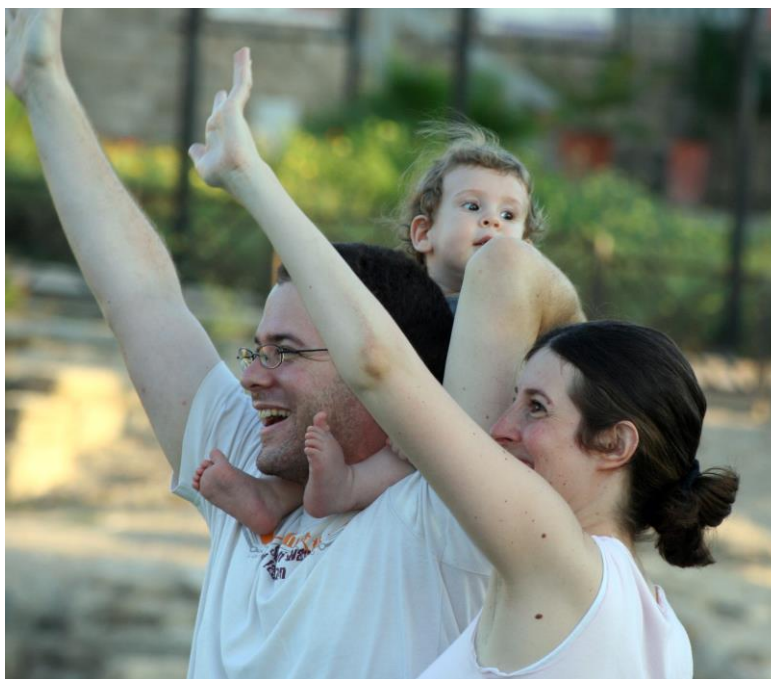




## No Shortage Of Fools

By Rev. Gary Cristofaro

Psalm 14 begins with the well-known declaration *“The fool has said in his heart there is no God”*. What’s intriguing is then the Psalm ends with the following: *“Oh that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord brings back the captivity of His people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad”*. As we consider the juxtaposition of these two statements, could it be that David understood a divine intrinsic link that is profoundly important to our generation?



It’s important to remember that there are approximately 700 passages written in scripture that tell of the eternal connection between God, His people and the land of Israel. About a third of these passages refer to the final re-gathering of the Jewish people from the four corners of the earth. These are prophecies written thousands of years ago and being fulfilled before our very eyes. Today, the fool is the man who can ignore all the undeniable evidence that the God who scattered Israel is in fact re-gathering her.

In Hebraic thought a fool is also the man who makes his choices as if he were the ultimate authority. One of the most revealing indicators of a man’s rejection of God’s authority is how he feels about the Jewish people and Israel. Thus there are no shortages of fools on the earth today.

Consider the following examples! Firstly, last month a Palestinian position paper was leaked to the media. It should come as no surprise to anyone that the paper revealed the requirement for Israel to basically destroy herself. Among other things the Palestinian document demands that Israel relinquish its rights to Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem by agreeing that they are “occupied”. Yet Secretary of State John Kerry is still pushing for peace talks and making

careless threats. He recently said. "The alternative to getting back to the talks is a potential of chaos. I mean does Israel want a third intifada"? The Palestinian leadership refuses to accept Israel's right to exist. So what are they actually saying? The Palestinians foolishly believe they are the final authority over the land of Israel and Kerry is simply being foolish.

Secondly, how can anyone truly explain why Prime Minister Netanyahu would agree to release more Palestinians from prison last month? What could possibly be gained by releasing terrorists with Israeli blood on their hands? In an attempt to explain his actions, Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said the prisoners had to be released or Israel's "strategic interests" would be adversely affected. It has become widely known in Israel that since President Obama has been in office the use of the term "strategic interests" is a euphemism for American pressure.

This is not an isolated incident. Israel's former national security advisor Giora Eiland said that Netanyahu was ready to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities last fall. Why didn't he? According to Eiland, President Obama pressured him to abort the mission. It appears that the threat of ending weapons sales or the possibility of "accidental" intelligence leaks about the attack could have been among the blackmail tools of choice. Does an American president foolishly think he has the ultimate authority over Israel?

*"The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no not one" (Psalm 14:2-3).*

Thus no matter how arrogant man may be, he is not the ultimate authority. Ultimately true wisdom is only found in The Holy One of Israel. By being faithful to perform the oft prophesized re-gathering of the Jewish people, God has made Himself quite conspicuous to the seeker. His plan should be discernable to His followers everywhere. "... for God is with the generation of the righteous (Psalm 14:5b).

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and recognition of God's plan for our generation is the beginning of finding one's purpose. Corrie Ten Boom said; "if we are true intercessors, we must be ready to take part in God's work on behalf of the people for whom we pray. "Helping the poorest of the poor Jewish people get home to Israel is accomplishing just that. The wise man not only acknowledges that God exists, he partners with God in His holy work. It is the wise man that will rejoice with Jacob and be glad with Israel. May The Holy One of Israel bless you out of Zion!