

ISRAEL'S RESTORATION

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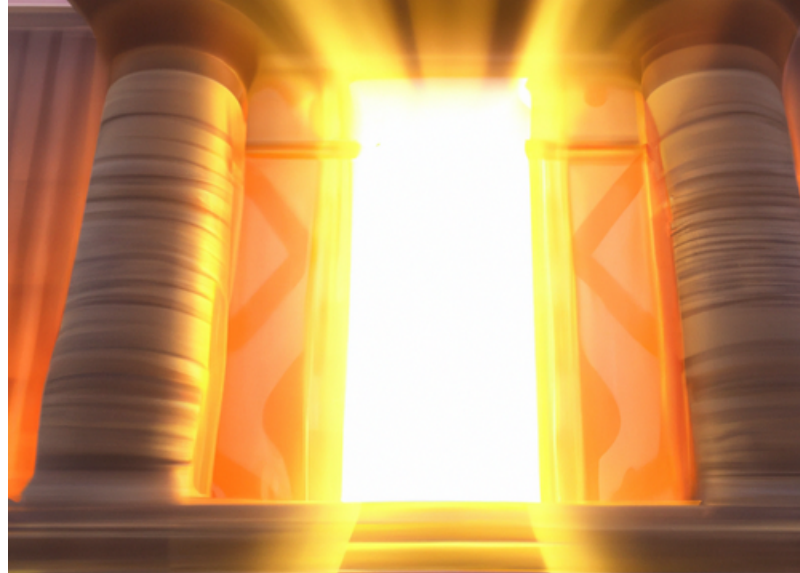
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Controversy Over Zion



By Asher Intrater



*Why do the nations rage,
And the peoples imagine empty things?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,
“Let us break their bonds in pieces
And cast away their cords from us.”
He who sits in the heavens will laugh;
The Lord will hold them in derision.
Then He will speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure, saying:
“Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion.”* (Psalm 2; modified NKJV)

Why?

Why is the world going crazy? Why is the world so upset? The United Nations is busy accusing Israel, like they don't have anything else to do. Academics are making up weird theories to condemn exactly the wrong people. Ultra-liberals are defending ultra-radical jihadist terrorist extremists. Why? All this is happening because people are rebelling against God's authority; and because God is wanting to establish His authority.

There's something in human nature that wants to rebel no matter what the authority is. You must overcome that tendency in order to voluntarily submit to the Lord's good authority. Now everybody says "I want freedom," but you already have the freedom to decide. You have to take responsibility for your choices and give account. You have to choose to use your free will to overcome selfishness, sin and satanic influence and submit to God's will and His authority. Why? Because you realize that He's the only good authority. He is good. He has a perfect plan, and we choose to submit to God's perfect plan. The Bible calls it the kingdom of God. The Kingdom needs a perfect leader.

Who?

Who are the candidates? Muhammad? The Lubavitch rabbi? Yeshua is the only perfect human being. So the choice should be easy, but people still don't want to submit.

I see our Israeli people fighting for the sake of Zion as a city, as a nation of God's establishing, but they don't want Yeshua yet. They will see it sometime. They're starting.

Where?

In spite of human resistance, God sets His King in place to reign, but where? Every kingdom has a capital city, and His is Jerusalem, Zion. In Hebrew, the word means a "signpost." So it's not as much about the geography as the sign of His authority. Therefore anti-Zionism is a spiritually-rooted rebellion against the plan of God, and it is demonic.

Even some who believe the scriptures and believe in Yeshua are being blinded to this issue of Zion. We're approaching the time when Yeshua will need a landing place. Place becomes important as He is coming back. It becomes essential for establishing His lordship.

Christians, you can't have Yeshua without His kingdom which is based in Israel. Israel, you can't have your kingdom without the Messiah who is Yeshua. We're all going to have to deal with it and come together and submit to His plan.

How can you be anti-Zionist if you're a believer? Zion is all over the Bible. Hamas ruler Sinwar declared the real reason for this war. Hamas named this war "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood." Al-Aqsa is the Muslim name for the Temple Mount of Zion. God's rulership in Zion is being directly challenged.

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The *Fierce Hope* of Mothers and Teachers



By Avi Tekle

In Israel it would be hard to find more honorable titles than these two: Mothers and Teachers. This week I met three women who are both.

As a humanitarian mini-delegation, we drove 3.5 hours to reach our destination. That's almost the entire length of our small country. We were transporting classroom tables, dozens of laptop computers, headphones for "Zoom" classes, bicycles and other things we thought might be useful to a community starting over with nothing. Our visit was an outreach to a school established for evacuees from the south – the very people who witnessed and survived the atrocities of October 7th.

After we delivered the items, we were privileged to meet with those three teacher-mothers. They are the beating heart of this new school, responsible for 160 evacuee children. They are true "tigers and go-getters."

As we sat drinking tea together, one of the moms began to share about her home in one of the Gaza strip towns. They owned a family farm and horses. It was a tranquil, dream-of-a-place to live until that dreadful morning when the attack began and their very lives suddenly dangled by a thread. Many neighbors and some family members died. Homes were turned into ashes.

We heard how, when the evil Hamas militants came, these women shielded their children like mother grizzly bears. For hours that seemed like an eternity they physically held the bomb shelter door handles, making sure no Hamas demons would come in. Meanwhile their husbands went out with guns to fight and protect the area. These valiant mothers survived the atrocities that day and were later evacuated to a safer community (near the Arava, an hour away from the Red Sea).

Even after making their temporary housing feel more like home, these moms knew that unless they created routines for their rambunctious kids, they would be in for another disaster. So they put on their teachers' "hats" and began a school for evacuees of various ages.

Upon hearing them recount the life-changing experiences they and their loved ones went through, I wondered, "What could you possibly teach children regarding October 7th, to hate or create room for love? Do you prepare them for the worst in life or equip them with hope and strength?"

Just before leaving we asked one last question with a heavy heart, "So what will you do now? Where will you go?"

Their answer blew me away. "Of course we will go back, and we will rebuild."

After a moment of silence, as we digested her words, we realized that hope is the single most powerful weapon one can possess during such a time as this – Fierce Hope.

Hope is the engine for restoration. I saw it in their eyes and heard it in their voices. From October 7th and onward, our soldiers have not been the only ones fighting this war, they are joined by the indomitable spirit of these mothers and teachers.

Passover Opportunity for Impact

As the winter storms taper off, the gray Sea of Galilee is full, red anemone flowers bloom on the Galilee hills and pink almond buds peek out from branch tips.

In this beautiful season, we begin preparations for our Passover food outreach. This year we will be increasing our scope to reach 1500 families, including hundreds that have been thrust into unexpected difficulties due to the war.

As we fill the warehouse, we invite you to pray that God would touch the hearts of the recipients to receive not only a physical blessing but also the seed of a spiritual blessing.

If you would like to contribute to this outreach, donate here: tikkunglobal.org/tentsofmercy

Tents of Mercy Network of Congregations and Humanitarian Aid

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Mar'24
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“Oh Israel, trust in the Lord. He is their help and their shield.”



By Guy Cohen

What does it mean to trust in the Lord, and what do we normally perceive as the source of our sense of security? What makes us feel safe?

In everyday life our sense of security might come from operating within a framework we are familiar with: where we live, daily routine, work and income. The way people treat us and whether we feel appreciated, understood and accepted by family and those around us can also be a part of our confidence and trust in others.

In biblical times, a sense of security was dependent upon the might of a country's leaders and how they provided for those under their rule. For instance how many battle chariots were in the king's army? (Chariots were like powerful armored tanks in ancient warfare.) Another illustration of the importance of resources can be seen in the migrations of people to Egypt, at that time a center of great physical and spiritual wealth. The account of Joseph and Egypt's storehouse of wheat is only one example of the vast wealth of the area along the Nile River and the exports of Egyptian wheat. Gold, copper, livestock and agriculture were part of the strength of Egypt that caused others to put their trust in her. When the Israelites were in the desert, they longed for the foods of Egypt, conveniently forgetting that they had lived there as slaves (Numbers 11:4-6).



Modern war chariot -
Wikipedia RonB CC

During the rule of the Israelite and Judaic kings after Solomon, the people of Israel were either under Egyptian or Assyrian influence and later the rule of Babylon. Located in the middle of the Levant, at the crossroads between Egypt and Assyria, Israel continually found itself making alliances with one side or the other whenever they were at war. The two kingdoms often came to fight each other on Israelite battlegrounds.

In 2 Chronicles 35:21, Pharaoh Necho, King of Egypt, called the area of Megiddo “the house with which I have war.” Later in history we see Judah trusting in Babylon. Neither Egypt, nor Assyria nor Babylon were faithful to their alliances with Israel. They always came with their agenda which then led Israel to some form of destruction.



Photo by Warren Lemay - Creative Commons

If we look to more recent history, whether the Greeks, the Romans or the nations where Israel was exiled in Europe, Asia and Africa, we always found ourselves to be outcasts. Throughout the centuries we see betrayal and broken alliances. Now that God has brought us back to Israel, the question is:

In whom should Israel put her trust today?

Can we stand on the promises in God's Word that encourage us to trust only in Him?

**“Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help,
And rely on horses, Who trust in chariots
because they are many, And in horsemen because
they are very strong, But who do not look to the
Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the Lord!”**

(Isaiah 31:1 NKJV)





War Trials



By Leon Mazin

Even in the midst of the welcome unity that came with the October 7th attack and the ensuing war, Israel is still experiencing internal strife and unreasonable hatred among people and political parties. In the last decades it seems that tension has been building within the believing community, while strife and discord have infected our nation as well. Our society has become riddled with violence, crime, corruption, debauchery and the aspiration to reinterpret biblical morals to justify modern behaviors. (This tendency affects all countries, but that's no excuse.)

I would like to ask all intercessors to pray for softened hearts, acknowledgment of sin, and repentance in the Jewish people.

Though we pray for deliverance, trials are part of life in this world and come in different forms. Here are three types:

01.

Trials and temptations sent by God, as with Job and Yeshua. These cannot be avoided. With all the agony of war that we have experienced these last months, hearts are open to receive James' words:

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God..." (James 1:2-5)

02.

Trials caused by obvious sin, a transgression against God's commandments.

"If you do not obey the Lord your God ... all these curses will come on you and overtake you". (Deuteronomy 28:15)

"...but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death". (James 1:13-15)

Return to Zion Congregation

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03.

Trials brought about by conflict, often rooted in jealousy, a misspoken word, actions, or words that were misinterpreted. As a result, Satan interferes. (The word Satan means to stand against, to provoke, to tempt.) If a person discerns and gives a succinct response, forgives, covers with love, and stamps out his own pride or ambition, the situation can be quickly managed and the conflict will dissipate in the rays of the rising Sun.

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want ..." (James 4:1-10)

Thank you for your prayer support for the ministry of Shavei Tzion, the various humanitarian projects and music school; and especially for Shavei Tzion Congregation and the daughter congregations - Or Hai in the Krayot and Netzer HaGalil in Upper Nazareth.

The new congregation, Or Hai, is going well, even though it started just one week before the war with Hamas. They asked me to organize a tour to the Sea of Galilee for water immersion for a group of new believers.

I am grateful to the Lord for our youth group which has grown considerably. For the last year and a half Shirley and Ilya, our oldest daughter and her husband, have been leading it. I am pleased to say that they are thriving. I appreciate your prayers for them.

The humanitarian aid project in Haifa and Nazareth is doing well and is a blessing for hundreds of people every month. Despite the war, our music school has grown to include a fine arts class with 15 new students and a new teacher.

I ask you to pray for us to weather this difficult period and to be good witnesses. Please pray for wisdom regarding various challenges. We continue to praying for you and your loved ones as well. Blessing to you in Yeshua.



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Just Like the Holocaust



By Tiferet Yeshua

Since the horrific Hamas attack and massacre on October 7th, we Israelis have been referencing the Holocaust to describe the scope of that horrible day: “The worst tragedy for Jews since the Holocaust.” Mia Schem, who survived 55 days as a hostage in Gaza, said about her experience, “I went through a holocaust.” In Sderot where terrorists went from apartment to apartment killing people, residents who hid their children in closets and cupboards afterward said, “It was like we were back in the Holocaust hiding our children from Nazis.”

The comparisons are not exaggerations. The shared trauma of what happened to us on October 7th touched our collective consciousness of the Holocaust. In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, during which everyone was struck with fear and terrified that terrorists might infiltrate our neighborhoods with no one to help, mental health professionals have reported that many Holocaust survivors began experiencing serious post-trauma symptoms.

A National Outpouring of Support

In the wake of October 7th, Israelis responded with the greatest outpouring of support this country has ever seen: support for the communities that suffered attacks, support for our soldiers heading to war in Gaza, support for the 100,000 plus residents who have been displaced from conflict zones on our southern and northern borders. Around the world, Christian friends have come to Israel's aid during her time of tribulation with loving expressions of support. Here at Tiferet Yeshua, the generous help of partners from the nations has enabled us to do so much to assist soldiers and displaced civilians.

The Original Survivors Get Overlooked

With all the focus on the pressing needs of so many in the country, a very special and needy population has been overlooked: the original Holocaust survivors. After being released from the army reserves, Moti Cohen (assistant pastor and Feed Tel Aviv director) reached out to his friend Gideon who works with Holocaust survivors to see if we could do something special for them for New Year's Day.

Gideon shared with Moti that he had been making personal visits to Holocaust survivors, but that none of them had left their homes since the 7th of October. Many of the organizations that regularly help these survivors did not have the resources to assist them along with those who now needed support because of the war.



Celebrating the Original Survivors

So Tiferet Yeshua's "Feed Tel Aviv" project hosted a special New Year's celebration event in honor of Holocaust survivors from Russian backgrounds. "Novy Gode," the Russian New Year celebration, is the most important and sentimental holiday for Russian Jews. Since all religious holidays were banned during Soviet times, this holiday became the central holiday of the year.

Moti is a gifted chef and prepared all the traditional Russian delicacies that are served during this holiday. The tables were decorated, and the survivors were welcomed as guests of honor. After a delicious holiday meal, the survivors were treated to a concert of traditional songs.

Mourning to Dancing

Our team of volunteers was deeply touched to see how much these precious Holocaust survivors appreciated the banquet, how happy they were with the music, and to see them joyfully celebrating and dancing to the songs they know and love.

These particular survivors were children whose parents hid them from the Nazis during the Holocaust. Some were children of Jewish partisans who fled to the forests and barely survived there, or children who were passed from house to house, living in terror of discovery. They are a living witness and testimony. They remind us that there is hope, that God is faithful to His promises to save Israel, physically and spiritually.





Wrath

Now we get to that word “wrath” in verse 5. Do we even have a place for God’s wrath? For God ever bringing judgment on anybody at any time? Or do we have a “Santa Claus God?” That’s not what’s in the Bible. In Revelation 19, Yeshua comes to trample the grapes of the wrath of God and strike the nations of the world who have come in rebellion against Him. What will be the expression of their ultimate rebellion? A united international global attack against Jerusalem.

Israelis don’t understand it: “Why is everybody against us?” Because it’s an attack against Yeshua. It’s a satanic attempt to stop the coming of the kingdom of God. That’s what it’s all about.

When all the nations come to attack, God will strike and destroy them. He will come to wage war and to make judgment. Don’t blame me. I’m quoting the Bible. He’s coming back. So what you see in Psalm 2 is a description of God’s emotions. He says in effect, “I’m angry at what’s happening; and I’m going to come at the time and place of my choosing, to stop this rebellion.”

When?

When is it going to happen? All the way toward the end of the Bible, in Revelation 19, when Yeshua returns as the commander of the army of heaven and the commander of Israel and destroys the nations that have fought against Israel.

Let's Submit to His Plan!

So, whether we like it or not, Yeshua will be coming back to defend Jerusalem. If you want Him but you don’t want Jerusalem, tough luck. On the other hand, if you want Jerusalem but you don’t want Yeshua, tough luck as well.

It’s all part of God’s plan. It’s His world; it’s His kingdom. And He is coming back to establish that kingdom upon the Earth. I pray that we will begin to see what’s going on in the world today in spiritual terms. We’re not politicians. I don’t know whether I’m left or right. I don’t want to be left or right. I just want to submit to Him. I want to be straight for righteousness.

Lord, help us to have a submitted heart and help us to stand with You at this time.

*“I will declare the decree:
The Lord has said to Me,
‘You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.
Ask of Me, and I will give You
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.
You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”
Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.
Serve the Lord with fear,
And rejoice with trembling.
Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish in the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little.
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.*
(Psalm 2; NKJV)



Article excerpted from [youtube.com/watch?v=0EU5cVwDpAI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EU5cVwDpAI)



The Peace of a Courageous Fighter



By Valerie Yanay

As the mother of a soldier, and a friend to women whose sons and husbands are engaged in combat, I often think about the verses that speak about seeking and pursuing peace. How can a soldier who loves the Lord also serve in combat? To be a peace-seeking fighter, I believe it's essential not to rejoice in the death of one's enemy, but always cultivate God's love and compassion. This means constantly seeking God's justice and kingdom, even in battle.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

In Hebrew, the word "peacemakers" is translated **רוּדְפֵי שְׁלוֹם** (rodfei shalom). This phrase literally means "those who run after/chase after peace." It means to seek peace by force, even in the dark and sombre night of war and hatred. The Holy Spirit within us cries out "Abba Father" for the suffering we see. We are His children, and God who lives in us brings us His kingdom and His peace because He is in us. Through His Son we can go from glory to glory and bring forgiveness, grace and peace through our behavior. In the Bible we clearly read that wars happen, but at the same time the Bible highlights how God's peace can transform people's lives and communities for the better.

"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." (Romans 12:18)



In war we are faced with deep and complex moral issues at every moment; therefore it is essential to be a peacemaker and to be covered by the power of God, relying constantly on His guidance. God's guidance is the way to resolve the tension between war and peace. Many soldiers I know are living examples: They don't fight out of vengeance, but from a need to defend and protect. To the best of their ability, they seek to embody love and peace while reflecting Yeshua to those around them.

After the tragic massacre on October 7th, a great deal of anger emerged from people's hearts. However, with the Lord on our side, we are able to overcome even the greatest pain. It is impossible to act with vengeance while seeking to build God's kingdom and to be conformed to His image. Our combat must be driven by an honest heart, seeking first God's kingdom and striving for justice with an unquenchable hunger and thirst.

"Give praise to the Lord, my Rock. He trains my hands for war. He trains my fingers for battle." (Psalm 144:1)

The Lord is a "Man of War." He was with Moses and the people of Israel, destroying the Egyptian army for them (Exodus 14). The Lord was by David's side when he fought, and on the side of Deborah and Gideon and with so many others, who fought against evil in His name. As warriors who rely on God, we never rejoice in killing (Ezekiel 18:25), we are even saddened that we must drive evil away by force.

Let us seek the grace of peace and mercy from God. Let us meet this challenge of being at war with the weapons of God's Spirit within us. He makes us more than conquerors. This is my prayer, as a mother, for our soldiers.

