up and look each other in the eyes. Only this way can we get out of this crisis in peace and even become stronger”. (Naftalie Bennett). ***“A Song of degrees. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.”* (Psalm 121:1)**
* **Read Together and Proclaim** that Israel leaders and religious leaders will begin to rely only on the Lord and not on other nations. ***“And the Israelites were subdued on that occasion, and the people of Judah were victorious because they relied on the LORD, the God of their ancestors.* (2 Chronicles 13:18).**

Whatever God has in store for the world in the coming days, let us bind together in faith and unity on doing what HE says to do, and not man. May we walk in the fear of the Lord and continue to love the Nation of Israel and her people and to proclaim all the promises God has for her and for those who stand with her. God bless you all and thank you for your prayers for Israel, for the ministry of Christian Friends of Israel around the world and for us personally. You are of great importance to us.

In His Service Together,

Sharon Sanders

CFI Co-Founder, etc.