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ARE WE IN THE END OF THE END TIMES?



By **Ariel Blumenthal**
and **Jeremiah Smilovici**

With wars expanding, global instability increasing, and tensions rising between nations, it is natural to ask whether we are nearing the end of the “last days.”

To try and answer this question, we need to step back and ask a more important one: What does the Word of God actually say about the “End Times” or the “Last Days?” Yeshua’s own teaching gives us a clear framework and helps us avoid distraction while keeping our focus on what matters most.

This is not the first time believers have wrestled with questions about timing. After the resurrection, the disciples asked Yeshua directly, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6). They wanted to know if the decisive moment had arrived.

Yeshua did not deny that restoration would come, but He redirected their attention: “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses...” (Acts 1:7–8). **Instead of giving them a timeline, He pointed them to their mission.** The same

pattern applies to us. The question about timing is natural, but Yeshua shifts the focus toward Holy Spirit power and the proclamation of the gospel.

Ten days later, on the biblical feast of Shavuot, the disciples were baptized in the Holy Spirit just as the Lord had promised. When Peter stood up to explain what was happening to the thousands gathered in Jerusalem, he quoted the prophet Joel: “*And it shall be in the last days,*” God says, “*that I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind...*” (Acts 2:16–17). What they were experiencing **marked the beginning of the last days**, the Messianic age. The Messiah had come, died for our sins, risen from the dead, and would return to fully establish His kingdom.

For the apostles, the “End Times” began two thousand years ago on the Day of Pentecost. They expected His return within their lifetimes and did not foresee such a long season of waiting. Yet Yeshua Himself, before the cross, described a prolonged period before the very end.

When the disciples later asked about the end of the age, Yeshua gave a response that included *two* key elements (Matthew 24:3). The first was the increase of wars, conflicts, and global shaking. He spoke about nations rising against nations and kingdoms against kingdoms (Matthew 24:6–7). Yet He immediately added an important clarification: “*See that you are not troubled... but the end is not yet*” (Matthew 24:6). These developments are the beginning of birth pains (Matthew 24:8). Even significant wars and global escalation do not automatically place us at the very end.

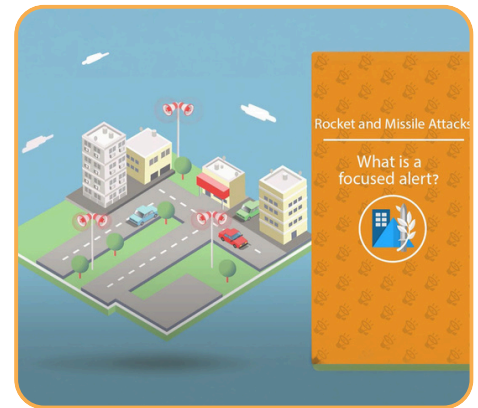
Throughout the last two thousand years, there have been many times of war, earthquakes, and upheaval. These belong to the long period of the last days, but they are not the end itself. Yeshua’s warning is clear: we should be careful not to press the end “button” too soon.

Yeshua then introduces the second condition: “*This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come*” (Matthew 24:14). **The defining marker is not only global shaking, but global proclamation.** The end is connected to His message shared throughout the world.

This global proclamation is also connected to Israel and Jerusalem. Yeshua said, “*You shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord’*” (Matthew 23:39; Luke 13:35). His return is therefore linked not only to global proclamation, but also to a **future response** from Jerusalem. The end is tied to spiritual developments unfolding over time, not simply to geopolitical escalation.

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EMERGENCY GUIDELINES ON TWO LEVELS



By Slavik Miller

The Israeli Home Front Command tells us how to live *physically* during wartime. There are rules and regulations laid out to minimize the danger from the thousands of missiles that have been launched in the direction of Israel. In the Haifa-Krayot area where we live, there are often multiple sirens each day, warning of incoming missiles from Iran or Hezbollah in the north.

Home Front guidelines answer the following questions: *How many people can gather based on the level of danger? Which areas of the country can follow a more normal routine? What do we do when there is a siren while we are at home or in a car? How do we choose a safe shelter?* We have very clear instructions on how to conduct ourselves in a physical emergency.

In parallel, God wants to *protect the spirit and soul* of ALL of his children worldwide. So, we also need *spiritual emergency guidelines*.

Sometimes we feel like we are barely surviving. When there is a lot of worry, there is a lot of pressure. If pressure remains in a closed space, what happens? *An explosion*. God doesn't want us to be like a bomb waiting to explode. God wants to bring freedom from the worries in our lives and to release us from the fears we are holding onto.

In this season, there are many voices speaking fear. It is crucial to ask **which voice am I listening to?** The story of David and Goliath holds many relevant points for us (1 Samuel 17). King Saul was threatened by Goliath – the Philistine weapon of mass destruction. Each army camped on its own hill separated by a valley. Each day Goliath taunted them with this challenge: *“Let one man fight me. Why should we all die? Whoever wins, the other side becomes their slaves.”*

This *spiritual/psychological warfare preceded the physical*. Goliath's voice sowed fear in his listeners. *“When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid”* (1 Samuel 17:11). They heard, and that hearing caused panic. For 40 days they were tuned into the *“Goliath News Network”* morning and evening. The people of Israel chose to receive his words and let that seed of fear enter their hearts. What we listen to consistently, will shape our lives – including the news, negative conversations, and social media. If we put those things first, they will steal our peace. Fear paralyzed those Israelite warriors. They had no strategy because fear shackled them.

Then David arrived – just a teenager from the “youth group.” He came with “sandwiches and protein bars” for the warriors. He arrived at the same battlefield and heard the same voice of Goliath in the background. Yet he had different eyes and different ears, and was attentive to a different voice. Why? Because while everyone else was fixated on the difficulty, David was focused on his experience with God. In verse 37, David said: *“The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”* He understood that past victories are today's breakthroughs.

What is the difference between fear and faith? *Fear has a short memory*. When I choose fear, I have “spiritual dementia.” I forget the prayers God has already answered and the miracles I've already seen. Conversely, faith has a *long memory*. God constantly tells us to “Remember!” because He knows how fast we forget.

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Galilee in springtime overlooking Jezreel Valley and IDF Air Force base - © Photo by Ori

SPRINGTIME MORNING INTERRUPTED



By **Leon Mazin**

Every Tuesday I drive my daughter to her cello lessons half an hour away. In our Haifa music school, “*Keshet Tsilim*,” we teach almost every instrument—except the cello. So, I take her there myself.

The music school sits on the outskirts of a small town, and I wait for my daughter on a covered balcony overlooking the forest. It is springtime. Rains have made Israel bloom lush and green. Behind me, music drifts from the classrooms, while before me are the forest and the birds. This hour is a rare chance for me to be alone with a cup of coffee! My eyes, ears and tastebuds harmonize beautifully.

Then suddenly thundering IDF fighter jets pierce the air and interrupt the harmony – reminding me yet again: we are still at war.

For some reason, in this war, the thought has taken root in my mind – how the Apostle Paul once said that he “*desired to depart and be with the Lord.*” Perhaps he wrote those words because he visited the “third heaven” and saw how wonderful it was. People who have had clinical death experiences say similar things. The Word of God speaks of Paradise – which attracts our souls to an unimaginably blessed future. But modern life, with its creature comforts and constant entertainment, has changed our perception, diluting our desire to be there with the Lord.

Here I am so weary of this war.

However, *not* fighting Iran was not an option. If Iran were to develop a nuclear bomb, life for Israel – and all neighboring nations – would become a nightmare. A radical Shiite Muslim approach to life and a “love for death” would be a horror for everyone, near and far. One would think that in the 21st century humanity would have outgrown the capacity to march to death en masse for the sake of insane religious ideas, but no. The rhetoric from Tehran is exactly that: “We don’t care about the cost.”

I was born in the USSR, where we heard such words constantly. Sacrificing countless soldiers for minimal illusory success is a true ideology of hell – the exaltation of death. “*Because you have said, ‘We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have an agreement... we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter...’*” (Isaiah 28:15).

Some religious movements believe they have a “covenant with death” – thinking they are either bulletproof or that death is their desire. They anticipate the rewards, like the “72 virgins.” As a believer in the God of Israel, the values of the Torah, and the New Testament - I can say: that’s ridiculous. Yet we see this mindset nearly everywhere. Manipulators push people toward evil, from the outbursts of Greta Thunberg to wars where leaders don’t care how many die. We are at war with such a regime.

Are we afraid of rockets? Yes and no. Sometimes we hear the hum of drones as well, and once again seek shelter. All this will eventually end. Meanwhile for a brief season the Galilee is overflowing with springtime greenery and wildflowers just outside the window.

May the Lord help us.

Prayer Requests:

- For the congregations and the psychological well-being of the people
- For families carrying trauma and loss
- For protection over IDF soldiers
- For the youth and children, many of whom are studying through Zoom and longing for fellowship and normal life together
- For peace, strength, and the ending of this war





WHEN THE WORLD TREMBLES: WHAT DO WE STAND ON?



By **Guy Cohen**

This is not distant or theoretical. We are living this reality globally, today. And here in Israel we are still in a time of war.

There is fear, there is uncertainty, there is pain; and the questions are real: what holds us, and what do we stand on when the world around us is shaking?

The world we live in is driven by power – through money, gold, oil, and resources. Nations fight for control. Economies are built on profit, and people build their lives on material success. They look strong. They look stable, but deep inside we understand that material things are temporary.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19–21).

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If our heart is tied to what is temporary, then our stability will also be temporary.

The prophet Habakkuk saw a reality like ours – violence, injustice, and the power of the wicked. He trembled. He was afraid (Habakkuk 3:16). Faith does not mean the absence of fear. True faith is formed in the midst of fear. Through his lived experiences, Habakkuk received a clear revelation about the world: *“Woe to him who builds his house by unjust gain...” (2:9). “Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by injustice” (2:12).*

There are people and even nations that are established on greed, exploitation, and violence. They succeed for a time and appear strong, but within their foundation already lie the seeds of their fall. An empire built on bloodshed will crumble, and a house built on unjust gain will collapse. This is a spiritual principle. We see how relevant this is today: wars over resources, struggles for control, precarious systems.

Personally, upon what are you and I building our lives? Are we leaning on temporary things, or do we have a different foundation?

Habakkuk reached a turning point. After the fear, after seeing true reality – he made a choice. *“Though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines... yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in the God of my salvation...” (Habakkuk 3:17–18).*

This is faith – not when everything is easy; but when all is shaking, when **lack and starvation threaten**. That’s when, *“The righteous shall live by his faith” (Habakkuk 2:4 & Romans 1:17);* and Messiah becomes our all. *“I am the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6).*

We can also look ahead, and see a powerful example in Revelation 11:3 – two witnesses who will stand in a hostile world, in a time of darkness and opposition, and yet the world will not be able to overcome them. Why? Because they will stand in the calling of God, not in their own strength, but in His.

In this war, something deep is being revealed – how little we can rely on what seemed secure yesterday. This world is temporary but the one who stands on the Messiah endures forever. We are not called to run away and not to fear, but to stand. Not by our own strength, but by faith, by truth, and by our identity in Him.

Even when the earth shakes, God does not change. Therefore Habakkuk finished his epiphany with: *“...God the Lord is my strength” (Habakkuk 3:19).*



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This brings the discussion into clearer focus. While the gospel has spread widely, thousands of people groups still have little or no access to its message. Many still lack Scripture in their own language, a local believing community, or consistent witness. The second condition Yeshua described is still in progress.

When these elements are held together, the picture becomes clearer. Wars may increase, but Yeshua says the end is not yet. The gospel must continue to go out to all nations, and there remains a future moment connected to Jerusalem's acknowledgment of the Messiah. This creates a balanced

understanding. We avoid assuming that every major conflict signals the final moment while remembering that the mission of proclaiming the kingdom remains central.

Yeshua redirected the disciples from timing to mission (Acts 1:6–8). The same principle applies today. The focus is not determining the timeline, but **proclaiming** the kingdom. Wars may increase and global instability may continue, but the calling remains unchanged. **The gospel must go forward. The nations must hear. People must be brought into the kingdom of God.**

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Basic “Checklist” of 5 Practical Guidelines for Believers living in an emergency:

1. Look Up to Change Perspective: In a crisis, the physical instinct is to look left and right in panic to see where the threat is coming from. However, Psalm 121 says, “*I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord.*” Looking up changes everything.

2. Look Inward to Stir Your Faith: Before David picked up a stone, he stirred his memory. He recalled his history with God. Yeshua is the same yesterday, today, and forever. If He was faithful then, He is faithful now. Your testimony is a *weapon for the present*, not just a story from the past. Stop telling God how big the storm is, and start telling the storm how big your God is.

3. Look Around to Find Opportunities: In times of survival, we tend to isolate ourselves. But this is the time to serve. Galatians 5:13 says, “*Serve one another in love.*” Ask yourself every morning: “*Who can I strengthen today?*” Often, the way out of our own fear is to be the answer to someone else’s prayer.

4. Speak Life: Proverbs 18:21 says, “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue.*” Goliath spoke death. David arrived and spoke life. His words brought hope to an entire nation before the battle even began. What you fill yourself with is what will flow from you.

5. Step Forward to Act in Faith: When Goliath finally moved to attack, David didn't just stand there – *he sprinted toward the battle line.* Faith isn't the absence of fear; it's the ability to act despite it. God doesn't give us grace to stand still; He gives us grace to advance.

You Are on the Front Lines

The “Home Front Command” gives instructions to civilians in the “rear” because they aren't actively fighting at the “front.” But as believers, we ARE on the *Front Lines*. Sometimes we want to act like we are hiding out, but it is our place to continually advance, even if we have but a few stones in our pockets.

God doesn't need our grand plans; He needs faithfulness in small things. David was just bringing food and watching sheep, and God used that.

The darker the times, the more opportunity there is for us to be the *light of the world*. We face a demanding season on all fronts. Even personally, many are dealing with huge challenges in their families, finances, etc. It is critical what we choose which voice to listen to. If you side with Saul, you will watch from the sidelines in fear. If you side with David, you will advance to victory with confidence in God.





IN WAR HOMELESS ARE ON THEIR OWN

In times of war, the homeless just stay on the streets when the missiles come. There are public bomb shelters in the area, but they quickly become a horrible mess once they're opened up; so most don't go near them. During missile attacks, when only non-essential personnel are allowed to leave their homes, it is especially hard for those struggling with addiction to find food as most places are closed. So the support we bring is absolutely vital.

SERVING UNDER THREAT OF MISSILE ATTACKS

Like in the 12-day war with Iran last June, a great deal of the missile fire has been focused on the Tel Aviv area, Israel's main population center. Residents have been running often to their bomb shelters, day and night. On Thursdays, when the volunteers are about to head out to the streets, they do so extra-prayerfully, asking God for grace and protection from missiles.

Olga, one of our volunteers who went out to the streets on a recent Thursday, shared that people were amazed to see them and were deeply touched that our volunteers were there with them even in this dangerous situation. Olga said that it was a very special time of ministry and that many opened their hearts to receive prayer and encouragement.

DIVINE PROTECTION

God was so good to our volunteer team! That evening there was not a single siren. Olga shared, *"We felt so much peace and grace while we were out serving on the streets. And the moment I arrived home safe and sound, there was a bomb siren, and I could go straight into our bomb shelter."*

Please remember all the homeless on the streets in Tel Aviv who have no proper place to shelter when there are missile attacks. Please pray for salvation and a new life for all the people we have the opportunity to serve and minister to on the streets.

We can continue this important outreach thanks to your support!



SERVING THE HOMELESS BETWEEN MISSILE ATTACKS



By **Motti Cohen**

I have been serving in the IDF army reserves with the same men for years. One of the special things that has occurred is that many of my fellow reservists have come to know well what I believe and about our ministry to homeless drug addicts in south Tel Aviv.

The week, after the most recent phase of the war broke out, our unit received a large number of quality sandwiches that we did not have a need for. Instead of letting them be thrown away, some of the men I serve with took it upon themselves to make sure the sandwiches were put aside so that "Feed Tel Aviv" would have something to serve the homeless at the outreach that evening (they know I oversee food preparation and cook much of the food).

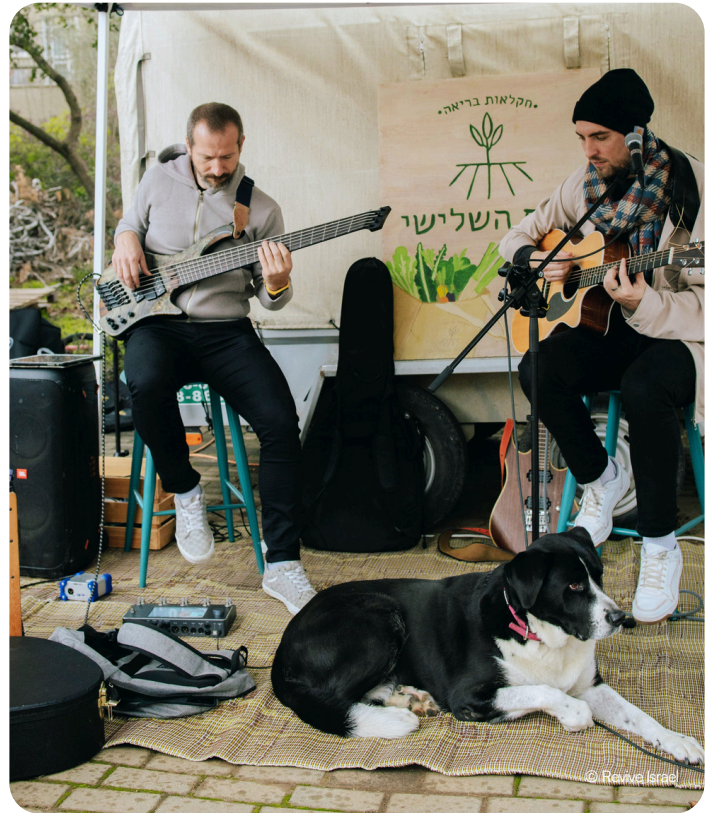
I let the volunteers know that we had food to serve at the outreach. Shulamit and one of our other volunteers came to our unit to pick up the sandwiches which they gave out to the homeless that evening.

Tiferet Yeshua Congregation in Tel Aviv

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UPDATE AND ALL THAT WARTIME JAZZ



By **Revive Israel**

During the weeks of this latest war with Iran, life here has continued with a constant awareness of alerts and missile threats. Sirens can sound at any moment, sending everyone quickly toward shelters or protected spaces. It has become part of the rhythm of daily life – listening carefully, making sure everyone is safe, and then slowly returning to whatever we were doing before the attack began.

Even in the midst of deadly threats, life and community carry on.

Our Friday market outreaches continue as well. We were not sure people would still come. One Friday in early March, something unexpected happened. Our weekly market filled up in a way we had never quite seen before. People kept arriving, one after another. It was clear that many Israelis simply needed to be around others. After days of tension, alerts, and long days at home, people were hungry for connection. The morning slowly turned into something more.

Conversations lingered. Children ran around. Musicians played Hebrew faith jazz. People began singing and even dancing. For a few hours, the atmosphere felt lighter. People stayed longer than usual, not in a hurry to leave. Moments like this remind us how important community is, especially during difficult times.

We would really value your prayers.

- Pray for the newest 40 day discipleship program starting in late April.
- Pray for protection over Israel in these days, for peace in the midst of war, and for God's hand to guide what is unfolding.
- And above all, pray that in the midst of everything happening in Israel, hearts would turn toward Yeshua and encounter Him in a real way.

Thank you for standing with us and walking with us through this season.

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