



Israel's Restoration

TIKKUN GLOBAL | BASED IN ISRAEL

A Global Messianic Family Dedicated to the Restoration of the Church and Israel

Vol.33 - N°9

September 2020

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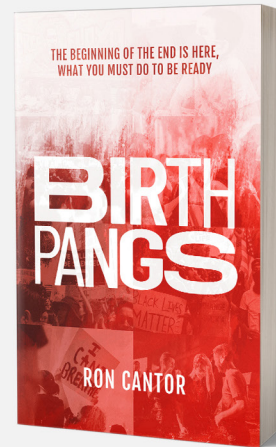
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I AM WITH ISRAEL

THE BEGINNING OF THE END IS HERE, WHAT YOU MUST DO TO BE READY

BIRTH PANGS

RON CANTOR



Over the past several months, we shifted our fund raising efforts in Tikkun to focus entirely on those affected economically by COVID-19. We called this project Covid 18 because, in Hebrew, **the number 18 stands for life!** COVID-19 is a demonically inspired plague designed to literally suffocate people and cause death.

Thanks to *your incredible generosity* we have been able to help many people.

- We distributed grocery gift cards to Holocaust survivors from Holon (south of Tel Aviv) and partnered with another ministry to deliver fruit baskets to Holocaust survivors in the northern city of Karmiel.
- We were able to deliver similar gift cards to more than 100 foreign workers from the Philippines and their families. Because most of these people are caretakers for the elderly, they all lost their jobs months ago. They serve Israelis; we were honored to serve them!
- We were able to stand with and help several single mothers.
- Several of our congregants have literally had to shut the doors of their businesses. We have been able to assist them during this transition.
- A tourist from Cameroon was stranded, unable to get a flight home. We have provided lodging in a guesthouse and are providing food until August 10th, when she can go home. She was in complete despair and now she has hope!
- Pastor Moti Cohen and his team have taken food to the homeless, prostitutes, and drug addicts through the soup kitchen that we partner with in Tel Aviv. For a season, the city had shut down almost all of its humanitarian aid outreach because of fear of the virus. Moti continued to go out on the streets, handing out sandwiches. Now, he reports, that many people who are neither homeless nor drug addicts are coming to the food kitchen because they can't afford to pay for their next meal.

Yeshua was right when He said that it is better to give than to receive. You have played a powerful role in sustaining your brothers and sisters here in Israel.

However, during this time our home team has suffered a bit. Our small group of loyal and talented support staff, who keep Tikkun functioning daily, need your help. Please consider a one-time special gift during the summer months. While we have been able to give out tremendously, we are now running a deficit in our ability to pay our own bills.

As a way of saying thank you, I would like to send you one of the very first copies of my brand-new book *Birth Pangs!* The title is taken from Matthew 24:8, "**All these are the beginning of birth pains.**" This book is a prophetic look at what I believe God is saying to His people during these trying times. This book is designed to help prepare you for the end-times and we want to send you a copy, even before we make it available to the general public.

When you give a gift of \$30 or more, we will send you a copy of Birth Pangs! Your gift of \$50, \$100 or even \$500 will sustain us through these summer months, so we can support our awesome emissaries in Israel. Thank you so much!

Until all Israel is saved! (Romans 11:26),

Ron Cantor

P.S. Make sure to use tikkun.tv/birth-pangs-partner/ when you give so we know to send you your free book. If you're mailing in a check, just write *Birth Pangs* in the memo!



GIVE HERE!

tikkun.tv/birth-pangs-partner/

Does the Bible Speak to Mask-Wearing?



By **Ron Cantor**

A friend asked a very timely question online:

Would Yeshua and the disciples have worn masks issued by the Roman authorities? Would Yeshua have worn a mask also while He was healing the sick and raising the dead? Would the disciples have worn masks while preaching the good news of the Kingdom?

Does the Bible speak to mask-wearing? Many gave their opinions in online comments.

Several said that God has given us authority, so we do not have to obey other authorities. One said this:

“Peter and the other apostles answered, ‘We must obey God, not men’” (Acts 5:29).

But friends, this is not a valid answer, because Peter was being told to disobey God. Being asked to wear a mask to protect others is not even close to being flogged for sharing your faith.

Another comment said it was the slippery slope to the mark of beast. By this standard, being told to wear a shirt and shoes in a restaurant could also be a slippery slope to the antichrist.

Another said, **“No. It hasn’t sat right with my spirit from the get go. Neither has ‘social distancing.’”**

Yet in Israel (and elsewhere), research has shown that social distancing slowed down the virus dramatically. This fact may not sit well with our spirit, but it’s just common sense: You are less likely catch an infectious disease if you are not around it.

Yeshua taught us to obey earthly authorities in matters where they have authority. Public safety is not a matter for the Church but the state. **“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God”** (Romans 13:1). Listen to me, believer—God has established that authority. Your response in such matters is to obey. Anything else, is rebellion to God.

Yeshua paid taxes to an extremely corrupt Roman system that oppressed multitudes, and He told us to do the same. Yeshua the revolutionary, God in man, a fearless person, could have easily built a case to not pay the evil Romans, but He did not.

Some have posted about all authority being given to us, but we must look at the whole Bible. If I take that verse out of context, I don’t have to pay taxes and can drive on the wrong side of the road!

“Who are they to tell me how to drive, ***I have ALL authority.***” The “all authority” passage of Matthew 28 in context, is about reaching the world with the message of the Gospel. It is as if Yeshua is saying, don’t fret over things like paying taxes and wearing masks. They are minor in comparison to the mandate I am giving you, ***which is to spread my message to the ends of the earth.*** And He even taught His disciples to literally go the extra mile for these evil people, as a witness (Matthew 5:40-42).

Believers are fighting over their rights, and Yeshua is saying, just do whatever they ask. I would to God that we were as vocal over trying to rescue people from hell as we are over exposing the great mask conspiracy.

Of course, there are times to disobey. Look at Daniel who prayed despite the threat of death. Or his three friends who chose death over idol worship. Or Peter explaining to the authorities why he kept on preaching the gospel **“We must obey God, not men”** (Acts 5:29).

Let’s not be distracted by that which is not eternal! We have to get back to the task at hand, the sacred commission of sharing His message.

A New Beginning

"One who is gracious to the poor, lends to the LORD, and He will reward Him" (Proverbs 19:17).



By **Avi Tekle**

"*Shana Tova Umetuka*" is the way Israelis greet each other on Rosh Hashana* (the traditional Jewish New Year). As we approach the fall season, families and friends wish one another "a good and sweet year." On September 19th we will graduate from 5781 and move into the year 5782 by the traditional Jewish counting, since Creation.

Israel will embark on a new beginning. For us and for most of you, this year has been like an island surrounded by shoals and reefs. Many aspects of our lives have changed. Our community gatherings and worship services *changed*. Our summer camps and family plans *changed*. Even the way we walk down the street...*changed*.

Tashlich is a symbolic ritual performed on the second day of the Jewish New Year. On this day, it is customary to travel to a body of water and throw rocks into the water symbolizing *casting away the previous year's sins and unpleasant events*. We do hope and pray that in the coming year a rescue boat will come across those waters, an ark that will sail us to the shores of health and prosperity.

Through it all, God remains the same, yesterday, today, and forever. He is the Rock, the Ancient of Days, that we can depend upon always. And as an expression of His love, from year to year we reach out to the underprivileged communities of our city. In this ongoing global health crisis, Israel's unemployment numbers are steadily rising—currently standing at 875,000, 21% of the overall workforce! "Needless" to say, this year the needs have grown dramatically.

The verse at the beginning of this article is one of my favorites, both because it promises that God will acknowledge our service to Him, and also because I love seeing the heart of God expressed. The Hebrew word used is "Honen" which means more than charity. It means adding value and favor. It implies that we are to regard the disadvantaged with honor and respect, seeing the potential beauty even in the midst of poverty. That's how *God views us and regards our outreach to the needy around us, as a loan to Him. So humbling!*

In September it is our intent to distribute food baskets to 800 families who have been affected by the Coronavirus crisis. As we prepare, this verse is fresh in our minds. Even more than what we give, it matters how we give it. May God use us to **add favor to the lives of those He has called us to reach in His love.**

We kindly ask you to pray if the Lord would put it in your heart to partner with us to be His instruments for such a time as this.

**Rosh HaShana—literally the head, or peak of the year.*



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A Lesson for Hard Times - Gleaned from Israel's History



By **Guy Cohen**

The world is going through a hard time...again.

Just a few weeks ago Israel commemorated the 9th of the Hebrew month of Av, as they have been doing for millennia. This solemn anniversary culminates the annual three week “dire straits” period of *mourning over the destruction of the first and second temples in Jerusalem as well as other disasters in Jewish history*.

As the world faces the current pandemic and the other events that have brought fear and strife to many nations, I want to go back in history, focusing on Israel in order to draw a parallel to our current difficulties.

2 Kings 19:15-19 records Hezekiah's response to a fearsome threat of impending destruction in Jerusalem. What did he do? He brought it before God. He literally spread out the pieces of paper with the written military threat, in the temple, and cried out, **“Open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.”** (verse 16)

Hezekiah was a king in crisis, in spite of having restored Israel to following God's way of holiness, and in spite of having destroyed the idols! Now he was in the middle of a storm, just as big as ours or bigger. With encouragement from his “buddy” Isaiah, he persevered in faith—through conflict and trouble. In the end, he was victorious.

This is where we are today, watching Israel and other nations being pressured from every direction.

People are changing before our eyes—looking inward at their individual needs and responding with anger at governments and those in authority.

We are in a time of trouble which is affecting the health of the nation as well as the economy, security and future.

In Israel, we face military threats, as in the time of Hezekiah. Meanwhile, brother is turning against brother. **Will we and our leaders rise up and run to God as Hezekiah did? Or will we put our trust in something else (foreign gods and idols), succumbing in the end to their authority and not God's?** Have we even noticed that, in the meantime, the enemy has arrived at our borders with Gaza and Lebanon, waiting for our destruction?

The book of Lamentations is read in its entirety on the eve of 9th of Av. In the face of the coronavirus, the words ring truer than ever. *I feel as if we have never been closer to the physical and spiritual condition of Jeremiah's day than now.* Mankind so easily forgets God until a time of dire need arises.

With God's righteous judgement impending, may the world not be found lacking (like Sodom and Gomorrah) in men and women of righteousness, those who know the Lord and are ready to stand in the gap for their nation. As we draw closer to the fulfillment of all things, we join in agreement with the closing words of Lamentations 5:21:

“Turn us again to Yourself, O Lord, and we will be restored.”

Thanks to Yeshua, we are the righteous of this day, standing as Hezekiah stood. May the Spirit of God lead us in intercession for our people and nation.

Update



By **Leon Mazin**

Shalom Beloved!

“My dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, as I know you are well in spirit” (3 John 1:2).

First and foremost, we thank you for your prayers and your support, which enable us to serve here in Israel.

COVID-19

A few months ago, thanks to the strict closures, Covid-19 was not widespread within Israel. Unfortunately, when we began to open up our society, the numbers began to rise dramatically, especially among the ultra-Orthodox population and the Bedouins. Like EVERYONE, we need prayers that strengthen faith and overcome fear. We have already started to feel the economic crisis. More than 35,000 small businesses closed between February and July 2020. This is an immense number for Israel. The people in our congregation are also losing their jobs. We feel our need for God more than ever!

I ask you to pray for us and for our soup kitchen project (english.shaveitzion.org/soup-kitchen/) that is providing warm meals and dry goods to people in our community. It is our desire to always give what is needed to those who ask! ***This project reaches out to both Russian-speaking olim (immigrants) and to the Arab population from the Christian and the Muslim sectors. We want to continue to be the hands of the Messiah!***

Return to Zion Congregation

Since the beginning of the quarantine, our congregation and ministry have seen significant growth. Home groups have taken on more importance, and online meetings have expanded. Instead of **500-600 viewers per week "before quarantine," we have reached 2,000 viewers during our Shabbat service alone!**

Also, we have divided our congregation into two groups (Covid-19 restrictions limit the number of people allowed to meet indoors). Today the Russian-speaking group gathers at 11 a.m. and the Hebrew-speaking group at 1 p.m., and an additional group has begun meeting on Wednesdays. As a pastor, for many years I had not led a home group. But in March I began an online meeting for those who are not members of an existing home group. Today, ***during online studies of the Scriptures on Wednesdays, about 90 to 100 people are gathering.*** This is a welcome addition to our congregation, with its own requests, needs, and questions.

We do not know how events will continue to develop and whether we, as a country, will enter another full lockdown. It is so important to maintain effective communication and strong connections with our congregational members and with our greater community. ***These issues continue to challenge us, and I ask you to join us in PRAYER for wisdom from HEAVEN!***

Once again, many thanks for your support and loyalty. We pray for God's protection for you and your families, and for God's assistance in your lives. We also pray that your spiritual lives may prosper, regardless of external circumstances.

With respect and love,
Leon and Nina Mazin



Return to Zion Congregation

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Not Just Nostalgia



By **Eitan Shishkoff**

When we arrived in Israel, Asher and Betty Intrater were already here. I remember the first time we visited them, driving up the Judean hills to Jerusalem from Haifa. It was Thanksgiving, 1992. I was ecstatic. *Here we were together as immigrant families returning to Zion, privileged to join the growing Messianic movement in the land, as they walked into prophecies from Isaiah and Jeremiah.* We had a lot to be thankful for.

Many years of pioneering ensued. Congregations were planted, humanitarian aid distributed, and offshoot ministries born. Asher's teaching ministry impacted new Israeli believers in Hebrew, while reaching the nations in English. God blessed us both with teams of young people eager to be equipped and released into their callings.

Through those first two decades Asher and I never lost touch, but we were focused on developing indigenous Messianic ministry in our old/new country. Four or five years ago, it was as if we poked our heads up out of the all-consuming harvest field. I had been laboring in the north, the Galilee; and Asher poured himself into Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Now, that we were passing the leadership baton to our spiritual sons and daughters, it felt like God sovereignly reconnected us.



Meanwhile, Dan and Patty Juster arrived, adding maturity and mentoring capacity. The three of us had not been geographically together since the early 90s in Maryland, USA, when Asher and I were sent out with Dan's blessing and indispensable support.

It was a new stage, an opportunity—even a compulsion—to renew and re-strengthen our covenant friendship. Since then we have seen the growing brotherhood of the next generation of congregational leaders who've been our protégés. This seasoned group of leaders is called "Tikkun Israel." In parallel, the Lord has thrust Asher into a place of international influence. The umbrella he's holding with Ron and others has become known as Revive Israel-Tikkun Global, and includes being available to serve the American Tikkun network, as well as the ministries of our long-time covenant brothers, Paul Wilbur and David Rudolph—now led by their sons.

Dan, Asher, and I are now grandfathers. *Our greatest reward is to see the fruitfulness of both our natural and spiritual children.* How gracious of God to draw us back together for this vital season of generational transition and lifetime vision fulfilled before our eyes.

I can't close without taking this opportunity to *thank you from around the world, who've stood with us and taken part in this process.* The trust you have put in us and the incalculable value of your prayers have carried us through these twenty-eight phenomenal years in Eretz Yisrael. Yes, together we have a lot to be thankful for. And the best is yet to come. Our role has merely been to **help plow and plant seed.** Others will continue to water and harvest, and God will give the increase.

Dan, Eitan and Asher at bar mitzvah in Maryland, USA, 1983

New Attitude Towards Difficulty



By Asher Intrater

*We are entering new and difficult times. We need a greater understanding as believers in Yeshua of **how to relate to trials and tribulations.***

Ultimately it is God's will for us to live in material blessing. At the end of the Bible, we see there will be no pain, no curse and no tears forever. (Revelation 21:4)

Unfortunately, human beings have a tendency to turn away from God during times of comfort and turn towards Him mainly in times of difficulty. People who do not believe seem less interested to hear about God when everything is easy, and seem more open when life is hard.

Even dedicated believers tend to be less fervent and more occupied with the things of the world and the flesh when everything is easy. When we have to deal with difficulties, we tend to lean more toward humility, purity, prayer and unity.

When there is more difficulty outwardly, there tends to be a greater movement toward spiritual things. In this mysterious way, difficult times can be a blessing. Difficult times are partly a judgment from God. This judgment is His grace to bring both unbelievers and believers closer to Himself.

God doesn't want us to suffer. But He sees that in times of suffering there is greater spiritual advancement. We don't measure blessing by material comfort alone but by spiritual purity. Therefore, in difficult times we need to look for the positive blessing and purpose of God. We need to recognize the sovereignty of God and His righteous judgments in the midst of trial and tribulation.

In the end times, the people of God will begin to praise God particularly around the theme that the judgments of God are righteous. That represents a significant change of attitude for most of us.

"We thank You, O God... that Your wrath has come and the time to judge the dead and to reward Your servants..." (Revelation 11:17-18)

"For Your righteous judgments have been revealed..." (Revelation 15:3)

"For Your judgments are righteous and true..." (Revelation 19:2)

When difficulties come, there is a divine side and a demonic side. There are two opposite truths going on at the same time. In the midst of the difficulty, we need to recognize and submit to the part that is from God; and then we can resist and stand against the part that is not from God.

"Submit yourselves to God; resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7, see also 1 Peter 5:6-9)

When we see difficult times in economics, in politics, in public health, we have to recognize the situation as a gracious judgment from God in order to humble us; which in turn will allow God to heal us and restore our nation.

"When I shut up the heavens and there be no rain; and when I command the locust to consume the land; and if I send a plague upon My people; and if My people upon whom My name is called will submit themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their evil ways; then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin and I will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:13-14)

Notice that in verse 13, the Lord takes total responsibility as the One who has caused the difficulty! The difficulty is seen as God's judgment on sin. (It is not easy for people to see difficulties as God's judgment for their own wrongdoing.) The purpose of the judgment is for us; it is to cause us to repent and turn back to Him.



When we do repent, God promises to heal everything. The solution to the economic situation is not economics. The solution is not with the majority of the people who do not know God. The solution lies with the community of faith. If we will repent and seek God, He will solve the outward problem.

Likewise the solution to the political situation is not politics, it is prayer. The solution to the health problem is not in the health department, it is in our turning back to Him. God's purpose is to save sinners and purify saints. When that happens, He can easily provide the material blessings.

Daniel prophesies of tribulation in the end times and the dominion of the Antichrist for a certain period.

“And his armed forces will arise and defile the sanctuary fortress; and they will remove the daily offering and put there the abomination of desolation; and those who do evil to the covenant, he will flatter them with smooth words. Yet those who know their God will be strong and act mightily. Those who have understanding among the people will cause many to understand. Yet for many days they will fall by sword, by flame, by captivity and by plunder... And some of those who have understanding will fall, to refine them, purify them and make them white, until the time of the end...”
(Daniel 11:31-33, 35)

The forces of evil will destroy almost everything. Yet during that very time many people will come to faith, and the people of God will be purified and refined. During horrible persecution they will be mighty in spirit and faith.

It is easy to have a victorious attitude when everything is comfortable. It is like watching your favorite sports team

winning on television. *It's easy to watch someone else sweat and lift a **heavy weight**.* However, the true victory involves each one of us overcoming trials and tribulations, with God's grace. In times of blessings, we are victorious. When we have faith in the midst of difficulty, we are *more than* victorious.

“Who can separate us from the love of God? Can tribulation or distress ... danger or sword? ... Yet in all these things, by the help of Him who loves us, we are more than conquerors...” (Romans 8:35, 37)

God wants us to overcome and be victorious. He sends us through difficulties, accompanies us, instructs us, encourages us and helps us. As we hold on to the love of God in the midst of those difficulties, we are strengthened in faith, and forged like steel. In this way, we see even greater blessings during times of difficulty than in times of ease.

Let us change our attitude about times of trial and tribulation. We see the hand of God. We submit to God's will and purpose behind the difficulty. We allow God to purify us, humble us. We hold on to His love. We show faith in the midst of trials. God will work in our hearts and then in the hearts of those around us.

“My brothers, consider it great joy, when you come into all kinds of trials, because you know that testing of your faith produces patience. And let patience have its full work, so that you may be perfect and without fault, and lacking nothing.” (James 1:2-4)

It takes a new attitude of faith to have victory in the midst of trials and tribulations. Let us strive for that quality of faith!