

PRAYING with *Fire*

PRAYER POINTS

A BATTLE OF FAITH AND PRAYER

IF THE GOAL OF THE HARDSHIPS IS TO BRING US TO TURN TO THE ALMIGHTY WITH HIGHER LEVELS OF PRAYER, ONE CAN CLEARLY SEE HOW YISHMAEL IS THE INSTRUMENT BY WHICH WE CAN ACHIEVE IT. IT IS ON THE BATTLEGROUND OF FAITH AND WITH THE WEAPON OF PRAYER THAT HE ENGAGES US AND FORCES US TO FIGHT. HE PLUNGES US INTO A DEEPER DARKNESS SO THAT, AS IN THE TIMES OF OUR REDEMPTION FROM EGYPT, WE WILL LITERALLY BE FORCED BY OUR OPPRESSOR TO TURN TO GOD AND PRAY.

FEARSOME AND UNTAMED AS HE IS, A RADICALIZED YISHMAEL IS NOT A PURE VILLAIN TO BE DISMISSED AS VOID OF MERIT. HIS MERIT LIES IN HIS NAME, WHICH DERIVES FROM YISHMA-EL – THE ALMIGHTY WILL HEAR. HIS SURVIVAL AND RESULTANT INFLUENCE IS THE ALMIGHTY’S RESPONSE TO HIS PRAYER, AND THEREFORE, HE IS AN EMBODIMENT OF THE POWER OF PRAYER. IT IS THIS CLOAK OF GODLINESS THAT HE USES TO DISGUISE THE WILD AGGRESSION AT HIS CORE.

TO THE EXTENT THAT HE ASCRIBES HIS GOALS AND HIS SUCCESSES TO GOD, YISHMAEL FUELS HIS MADNESS WITH SPIRITUAL POWER. ONE NEED ONLY LISTEN TO THE RHETORIC OF RADICAL ISLAM LEADERS TO UNDER-

STAND THE PERVASINESS OF THIS FACTOR.

WISDOM DICTATES THAT WHEN ONE'S ENEMIES ENUNCIATE CLEARLY WHAT THEIR PLANS AND GOALS ARE, ONE SHOULD PAY CLOSE ATTENTION. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN THEY DEMONIZE THE WILL AND ABILITY TO CARRY OUT THEIR PLANS. YISHAMEL'S OWN WORDS LEAVE NO DOUBT THAT HIS GOAL IS TO IMPOSE HIS RULE UPON THE WORLD AND THAT HIS PLAN IS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL FORCIBLY, SHEDDING AS MUCH BLOOD AS NECESSARY. FURTHERMORE, HIS SUICIDAL AND HOMICIDAL ACTS OF AGGRESSION DEMONSTRATE HIS IRON WILL TO CARRY OUT HIS PLANS.

AS FAR AS TORAH-BIDING BELIEVERS ARE CONCERNED, THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF HIS PRONOUNCEMENTS, HOWEVER, IS HIS RELIANCE UPON GOD TO FIGHT HIS BATTLE, WHICH GIVES US MUCH HOPE, BECAUSE THE REAL BATTLEGROUND IS NOT ANY NATION OR LAND. IT IS FAITH IN GOD. THAT IS THE "HILL" WE HAVE TO CONQUER TO WIN THIS WAR, AND THE ONLY WEAPON CAPABLE OF CONQUERING IT IS OUR *TEFILLAH* AND ITS UNDERLYING *EMUNAH*.

POINTS TO PONDER

YISHMAEL'S MERIT DRIVES FROM HIS NAME, WHICH MEANS "THE ALMIGHTY WILL HEAR." IT IS A TESTIMONY TO THE POWER OF PRAYER.

REPRESENTATIVES OF RADICAL ISLAM EVOKE GOD'S NAME IN EVERY EVIL ACTION THEY DO.

GENESIS 25:34 JACOB THEN GAVE ESAU BREAD AND LENTIL STEW; HE ATE AND DRANK, AND HE ROSE AND WENT AWAY. THUS, DID ESAU SPURN THE BIRTHRIGHT. (TNK)