

ISRAEL'S RESTORATION

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Girls, Gold & Glory



By Asher Intrater



If a man of God is to fulfill his destiny, if he is to bear fruit for Yeshua's Kingdom, if he is to walk in intimacy with God and integrity before men, he must watch out for three spiritual dangers. These dangers may be seen as the three primary tests of discipleship. They represent the basic temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Therefore, they are always present, no matter whether one is young or old. We can summarize them in this simple phrase, "GIRLS, GOLD, and GLORY."

Girls

Here we are not talking about the blessed joys of sexual and romantic relations between a man and a woman in the covenant of marriage found at the very beginning of Genesis. By "girls" we mean just the opposite: the temptation of allowing lustful thoughts to cause sexual sin, or to dominate a man's imagination so that his personal relationship with God is weakened or destroyed.

Since the male-female relationship is such a foundational blessing from God, the temptation to go overboard is equally powerful. Our relationship with God is also described as a "spiritual marital union." Therefore, romantic fantasies are often difficult to control because they touch a part of the heart that is reserved for our intimate relationship with God. We are "love beings," created to love God and one another. The line between love and lust is clearly defined by covenant: the covenant of marriage and our covenant with God.

Lustful thoughts must be fought actively and aggressively. Settling for simply "not sinning" will not work. Yeshua rebuked the congregation at Thyatira for even "tolerating" the spirit of Jezebel and sexual immorality (Revelation 2:20). Timothy is instructed by Paul to "flee" from youthful lusts (1 Timothy 6:11), not just to "not sin." The way to holiness is to "distance" ourselves from adultery in every way (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

Just one among many practical applications: a man should never be alone in a closed room or building with a woman who is not his wife (or immediate family) at any time for any reason – including "prayer" and "counseling." In these days of rampant Jezebel spirits, the problem is not only one of sin, but also of accusation (and lawsuits) even when there was no actual sin.

Gold

God blesses us not only spiritually but also materially. That material prosperity is ultimately God's will for all of us as can be seen in the descriptions of the garden of Eden, the covenant of Abraham, the blessings of the Torah, the godly kingdoms of Israel, the new heavens and earth, etc. Yet that blessing also represents a temptation.

The past few years have seen an onslaught of court cases against Israeli government officials for financial corruption. The misuse of finances in Christian ministry has been embarrassing. Businessmen around the world are mistrusted because of greed. It is hard for God to find people whom He can trust with the resources of this world. (One of them I know, "D", gives away millions, yet works daily in humility, and his family lives modestly. It can happen.)

The use of finances in this world is a TEST of faithfulness to receive government authority in the world to come. (**"Because you were faithful in little, have authority over ten cities"** – Luke 19:17. **"If you have not been faithful in unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?"** – Luke 16:11) There is not a lack of financial resources, but a lack of faithful stewardship.

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Ugly-Amazing



By Hannah Tekle

On a recent family outing in the Galilee to see spring flowers, we ended up hooked on butterflies. What is it about these mysterious, hovering creatures that so captivates our imagination?

The “*Common Blue*,” was just last year named the national butterfly, in honor of Israel’s 75th birthday, to promote conservation of endangered butterfly habitats and species.

Butterflies are the original “Cinderella” – arguably the most striking symbol and example of **transformational potential** in all of nature. They hatch from a tiny egg into an awkward, creepy-crawly, hungry little caterpillar; then into a cocoon, which undergoes a sensational metamorphosis into a creature of glowing floating color. The butterfly effortlessly gives itself to spiritual metaphor.

“...**put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life ... and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, to **put on the new self**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:22-24)

In the cocoon stage, the caterpillar morphs into a clump of cells which over the course of a week and a half gradually becomes the beautiful butterfly. This stage is almost grotesque in comparison to its *glorious final* form, and is exhaustingly motionless. The cocoon sits frozen, appearing to do nothing, with no outward sign of gracefulness or beauty. The Hebrew word for this stage is “*golem*.” It’s also a slang word for stupid.

Waiting indefinitely for something to happen can definitely make you feel stupid. Life is filled with opportunities to wait. Sometimes we know how long the wait will be, but sometimes not, as in the case of the families of those kidnapped on October 7th. They wait, not knowing. Unbearable waiting. Sitting, standing, crying, pacing kind-of waiting. And even when no

answer or end is in sight, the soul seeks ease in hope and blind belief. More waiting. When no relief is revealed, disappointment floods in. Despairing. Grieving. Breaking and then choosing to believe and hope again despite it all.

This confusing, exhausting season is taking its toll. In a country where stress is already a national pastime, the reality of war is impacting us in ways we don’t yet grasp. Pain is hard. Grief is hard. But the thing that really wears people down is waiting with no end in sight. It makes you feel numb. Blurry. Off-kilter. We have no idea when this struggle will be over. We have no idea when or if resolution will come. This much we know – our reality has changed forever. What happened can never be allowed to happen again. We also know that a premature ceasefire is not a solution, and yet war cannot go on without end.

Out of a Lump of Clay

Jeremiah 18 uses another image to tell a similar story. The potter molds a lump of clay, a mass of mud that initially looks like nothing and has no choice but to submit to the process and eventually be made into a creation of beauty and purpose. This is the very theme of Salvation, of the gospel message – a transformation from nothing into something, from nobody into somebody.



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Deliver X



By Guy Cohen



A Passover phrase recently caught my attention. It runs parallel to the plot of Purim and the other “rescue” stories throughout Israel’s history.

*“And it is this God who has stood by our ancestors and us. For not only one (enemy) has risen up against us to destroy us, but in every generation they rise up to destroy us. **But the Holy One, Blessed be He, delivers us from their hands.**”*

Where is the safest place for the Jewish people to be? Some Israelis now suspect it is not in this land. After the events of October 7th, I noticed that many are seriously considering moving abroad. The Jewish people here and in the diaspora, just want to live their lives in peace and quiet. However, anti-Semitic sentiments, which characterize Jews as different and somehow unwelcome, often makes this a difficult goal to achieve.

God says that He will make us strangers in the surrounding nations (Leviticus 26). Throughout history the Jewish people found themselves outcast, persecuted and even murdered for simply being Jewish. Even here in Israel, where we should feel safe and secure, we see that there are threats from inside and out, endangering our very existence. No matter what, the safest place is in the center of God’s will, submitted to His rule.

This brings me to the story of Deborah and Barak, standing against Sisera, the commander of the Canaanite army of Hazor. Sisera was hired to destroy Israel but the Lord raised up the prophetess Deborah to mobilize the nation. Together, under the leadership of Barak, they were victorious. A sudden rainstorm caused Sisera and his 900 chariots to become mired in mud near the Kishon River (Judges 5:4,20-23). Victory came, not by the strength of man’s hands, but by the power of God.

The victory belongs to God. God alone is the shield of Israel. The battle is not ours but the Lord’s. It is He who has protected us in each generation. He is our defender and the One who brought us to this land.

My prayer is that the power of God will sustain us today as it has in the past. I look with hope beyond this war and pray that we will soon enter the physical reign of Messiah Yeshua, extending from this land to the ends of the earth.

Harvest of Asher Congregation

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Music Makes the *Heart Sing*



By **Leon Mazin**

Various forms of musical ministry are described in the Scriptures, starting with Jubal in Genesis 4:21 all the way through to celestial beings praising God in Revelation 5:8. The art of music was a focal point in the Temple. The Levites dedicated up to seven years learning to worship! As a result, the Levites were able to move the hearts of people to praise, trust and glorify God.

Our music school, *Keshet Tslilim*, first began in 2009 with slightly less lofty goals. We wanted to give children from needy families a chance to develop their musical gifts, and to provide new immigrant music teachers with employment. We desired to run this project under the oversight of a Messianic congregation, thereby raising awareness about spiritual, humanitarian and cultural vision among our neighbors in Haifa.



Monika, Evgenia, Anastasia and Anastasia - both teachers and new immigrants

All these things are a part of the Great Restoration or "*Tikkun*" which the Lord will perform.

The Scriptures say: "***He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will no longer be any death; and there will no longer be any mourning, crying or pain; because the old order has passed away. Then the One sitting on the throne said, 'Look! I am making everything new!'***" (Revelation 21:4-5 NIV)

With God's gracious help today we have more than 120 students enthusiastically learning to sing and to play various musical instruments. When you watch this phenomenon as an uninvolved spectator, you see how sound waves can transform children and their parents (I write this as a former wave-physics enthusiast). The majority of our students do NOT attend our congregation, and they come from quite secular families. **But there is something in the combination of music and a Messianic community which touches them!**

As I write, we are in the semi-annual examination season, and the children are enjoying preparing and playing recitals for an audience.

On a Personal Note

It just so happened that all of our children became musicians. This was more my wife's desire, but of course I provided additional encouragement and support.

Return to Zion Congregation

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Our eldest son is currently studying in Jerusalem to become a conductor. When he was seventeen years old, he assisted in organizing the worship ministry at Shavei Tzion. Our younger son now plays in the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and one of our daughters has performed in prominent Israeli concert halls. Please forgive this proud papa, but since we were already talking about music, I couldn't help but brag a bit and show these photos as well...

I'd like to thank you once again for your prayers and participation in our projects: the music school, the projects for new immigrants and elderly people and the hot meal ministry.

I kindly ask you to pray for our three congregations: Shavei Tzion, Or Hai and Netzer HaGalil. We are always in need the Lord's wisdom and anointing!

We are also in the process of planning the upcoming summer Neshar/Eagle Project, with a specially tailored program which will bless thirty Messianic soldiers who have served in the war.

Please, continue to pray for the situation in Israel and for the end of the war.

We wish you all peace, good health, and joy.



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When there are expenses in the ministry and cash donations, we must pursue right receipting and accountability. We do not just “go along” with legal requirements; we seek to be an example of how to report correctly (Ezra 8:25-29; 2 Corinthians 8:20-21).

It is not enough to simply “not steal.” We must be aggressive and active in both generosity and integrity, pushing money forward toward goals that will bless people and build the kingdom of God.

Glory

The root of the rebellion of Satan was his jealousy over God’s glory, particularly when he saw that God was willing to share that glory with someone else other than him (in this case, Adam). God is filled with glory, and our ultimate destiny is to be glorified with Him (Romans 8:30; Hebrews 2:10; 1 Corinthians 2:7). This huge blessing also represents a huge temptation.

Yeshua’s own disciples argued among themselves as to who was the greatest at the very time He was explaining to them that He had to be crucified (Luke 22:24, Mark 9:30-35). Humility is the only way to go on to the great things that God wants for us. We must humble ourselves, not wait for Him to do it for us.

Tikkun Global

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Esther’s Purim Transformation

Even as we celebrate Purim (um, hello, we’ve been in this scenario before!) it occurs to us that the Jews of Esther’s day were also war – weary and traumatized from murder and kidnapping and sustaining blows from a vicious enemy. The seventy year exile had no doubt felt like a helpless, hopeless season of waiting for God to intervene. When the exile was over, the Jewish people were lost in transit. Some were eager like Ezra and Nehemiah to return and rebuild Jerusalem, but others were likely immobilized by fear and insecurity remembering the atrocities and the heartache of waiting for salvation.

Queue Esther. Esther did not merely need to overcome a girlish fear of the unknown or a hesitation to be thrown into the limelight. She was from an exiled people, orphaned of her parents and separated from the only family she knew, when she was swept into the king’s harem.

In the climax of the story, “*Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king’s hall.*” (5:1)

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John the Baptizer gives us a great example of how to stay humble in ministry. He was asked, “**Are you the Messiah?**” He answered simply, “**I am not.**” “**Are you Elijah?**” Again, he replied, “**I am not.**” “**Are you the Prophet?**” And again, “**I am not**” (John 1:19-21). John was not only being truthful, but he was also ruthlessly, repeatedly, relentlessly guarding himself from the encroaching influence of pride.

Yeshua taught us that whether we receive great honor or no honor, we should see ourselves as simple servants, preparing food for our master (Luke 17:10).

Bottom Line

Lust is deceptive (Ephesians 4:22); money is deceptive (Mark 4:19); honor is deceptive (Luke 4:6). Let us not be fooled. As servants of the Lord, we are to be blind and deaf (Isaiah 42:19), not spiritually or physically, but to the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil. As men of God and disciples of Yeshua, let us walk in victory in these three basic areas: girls, gold, and glory.

Like the butterfly, Esther disappeared as a commoner and reappeared as a queen.

Like the lump of clay, she submitted to the molding and was formed into a vessel worthy and useful for God’s plan.

Please pray with Israel, for faith to persevere through the unknown, through transformation and for the captives to be set free.

“How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,” and my foes will rejoice when I fall. But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord’s praise, for he has been good to me.” (Psalm 13)



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October 7 & John 7



By Gil Afriat

The voices of the prophets who spoke to this nation in ancient days and foreshadowed our present regathered nation, repeatedly echo the same message:

My people have committed two evils:

1. They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living water, and
2. They have dug their own cisterns – broken cisterns that cannot hold water (Jeremiah 2:13).

Judgement Over What?

One of the greatest massacres on October 7th took place at Nova, the desert event where terrorists paraglided into the middle of partygoers. One of the news broadcasts showed how the partygoers had erected a giant statue of Buddha in the central pavilion around which they danced all night. My heart broke when I saw that. Many in Israel who saw that blatant display of idolatry did the quick arithmetic of “God is judging the hedonistic, secular Israelis for the sin of idolatry.” *On many social media sites, Israelis lamented “the sin of the golden calf” at the Nova festival. But what I saw at that party were the thirsty, lost sheep of Israel trying to find themselves “water.”*

Broken Cisterns

When Jews who have left Orthodox Judaism seek spiritual meaning, they seek it in mysticism and eastern religions which they consider the only options open to them. Due to the legacy of Christian antisemitism, a great barrier exists between even secular Israelis and the revelation of Yeshua as the Messiah. Many believers here in the Land viewed October 7th as God’s judgment on the sins of secular Israel such as abortion, immorality and materialism. However, I felt strongly that the judgement of the Lord was against the spiritual shepherds of Israel, who had rejected Him, the source of living waters, and hindered others from coming to Him:

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!” declares the LORD. Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds who tend My people: “You have scattered My flock and driven them away...” (Jeremiah 23:1-2)

Tiferet Yeshua Congregation in Tel Aviv

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The Message of the Last Day of Sukkot

In February we shared [a prophetic word that our brother Oren received](#) just weeks before the October 7th attack. In the word, the Lord said that He would bring great suffering on our people in order to break the shell of religion which is keeping them in spiritual exile and hindering them from coming to Yeshua, the source of living waters.

In the days and weeks after the attack, as we processed everything that had happened in the light of the word the Lord had graciously given us, we realized there was a deep and important message in the fact that the attack came on the last day of Sukkot, traditionally called Simchat Torah (when we celebrate the giving of the Word of God). We understood with awe that our Lord, the Word of God made flesh, stood in the Temple two thousand years ago on the very same day and cried out:

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” (John 7:37-38)

We believe that Yeshua’s cry to come to Him, the source of living waters and the living Word of God, is going out to our people right now in a more powerful way than ever before. Our people have been led to broken cisterns (rabbinic Judaism) or have been fleeing to other broken cisterns (secularism, mysticism). But we have faith that through this great tragedy God allowed to strike us, many are seeking truth in a new and earnest way. In His faithfulness and mercy, God is drawing them to Himself.

Please stand in prayer with the people of Israel in this hour of trial, that the shell of religion would shatter and release the people of Israel to come to their Messiah, the source of living waters.



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07



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Could *All* Israel Be *Saved*?

By Raphael Almeida

I don't know about you, but I always ask myself: If the Scriptures promise that *"all Israel will be saved,"* does that truly mean every single person living in Israel will be saved for real?

This question deeply resonated with me **during my time serving in the IDF reserve duty since the war began. I was away from my family for four whole months, living in a tent, protecting the northern border of Israel.**

Throughout this period, **I was blessed by the opportunity to form a unique bond with my fellow soldiers, who became like family to me, despite our diverse beliefs and backgrounds.** Among us were believers and non-believers alike, including individuals who identified as religious, atheists, and even homosexuals (see some of my squad in the above photo).

Experiencing the full Israeli spectrum was a great blessing for me. It had been such a long time since I was so close to Israelis who do not live life with Yeshua. Our group represented our diverse society within Israel, and you can imagine that it was not always easy for me.

During the four months I served with them, I shared about Yeshua every day, receiving a variety of reactions. Notably, one of my fellow soldiers, an atheist with no religious affiliation, stood out. That soldier was really against what I shared, and in general, he was against any kind of faith or religion. Yet, he had connections to American pastors through his father's work. These pastors had not only sent messages and prayers, but also provided financial support to his family and our unit. One pastor, in particular, expressed profound love and support for the people of Israel. When the pastor was in his final years and ill, he continued to assist my friend and his family, despite their lack of belief.

One day, my friend shared a thought with me that I'll never forget. He admitted, ***"Raphael, I'm truly jealous of this pastor. His dedication and love are unlike anything I've ever seen, especially since he doesn't even know me and I don't share his faith. I wish I could be like him."***

This confession reminded me of a passage from Romans 11:11, *"Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious."*

It made me think about how, ultimately, *"all Israel will be saved,"* as stated in Romans 11:26, *"And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.'"*

In those months of service, God worked profoundly within my heart. He gave me a new and deep love for my people, Israel, and provided me with a personal revelation: Through unity and mutual love and support with the Gentiles, the salvation of all Israel will be realized. The veil will be lifted, and the eyes of Israel will be opened to the truth, for real.

This experience has revived my faith, and I know and believe with all my being, that in His mysterious ways God will find a way to unite us all in His divine **plan for salvation, for Israel and for the nations.** Let's believe and pray with faith together. Let's all embrace this journey with open hearts, trusting in God's promise to bring light where there is darkness and unity where there is division. Amen.

Also, please pray for our upcoming 40 day discipleship intensive course starting May 1st. Thank you!

