

Based in Israel | A world-wide movement of revival and restoration from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria to the ends of the earth and back again...

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Battle Coming



By Asher Intrater

The central event of the end times is the Second Coming of Yeshua (Jesus). That event is real and literal. The clearest two passages in the Scriptures describing the Second Coming are Revelation 19 and Zechariah 14. Revelation 19 gives the heavenly perspective, while Zechariah 14 gives the earthly perspective.

Revelation 19:11-15 describes the heavens opening and Yeshua leading the heavenly armies to descend in a battle. Verse 19 states that Yeshua comes to destroy the combined forces of the armies of the nations gathered together on earth. However, it doesn't state where on earth they are gathered. The reason that the location isn't stated in the book of Revelation is that it is already stated in the book of Zechariah.

“I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem.” (Zechariah 14:2)

When those nations attack, Yeshua will come forth to fight against them. He will defeat them, and His feet will then stand upon the Mount of Olives. **“Then YHVH will come forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle; and in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives” (Zechariah 14:3-4).**

In order for Yeshua to return, Jerusalem must be re-occupied by Israel, as Yeshua predicted in Luke 21:24. **“Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”** There will also be a revival of faith in Israel (Romans 11:26; Zechariah 12:10), and the people of Jerusalem will cry out to invite Yeshua to return (Matthew 23:39). In order for an international attack

on Israel to take place, there must be a worldwide organization uniting the nations (such as the UN) and a worldwide religion (such as Islamic extremism) inciting the nations to “wipe Israel off the map.”

Although the armies of the nations will believe that they are justified in attacking Jerusalem, the attack will be seen by heaven as an attack against Yeshua Himself. **“I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army” (Revelation 19:19).** The political, economic and military elements that will comprise this final battle are already in place right now! The early stages of the battle have already begun.

Yeshua will fight against those who attack Jerusalem, whatever their religious or ethnic background. Every individual person, every national entity, and every religious group will have to decide which side they are on. Neutrality will not be an option. The issue of Jerusalem will become the “stone of offense” (**Zechariah 12:3**) and the “plumb line” (**Amos 7:7**) in the hand of the Lord through which to judge the nations.

The Second Coming of Yeshua and the battle over Jerusalem are intrinsically connected one to another.

“Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” (Luke 21:24)

Jerusalem: Profound and Problematic

By Eitan Shishkoff



As I write these words, it is Jerusalem Day. This holiday marks the reunification of Jerusalem and the restoration of Jewish sovereignty over the Old City following the Six Day War of June 1967. I am moved to realize this momentous fulfillment of biblical prophecy—the longing of God’s heart for the city He calls His own (Psalm 48:2; Matthew 5:35).

Yet I am grieved by the violence Jerusalem is suffering even as I write these words. For more than two weeks, both Arab and Jewish residents have been clashing with police forces and each other.

Not One-sided

Here is some of what’s been happening. On April 22, Jewish extremists sought to break up a public celebration of the annual Muslim Ramadan holiday on the steps outside the Damascus Gate. Simultaneously, Palestinian acts of terror have included a drive-by shooting which took the life of a 19 year-old Israeli yeshiva student, who was merely standing at a bus stop. Reacting to this and other attacks, groups of Israeli Jews taunted Palestinians yelling anti-Arab slogans during the nightly Ramadan feast and resisted police efforts to calm the situation. Each day, the tension has grown as Arab youth light fires and pelt police using stock-piled rocks, venting their bitterness. These conflicts have spread to include the Gaza enclave, from which missiles are again being launched into Israel and fire balloons are again being used to ignite kibbutz wheat fields ready for harvest.

The whole situation breaks my heart. Why can’t the Jewish extremists let the Arab people celebrate their feast in peace? Why can’t the Palestinians living in East Jerusalem accept that Israel is a Jewish state and the only place we have to live with full rights and protection? Is it really so important for

Jews to repossess property where Arabs have been living for many decades—in order to prove the point that the land is ours? Or is there something I’m not seeing?

Boundaries in this part of the world have been disputed for at least 4000 years, going back at to the tension over ownership of the well in Beersheba (Genesis 21:25) and before. Is there no end in sight? Must we watch as the city “set on a hill” remains a flash point for hatred and death?

The Answer

The answer—not surprising to students of Scripture—is that Jerusalem’s eternal destiny is of divine choosing. The Almighty told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on Mt. Moriah (Genesis 22:2), the very hill that became the Temple Mount (2 Chronicles 3:1) at the heart of the city.

This is where Yeshua was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. It is upon Jerusalem’s Mount of Olives that His feet will touch when He returns to defeat all the enemies of Israel and Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:4, preceded by ten references to Jerusalem from Zechariah 12:2 to 14:1). And it is to Jerusalem that the nations will go up **“from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles”** (Zechariah 14:16).

No wonder there’s strife. No wonder the enemy wants to render the city a war zone. We who know the Lord’s desire concerning Jerusalem are needed NOW as intercessors. Our portion is to see His city as He does, and to **“pray for the peace [completion, wholeness] of Jerusalem, [that] they may prosper who love you”** (Psalm 122:6) and to **“give Him no rest till He establishes and...makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth”** (Isaiah 62:7).

The Lion Who Roars



By **Hanna Tekle**

We've all had those embarrassing moments when you type out a message on your phone and push send, only to find that the auto-correct has changed the intended message to something ridiculous, or worse, something embarrassing.

The other day I was typing a message which included a street name. The name of the street translated literally is the Roaring Lion "Ha'ari hashoeg." The auto correct changed the word Roaring to Worrying, "Ha'ari hadoeg."

When I reread the message, luckily I found the mistake; I have learned to reread my messages from one too many mistaken messages sent out without a proofread. I corrected the mistake which would have otherwise made it problematic for the recipient to find the correct address. However, the auto-correction stuck in my mind.

I had often wondered what the background of that street name was. Many streets in Israel are named for famous people in Jewish and Israeli history: Einstein, Weitzman, Ben Gurion... There are also street names from nature: trees, flowers, mountains... But this name sounded almost Biblical in its reference. My immediate association was to the Messiah, as He is the Lion of Judah, and He is a Roaring Lion, most certainly NOT a worrying lion. I went to Mr. Internet to find out the rest of the story.

After doing some research in Hebrew and English, I learned that the "Roaring Lion" is the name of a memorial statue at the burial site of Tel Hai close to Israel's Northern border. Turns out this is an historical location my family has visited, and I was even superficially aware of some of the history. But that autocorrect "blooper" had left me thirsting for deeper understanding.

The statue stands watch over the graves of six brave settlers who lost their lives in the Battle of Tel Hai in 1919. Among them was Yosef Trumpeldor, one of the classic heroes of Israeli modern history. Trumpeldor was a Russian-born Jew who served for almost a decade in the Russian Army. After losing his arm in one of the battles and subsequently returning to the front lines, he was decorated for valor and bravery. He was later taken as a war captive and was held along with other prisoners of war in Japan.



Joseph Trumpeldor

Throughout Trumpeldor's entire outstanding military service in the Russian army, he was dreaming, thinking, and strategizing how to advance Zionist ideas and strengthen the community of pioneers settling Eretz Israel. In fact, while in captivity in Japan, he even started a Zionist organization called "The Captive Sons of Zion in Japan." After he was freed from captivity, he made aliyah, immigrating to the Galilean region of this land while it was still under Ottoman rule.

It is notable in my opinion that while *serving someone else's vision and agenda with excellence, his heart and mind were busy with his life's passion* - a Jewish homeland. Together with another Israeli hero, Ze'ev Jabotinsky, they formed early paramilitary groups that would eventually become the Israeli Defense Force. Even with all of his military success and prowess, Trumpeldor died tragically in a battle that basically broke out due to chaos and confusion (you can find the full story online). On his deathbed, he is credited as having said "It is good to die for our country."

The artist who was commissioned to make the memorial statue at Trumpeldor's grave, chose the image of a lion, the symbol of Judah, the tribe of Jewish royal lineage, from which come both King David and King Yeshua. The lion is posed with his head facing up, mouth wide open in a grievous roar. It is a haunting image - *the strong royal animal, roaring in grief over the precious fallen*, and I can't help but return to my original thought of who the roaring lion was supposed to be.

In these past days, chaos has exploded all over our tiny country. Terrorists are launching rockets from Gaza towards dozens of Jewish and mixed Jewish/Arab towns all over much of Israel. The country is under attack. The news channels report nonstop on the tension on our borders and in our cities, problems, destruction and lives lost. We haven't even had a chance to fully come out of Corona restrictions and now this! We believe in a Jewish homeland, but we also believe in peaceful and mutually respectful coexistence with Arabs. To be honest, the political and national climate seems to be stuck in a tangled mess of impossibility; and as *I pray, I see our Messiah, the Lion of Judah, grieving over the human state of affairs. We need Him.*

Tel Hai Roaring Lion Monument



While researching the story, I also became curious: "Why the Lion of the tribe of Judah?" Judah was not the oldest son of Jacob, nor the most impressive. His mother Leah gave him the name Judah to express that despite her suffering and feelings of rejection, she would praise God, saying, "**This time I will praise the LORD**" (Genesis 29:35). This is the missing piece of the puzzle. In Hebrew, Judah is a derivative of the root word meaning praise and thanksgiving.

Yeshua, the Lion of Judah, is the one who has the solution. He can open the seal. And we, His worshippers, if we set ourselves to praise amidst our suffering, will be partners in the Peace He brings.

Please pray with us for the Peace of Jerusalem and all of Israel!

Then one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more. Behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." (Revelation 5:5)

An Expectancy of Community



By **Guy Cohen**

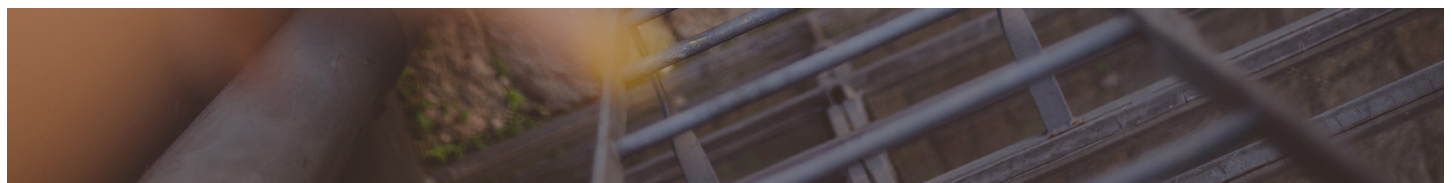
Ever since I became a believer in Yeshua, I have had an expectancy of the community of faith becoming like the first century congregation in Acts 2. In such a congregational fellowship, the connection between people is not only emotional but also spiritual. There is a lifestyle of giving to, investing in, and building up one another; a lifestyle of being in partnership one with another.

The congregation we read about in Acts 2* where they **“had all things in common”** is not only an amazing historical occurrence, but also an indication of what can be again, both now and in the future. A primary obstacle to congregations operating in this way is the society in which we live. For the most part, our modern society is one where each person is an island striving only to make ends meet, striving only to see the fulfillment of their individual thoughts and dreams. This mentality will eventually lead to a disastrous breakdown of the human bonds God created us to have.

If, on the other hand, each congregational member stops focusing on himself and instead looks to Yeshua and to the Father heart of God, we will achieve a unity that sidesteps worldly systems and build a community that experiences breakthrough. We will rise above the mentality of this world to a kingdom-of-God viewpoint where our fellow man is truly important to us. **“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”** (1 John 3:16)

We may even find ourselves thinking of others before thinking of ourselves. How is this possible? The desire to invest in the lives of others will come from within. We are the pioneers whom God wants to use to build His community on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10)

** “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”* (Acts 2:42-47)



Surprise Encounter at the Supermarket



By Moti Cohen

Sometimes our work serving the homeless in south Tel Aviv can be intense and emotionally challenging, but I have learned that God always gives us grace to continue in the calling He has given us. He repeatedly shows us that what we are doing is making a difference. Here is an example.

Each month we prepare 1,400 hot, home-cooked meals to serve the homeless. Needless to say, I spend a lot of time in the supermarket. The past several months I noticed that a young Arab man who worked at the meat counter would go out of his way to give me wonderful service. He always smiled at me, almost like he knew me, and made sure I was getting what I needed, even if he wasn't serving me directly.

One very rainy day in Tel Aviv, I was doing the shopping during a downpour and I practically had the place to myself. When I got to the meat counter, the polite young man was there to greet me with a smile.

“You don't recognize me, do you?” he asked me. I told him that I didn't. **“I'm not surprised,”** he replied. **“The last time you saw me was a year ago. There was a rainstorm like this, and I was lying like a dog in the street. You and your people brought me hot tea, soup, warm clothes and a sleeping bag.”**

I was shocked. The young man standing before me was tall, handsome and looked healthy. I remembered that night and, back then, he was a shadow of the man standing before me.

“I will never forget what you all did for me,” he said. **“The love and kindness you showed me stirred something up in me, and that night I vowed to get off the street.”** He then explained to me how he has a daughter and that for her sake, he is making this great effort.

Bringing warm meals to the homeless on the street.



Each time I go into that store, I ask him how he is doing. He is grateful for his job which keeps him busy during the week, but he said that the weekends are difficult because he is alone. Every few months he cracks and goes down to south Tel Aviv for a hit of drugs. When he shared this, I asked, “Do you remember what we talked to you about that night last year?” I reminded him that we told him about the love of God. This young man is from a Muslim background, and God is giving grace on how to share the Messiah in a way that will reach him. Please keep him in your prayers!

Praise God for His goodness and faithfulness to save the lost and to bless us so deeply by giving us glimpses of the fruit that comes from seeds of the gospel we have sown!

Thanks to your generous support, we are able to continue reaching the homeless in Tel Aviv!

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Three Way Joint Effort and Fruit



By Valerie Yanay

During the Revive Israel discipleship programs, we bring the discipleship students to volunteer once a week on outreach with Moti Cohen of Tiferet Yeshua Congregation, among the homeless and destitute in south Tel Aviv.

It was the last night of the program, the “last minute.” I was with several of our discipleship participants, walking in a horrible place where drug addicts usually reach the end of their lives. There we stopped and met “Y.” He spoke mostly Russian. Liel was there, and I asked her to translate for me from Hebrew. I said:

“Your life is important. You must get out of here. There is a God. God loves you. He has a plan for you, a different life that He calls you to, to be in the best possible place, in Messiah.”

He said he had heard the gospel. We stayed a long time talking to him, and then I said to him, “Do you want me to pray for you?” He stood up and we prayed for him. We gave him the phone number of our partner drug rehab program House of Salvation. It was already late. I wanted to get back home, but Liel and the others continued to share with him. We prayed again and left. It was the end of September.

Many weeks later, I started painting the “upper room” for the discipleship program to use at the Revive Israel base. On one of these days, I came in and was amazed to see “Y” there at our base! It turned out he had joined the rehab program with Roni and House of Salvation and, on this day, they had come to help us paint! I was so surprised to see him. I recognized him and told him, “Wow, you are here!” We talked, and he told me his story more in depth. He only vaguely remembered that we had prayed for him that night, because he had been on drugs.

When the farmer scatters his seeds in the field, he doesn’t know exactly where each one is going to land. Just like the farmer, we had no idea where or even if the seed would grow, but we sowed it in his heart, nevertheless. And it’s growing! One sows. Another waters. God makes the seed grow.

Now “Y” is a discipleship student at our partner rehab center. It turns out that he is a gifted guitar player and has begun leading worship. Amazing!

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I'm writing this as the Hamas war with Israel is ending. Hamas has by now fired over 4000 (!) rockets at Israeli civilian population centers. A dozen Israelis have been killed and many more wounded. Hundreds of thousands are suffering from PTSD, after running to shelter multiple times a day at the sound of sirens that indicate incoming rockets.

The home of a Messianic pastor in Beersheba took a direct hit from a Hamas rocket. An 89 year old Holocaust survivor was killed along with her caretaker in Ashkelon. Ido Avigal, just five years old, made it to his bomb shelter; but there, shrapnel managed to break through the thick window, killing him. Anyone who thinks there are no victims on the Israeli side is sadly mistaken.

I know that many of you in your countries are asking yourselves, "How can I stand with Israel in her time of need?" You see the newspaper reports and lopsided media descriptions of Israel as the Goliath attacking the poor underdog Hamas. They fail to mention that every single war with Gaza has started with indiscriminate rocket fire against civilians in Israel. I know this bothers you, and it certainly bothers me.

We created the "I am with Israel" program for times just like these. There are many needs in Israel right now. And by God's grace, in the name of Yeshua the Messiah, we're going to do our part with you to help the people of Israel.

- We want to invest in mobile bomb shelters.
- We want to provide assistance for poorer Israelis who have been suffering.

- We want to go into cities that have been hit the hardest, with toys for the children and encouragement for the adults.
- We want them to know that they have not been forgotten!

I'm going to be bold and ask you right now to make a generous donation to #IamwithIsrael.

My wife broke down in tears this morning as she read an article about a group of children in Ashkelon who have been in a bomb shelter for a week. "They told us to go to the bomb shelter under the building, but no one took care of us." The country is overwhelmed.

Israel needs her friends at a time like this, as the Isaiah 62:6 watchmen on the wall, to take care of her. We're not going to let her down!

Over the coming weeks and months we will let you know how your gifts brought hope and life to broken Israelis. God called Israel to be a light to the nations. Now it's time for the body of believers to be a light to Israel.

Thank you for your prayers and support...

Ron Cantor
Director, #IamwithIsrael
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