

# ISRAEL'S RESTORATION

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JANUARY '26

# REDEMPTION STORY IN SOUTH TEL AVIV

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# ROOT OF ALL EVIL & KEY TO ALL SUCCESS



By **Asher Intrater** with  
**David Ben Keshet**

*"When his brothers saw that their father loved him best of all his brothers, they hated him so much that they could not say a kind word to him... So his brothers were furious at him."* (Genesis 37:4, 11)

Jealousy leads to being offended, to hatred and even murder.

Let's remember that God is **totally-sovereign** and **totally-good**. He wants to bless each of us with good things. So, what could possibly go wrong? Well... if He gives each one of us good things, then you could look at mine and say, "Hey, how come you got that?" And I could look at yours and say, "How come you got that?"

It would be stupid if it wasn't so true!

Joseph's brothers were jealous of him because their father loved him more. It started with Leah and Rachel – the two mothers. **They were both jealous of each other!** Rachel was jealous of Leah because she had more kids. And Leah was jealous of Rachel because she was prettier! Their mutual offense impacted their children's lives. In fact, they called their children by names that reflected this tension. What a horrible thing.

A generation before that – Jacob and Esau had a similar dynamic. And before that, Isaac and Ishmael.

And all the way back to Adam and Eve.

They owned all of creation, and they had two sons - 50% of all the wealth on planet earth would go to one son, and 50% to the other. How could you mess it up?! Cain became jealous of Abel, then angry, and then killed him. God warned Cain, saying, *"Look. You could overcome this. You're becoming offended. Evil is waiting to pounce on you. You can say no to it, but you've got to make that decision"* (Genesis 4:5-6 paraphrased).

It all started with an archangel who became jealous of God and said, *"I ought to be worshiped, too."* (Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:12-18) His jealousy caused offense and rebellion, and he became Satan the enemy. Then he came down to tempt humans to worship him instead of God. Sin is the stupidest thing you can do, because sin makes you submit to Satan's will and worship him without even realizing it. Despite how foolish that is, every human being has continued to sin through the generations.

If you're offended, you look at the whole world as if you're the victim of everything that happens (**victimization**). In response, you start to hurt everybody else (**weaponizing**). And you feel you have the right to do so (**entitlement**). That's a demonic pattern.

One who succeeded in overcoming it was Joseph. When Joseph was sent down into Egypt, he was tested with two hard challenges:

**1.** The temptation to take offense: his brothers had betrayed him and tried to kill him; then sold him into slavery. In Egypt he was falsely accused and put in a dungeon.

**2.** The daily temptation of sexual seduction by Potiphar's wife.

Today these are still two huge challenges: the murderous spirit exemplified in jihadism, and the harlot spirit of sexual immorality.

It's amazing that Joseph passed the tests. Most people would have secretly nursed their offense until it turned into murder and adultery. But Joseph turned it into character-building. All those experiences were training him to become his generation's greatest leader, ultimately saving his family and the whole region from starvation.

Years later, after Jacob died, the brothers thought *"That's it. He's been waiting all these years to take his revenge. We're gonna get it."* Joseph's reply was totally different from what they expected. He told them:

***"You intended evil toward me, but God intended it for good in order to do as it is this day to give life to a great many people."***  
(Genesis 50:15-20)

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# TARDY CHEF RIGHT ON TIME



By **Hannah Tekle**

*"But, beloved, do not forget this one thing,  
that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years,  
and a thousand years as one day.*

**The Lord is not slack concerning His promise,**  
... but is extraordinarily patient toward us..." (2 Peter 3:8-9)



After a sunrise drive and an early appointment at a government office in Tel Aviv, we were ready for breakfast. Entering the address of a promising coffee shop we had found online into the map app, we started walking. The cool air together with the warm sun and the sweet satisfaction of the successful bureaucratic task completed, bathed our brains with happy hormones. We strolled like smug tourists through "Neve Tzedek" enjoying the new and old architecture, stopping at little shops that caught our fancy and taking the requisite photo here and there.

As we sat down in the café, we saw that the chef himself, dressed in a crisp white chef coat, was filling the roles of host, server, cook, and dishwasher. Without frenzy or stress, he drifted between the guests, taking orders, bringing coffee and even cheerfully greeting a passing friend. Settling into the sidewalk table, we gave him our order and commenced "people watching." We soon heard four different languages besides Hebrew. Our eyes happily roamed the street, from top to bottom, back and forth. With so much to take in, we didn't notice the long wait, until an amazing smell of garlic and tomato and Mediterranean goodness filled our noses.



And then we started to *get impatient*. The table beside us muttered about not receiving their coffee yet, and more customers had arrived. How in the world was the one chef going to manage? The minutes dragged on. Our mood *flickered*. After what felt like forever, the chef appeared. In one precise swoop he served us and took the other table's order.

It's astounding how our impression of the passage of time is impacted by what is happening in our lives. Time really does fly when you are having a good time. When I think of the moments of pleasure and "suffering" in my own life – I am embarrassed. Just a few months ago the last of the living hostages were returned. *What about the passage of time for them while they were in captivity?* We are still discovering new details of their ordeal in the Gaza tunnels – horrors as well as micro-moments of relief and connection. Emily Damari talked about finding moments of positivity like folding her blanket, to create a feeling of minimal control. She also spoke of the enjoyment she takes now in such things as drinking a glass of cold water.

Time is illusive and deceptive. When waiting without a smart phone, time crawls. But when scrolling through social media in search of a momentary escape from life's pressures – minutes turn into hours like ice melting on a hot day! The last 2.5 years of war passed by at the same rate as any other 2.5 years. Yet they felt both long and short. And now we have all crossed into 2026. Celebrating a new year in the dead of winter offers color and hope. It points the brain toward faith, energy and optimism.

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# A HANUKKAH STORY & UPDATES



By **Leon Mazin**



© Hanukkah candelabra at Western Wall - Oren Rozen via CC

Shalom dear brothers and sisters in Messiah!

May blessings and mercy be upon you from Yeshua as well as God's support for your loved ones! I thank you for your prayers and financial support for Return to Zion Congregation.

Here is a story about the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah). It is often understood as the victory of a small group over a larger force and as God coming to Israel's aid as they confronted Antiochus and the Greek expansion. Indeed, victory in battle does not always depend on the number of warriors. In that situation the Lord helped defeat the power of Greeks (paganism), restoring both Israel's independence and the ability to offer sacrifices in the Jerusalem Temple.

But few know the problematic nature of that story.

According to the Torah, in ancient Israel there should be distinct roles of king, priest, judge, and prophet. If the balance among these roles was maintained, harmonious governance of the nation brought the fruits of a blessed life!

The issue was that the Maccabees' descendants, according to genealogy were sons of Aaron and were supposed to maintain the priesthood in holiness. Yet they also seized the royal power in Israel, concentrating in their own hands the two offices of king and priest.

This led to the weakening of Israel. It was eventually conquered by Rome and ruled by kings such as Herod, who were not Jews. Corruption among the priesthood spread extensively.

Unfortunately, the balance of governance in Israel today has hardly changed. There are major tensions in Israel. Many from abroad may not see this, but people living in the country notice that disunity among the population grows year by year. The main cause is that those in pursuit of power increasingly attempt to usurp authority and dominate. I write this not to discourage, but to inspire you to pray – to intercede for Israel before the Creator!

Isaiah 62:6-7 says, ***I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest...***

Hanukkah was a great victory of God and rededication of the Holy Place. But the subsequent responsibility for governance rests upon the people – their conscience, their spirit, and their ability to perceive and stand in the truth.

This is a fitting lesson for all of us. At times, we experience God's victory and the help of Heaven in our lives, yet afterwards we act unwisely and new troubles come. That is why the Scriptures instruct us to ***"seek wisdom from God; seek the fear of the Lord"***

My prayer for each of us is: ***"God, give us Your mercy, the fear of the Lord, and abundant wisdom to live and act according to Your will!"***

## Congregational Updates

We invite you to pray with us for the upcoming "Shivat Tzion (Returning to Zion) Exhibition – Exodus from the Babylonian Exile in the Times of Ezra and Nehemiah and Modern Shivat Tzion," which we hope to open in our ministry center. We are busy organizing the exhibition, preparing the cafeteria, and other things.

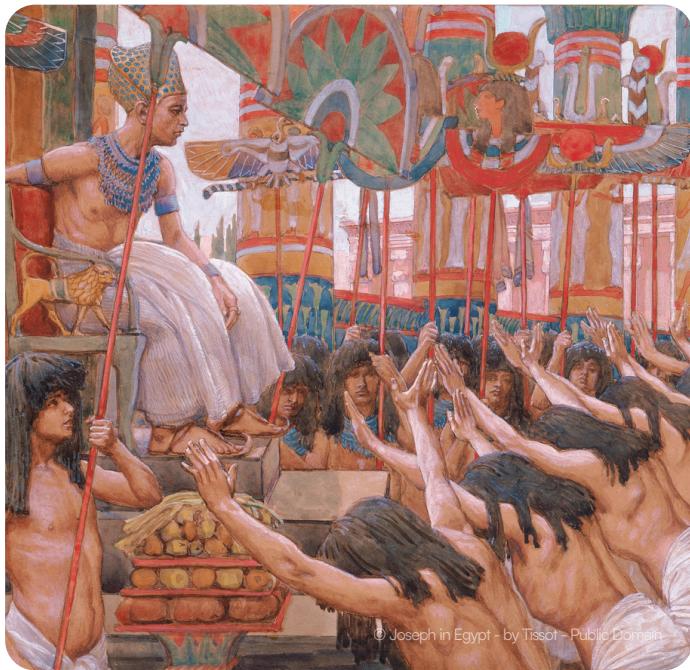
Preparations are also underway for the next youth trip to Norway and the children's activities for Passover. These events require much advance planning and attention to detail.

We continue to pray and invest in the next generation of leaders within our congregation and ministry. We ask for your support in prayer.

Please also pray for the home groups, as they continue to grow and serve.

May peace and blessings be upon all of you. We are faithfully lifting you up in our prayers.





© Joseph in Egypt - by Tissot - Public Domain

# DREAMS FROM GOD DO NOT DIE



By **Guy Cohen**

Joseph begins his journey as the beloved son, a young man carrying dreams too great for those around him to contain or comprehend. Instead of embracing him, his brothers are threatened and their jealousy drives them to throw him into a pit as described in Genesis 37.

Yet what seems to human eyes like an ending is, in God's hands, a beginning. A dream planted by God cannot be extinguished by human action. It sinks deeper into the dreamer's heart and continues to take shape even through the difficulties that appear to oppose it.

When Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream in Genesis 41, it is evident that the grace working in him has not faded despite all he endured. When Joseph stands before his frightened brothers, he reveals the insight that matured within him along the way: "God sent me before you to preserve life... So now it was not you who sent me here, but God" (Genesis 45:5–8). The pit, betrayal, slavery and exile did not stop the dream but were the very path through which God's will unfolded.

The prophecy given in Joel 3:1; "*I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh*" expands on what began with Joseph. Joel describes a future where dreams and visions from God belong to many.

In Babylon, Daniel is called upon not only to interpret the king's dream, but to reveal the dream itself though nothing about the dream has not been described to him. He turns to God in faith, and all is revealed (Daniel 2:18).

When we reach the book of Acts and the festival of Shavuot, everything spoken by Joseph, Moses, Joel, and Daniel takes on new form. The Holy Spirit descends upon the believers and empowers them with prophetic utterance. Peter cites Joel 3:1, affirming that the promised outpouring has come to pass. As Acts 2:17–18 declares that God, "*will pour out [His] Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.*" The gift of prophecy, as Paul teaches, is given to build, encourage, and comfort. It becomes a gift to the entire community, not just to select individuals.

Yeshua Himself promised this Spirit to His disciples. In John 15:26 Yeshua says, "*When the Comforter is come, the Spirit of Truth, He will teach them and show them the way.*" The Holy Spirit led Peter and Philip and Paul, and continues to work in every believer today.

Viewed from this perspective, Joseph's story becomes part of a larger redemptive pattern. The dream does not die in the pit. The calling does not disappear when a person is rejected. Hardship does not cancel the calling but shapes it. Just as Joseph passed through darkness to arrive at the purpose prepared for him, so Yeshua passed through death and rose again to bring life to many. And just as at the end of Joseph's journey he sees that God's hand was at work in every step, so too the believer discovers that the Holy Spirit accompanies him and directs him at every stage.

From this emerges a clear message. When God gives a dream, He also gives the path and the Spirit who will guide us along it. The pit does not cancel the dream, it deepens it. Opposition does not extinguish the calling. **Uncertainty is not an end but an invitation to faith.** The Holy Spirit given on Shavuot continues to work in believers today, granting each one the knowledge of God's will and the courage to follow it until the vision planted in their heart comes to fulfillment.



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That's the attitude to have! **Joseph had to believe these two things deep down: that God is totally sovereign and totally good.** It's a simple concept to understand, but so difficult to put into action when something goes totally wrong in your life.

Apply this principle to whatever situation you find yourself in. Pause and say, "God is in control of my life. He's all powerful and He's for me. Therefore, if I just stay with Him and maintain the right attitude, what looks like evil, what was meant for evil, God will turn to good."

During the hard times God is building your character. Your struggle to believe that God is good and all powerful when people are mistreating you or bad things are happening is building the character qualities of Yeshua in you.

The disciples of John the Baptist came to him expecting John to be jealous and offended that more people were following the "ministry" of Yeshua. That was a demonic temptation. Thank God John resisted. This is the amazing thing he said: "**A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven...** He must increase and I must decrease" (John 3:27-30).

This is a radical theological statement: total sovereignty and total benevolence. It's not easy to believe. This is the key to not being jealous: even if somebody got something undeservedly, God temporarily allowed it to happen. No one can steal what God intends for you.

Like John, we must remember we're not the Messiah. Yeshua is the focus, not you. So, there's no reason to be offended, because **it's not about you.** I'm here serving the One who's going to get all the credit. I'm not a victim. I can take part in the joy of Yeshua and of other people. When others are blessed, I can rejoice together with them.

Yeshua must increase and I must decrease. That's the right attitude, the key to a blessed life. What appears to be a bad situation is an opportunity for Yeshua to increase and for me to decrease. Ultimately the purpose of our life is to become more like Him. So, the worse the situation is, the greater the opportunity. All I need to do is let Him increase a bit and myself decrease.

In the terrible moments when Yeshua was carrying His cross towards His death, women were weeping for Him. He looked at them and said in effect, "*Why are you weeping? Don't weep for me. I'm not having a bad day. If this is what's happening to me, it's in God's hands; and it will turn out for great good!*" (Luke 23:28 paraphrased)

**"All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose."** (Romans 8:28) We ought to proclaim every day, "*All things are working together for my good because I surrender myself to Yeshua and turn myself over to God's plan, His goodness, His light, His love.*" And everything in the universe begins to synergize and work together for our good.

Wow – we humans need every opportunity we can get to start afresh, to be reminded of God's goodness, to have our faith renewed, to be reminded of promises fulfilled and prayers answered, to have the slate wiped clean and the debts cancelled.

**We tend to get impatient with God, when actually He is the one having patience with us!**

**He is like the chef at the coffee shop who was taking care of everything and everyone behind the scenes. God is the one who skillfully meets our needs, and weaves the plot of His story - right on time.**

He is the author of time. He is *Adonai Yireh*, the One who sees our needs and provides. In the sweet moments when He touches us, time stands still, as He meets us in the most perfect and unexpected way.

*"For the vision is meant for its appointed time; it speaks of the end, and it does not lie. It may take a while, but wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay."* (Habakkuk 2:3)





# REDEMPTION STORY IN SOUTH TEL AVIV



By **Motti Cohen**

South Tel Aviv is Israel's capitol of homelessness, drugs and prostitution. That's where I and a team of volunteers go every week – heading out from our soup kitchen to bring warm food, first aid, and the word of hope to those suffering in the depths of hopelessness and darkness. In recent months, many we have ministered to have been very open to receiving prayer and are hungry to hear about the love of God that brings us to the streets to serve them.

It is extremely difficult to break free from the cycle of drug addiction and be accepted into a rehab program, but over the years we have witnessed miraculous stories of people enslaved by drugs and living on the streets set free and given a new chance of life in Yeshua. I would like to share this short testimony from last month, of one such amazing redemption story we have been a part of at Feed Tel Aviv:

There's a woman we have known for years, who was unfortunately working in prostitution in South Tel Aviv. One day her heart was receptive when our group was ministering. She started talking with us and after a difficult two year process she received Yeshua and was baptized. She's been attending a Russian speaking congregation in Jaffa (with other believers who serve with us in the soup kitchen).

What I especially wanted to share with you, is that after two years of being strengthened in the Lord, she accompanied us this week to serve on the streets for the very first time. I said, "Wow." We thought we would keep her in the soup kitchen, but she insisted on going out with the team. And what a blessing she was! Why? Because even though she hadn't been there for a long time, many of the women and men still recognized her and said to her, *"How have you changed? And how are you now on the side of those who come to bless?"* And she recognized people and hugged them. And truly through her, that day's outreach rose to another level. Because there was the personal aspect and the testimony, and people saw it. All this in the name of Messiah Yeshua!

Thank you for standing with us and actively taking part, whether in prayer or financial support, in our labor of love in the Land of Israel.

***"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."***

(Luke 19:10)



**Tiferet Yeshua Congregation in Tel Aviv**

Connect with us at [tiferetyeshua.org](http://tiferetyeshua.org)



# DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

REVIVE  
ISRAEL

By Revive Israel Staff



This autumn Revive Israel held our latest 40 day discipleship program attended by young people from around the country!

Here are some highlight photos and feedback from participants:

- One significant thing that God did in my life during this time of discipleship: I love control and order. God has put it on my heart to meditate on Him, involve Him and seek Him in the small things of everyday life - not just the big things. Because that is how a deeper connection develops and also how we practice a daily connection with our Creator!*
- Some things God has done for me in the program: He has made me understand that He is my Father and I am His son. That He is my security. That I can stand before Him in spite of my sins without shame so that He can work on my heart.*
- He is showing me my traumas and open wounds affecting my life. And He calls me to receive healing and release. God has begun a healing process for my heart. And I thank all the team for being there for me. I saw the Lord Yeshua in each of you. Please remember me in your prayers.*
- In the program I saw my faith grow stronger. I joined to to get closer to God, understand the scriptures more and meet new people. The vegetable farming gave me a strong connection to God's creation. The others who participated really helped me both understand God more and open up more as a person. Despite the difficulties, the thoughts, in the end God was always there by my side to show me all the good to teach me new things, so that I would know that everything He does is not in vain. God brought me a new family and taught me a lot.*

