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BACK TO JERUSALEM:

A Kingdom for the Whole Earth

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BACK TO JERUSALEM: A Kingdom for the Whole Earth



By **Jeremiah Smilovici**

Jerusalem is my hometown, the place where my own story began. Growing up, I never really thought about its spiritual significance. Jerusalem was simply home. Even today, I sometimes have to remind myself of the extraordinary reality that Yeshua will one day reign from the very city where I grew up. But Jerusalem's significance in God's plan goes far beyond the city itself.

I often hear believers pray for Yeshua to return and establish His throne in Jerusalem. And while this is certainly part of God's prophetic promises, I wonder if sometimes we focus so much on His reign IN **Jerusalem** that we overlook an equally important truth: **Yeshua is coming to reign not only IN Jerusalem, but FROM Jerusalem – to the ends of the earth!**

Think about the capital of any nation. It is where the government is seated, but its authority does not stop at the city limits. The capital is the center of government, not the boundary of its influence. In a far greater way, Jerusalem is the city God has chosen (2 Chronicles 6:6). And Yeshua's authority will never be confined to one city, or even one nation. He is the King of all the earth.

We can see this clearly in the Scriptures. In Psalm 2:6-8, God declares that He has established His King on Zion, His holy mountain. Yet in the very next breath, He promises the Son the nations as His inheritance and the ends of the earth as His possession. Psalm 110:2 declares that the Lord will extend His mighty scepter from Zion. The scepter is a symbol of royal authority, and the direction matters: **from Zion, outward.** Isaiah 2:2-4 echoes this promise, describing the nations coming to learn God's ways, while His instruction and word go forth from Jerusalem.

There is also a beautiful connection to the Great Commission. After Yeshua's resurrection, His disciples asked Him about the restoration of the Kingdom to Israel. He did not give them a timetable. Instead, He promised the power of the Holy Spirit and sent them to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:6-8). The Gospel began going out from Jerusalem, carrying the message of the King to the nations. This mission rests on Yeshua's declaration that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him (Matthew 28:18).

But the story does not conclude at the ends of the earth. Scripture also points us back to Jerusalem. Zechariah speaks of the Lord standing on the Mount of Olives and becoming King over all the earth (Zechariah 14:4, 9). The Gospel goes out from Jerusalem to the nations, but the prophetic story brings us back to Jerusalem, **where people from those very nations will come to worship the King** (Zechariah 14:16). The same prophetic vision that centers on Jerusalem looks outward to every nation. The nations are not a side note in this story; they are part of God's purpose from the beginning.

So when we say, "**From Jerusalem to the ends of the earth—and back again,**" we are not speaking only about geography. We are speaking about God's unfolding plan: the Gospel going out to the nations, the nations being drawn into His purposes, and the return of our King, whose reign will bring righteousness and peace to the whole earth.

Yes, we long for Yeshua to reign in Jerusalem. But let's lift our eyes beyond the city walls. **We are looking forward to the day when He reigns from Jerusalem over all the earth – and until then, we respond to His call to proclaim His Kingdom to the nations.**

ANYONE



By **Avi Tekle**

In keeping with typical Israeli character, seasonal changes here are not gradual or subtle in the least. One day it's sweltering (even in late October), then suddenly the rainy cold season is upon us.

At the conclusion of the High Holidays, after the long, dry summer, we pray for rain and long for the cooler weather with a thirsty hope.

Israelites have done this for centuries – even in Yeshua's time. That's why He stood before a crowd in Jerusalem on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles and declared:

"***If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.***" (John 7:37)

Yeshua said a surprising thing – that rivers of living water would flow from within the person who drinks. God invites whoever is genuinely thirsty to come to Him, because He has an answer for those who thirst.

God does not "waste" true water where there is no thirst. Each of us is born with a profound, deep-seated need for God. Most of us try to satisfy this yearning with various distractions, activities, or habits. Yet the thirst within us remains. Every person must discover and recognize this thirst within their own heart.

Yeshua also said, "***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled***" (Matthew 5:6).

No one impresses God quite like a person who thirsts for Him – someone like King David. He authored many psalms and offered many prayers, yet he highlights one in particular: "***One thing I have asked of the Lord – this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord***" – to be in His presence, to seek His face. This is my "prayer of thirst." I encourage our congregation, and each and every one of you, to internalize David's prayer as your own.

Jacob and Esau were two hungry brothers. Esau hungered for meat and stew. But our forefather Jacob had a different kind of hunger – for God's blessing. He said to the angel of the Lord, "***I will not let You go unless You bless me!***" (Genesis 32:26). It is written of him that he prevailed with God. And today, we bear his name – "Israel" signifies a person with a hungry heart.



Israeli desert canyon © Uri Baruch - Pexels

In Isaiah 55, God associates His Word with rain. Every time He speaks, it's like rain falling upon the earth, saturating the ground. The earth receives this water and brings forth fruit. We are that earth, and are not ashamed to say: "*We are dry; we are thirsty. Grant us a season of Your rain – a season of awakening.*"

Do you feel like a cup? A bowl? A pitcher? We are God's "vessel" in this world – into which He desires to pour His Spirit. It costs nothing. It's not difficult, yet we must ask God to make us hungry and thirsty.

The Samaritan woman had seen it all and tried it all until the day Yeshua reached out to her and offered her the only water that can truly satisfy. Let us come thirsty and hungry for what only God can give us! As we pray for and long for the physical rain on the Land of Israel, may His people experience a hunger and a thirst for true righteousness – for the rivers of living water that can only be found in Yeshua.

CHALLENGING TIMES AND A NEW STEP OF FAITH



By **Leon Mazin**

Blessings to you from our Heavenly Father. Our prayers are with you and your loved ones. Here are a few updates regarding the *Return to Zion* Ministry.

Challenging Times

Please pray for the *Lord's will* in what is happening in Israel – the new government and also the conflict with Iran. Please pray for God's protection for the believers in Israel and wisdom for the Israel Defense Forces!

A Step of Faith

We have a new and exciting development in our ministry, and I would like to prayerfully and practically involve you in "our affairs." We have decided to expand, and are currently in the process of purchasing an additional site that will be used by our ministry.

Our plan and vision for this new building are the creation of a community home to help youth from troubled families – building them up spiritually and emotionally that they may become healthy and stable young adults.

Over the past few years, as we ran discipleship projects for young people, issues surfaced showing that even in believing families, children could be neglected and traumatized. It was often painful to listen to their testimonies, but through them we realized they need rehabilitation – not from drugs, but from emotional abandonment.

This has grown into a conviction, especially recently, as we see young and energetic ministers rising up, ready to serve the youth. They are our future.



Haifa Bay © Pexabay

The Next Step & How You Can Help

Over the past six years, we have been gathering funds in preparation for the purchase. Now we are ready to take the next step. We will need help going forward, especially with the following:

- **Renovation:** The property is old, but has great potential. Before we can begin to use it, renovations will need to be done.
- **Bomb Shelters:** Unfortunately, there are no bomb shelters in the building. Our goal is to build two. Right now, because of the war, all permits for bomb shelters are processed quickly.

I do not have the exact figures yet, but I will update you as things progress. At this time, we estimate the renovation costs at around $60,000–$65,000. The standard price for bomb shelters is about $75,000–$80,000 for one, so two would cost approximately $150,000–$160,000.

We do not have all the money that we need, but we have the conviction that this is the right step in these difficult times, and therefore I am turning to you!

It is our plan to put up the names of the project donors on "honor plaques" in the building. It is important for people to be grateful to the Lord and also grateful to the faithful brothers and sisters who listen to the Spirit of God and participate in the restoration of Zion.

"***And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.***" (Isaiah 58:12)

Peace and blessings to all of you. Thank you for standing with Return to Zion in what we believe is important to do in *Eretz Yisrael*.

With love and respect in Messiah Yeshua.



© Egyptian Chariots and Horses - Pharaoh Tut / Museum of Cairo - Public Domain

LAST DAYS BETRAYAL VS THE ETERNAL FAITHFULNESS OF THE GOD OF ISRAEL



By **Guy Cohen**

Throughout thousands of years of Jewish history, a spiritual and political pattern has repeated itself. Israel has sought security through alliances with nations and world powers, yet when the moment of testing arrives, they prove unable to save her.

The prophet Isaiah warned Israel: **"*Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!*"** (Isaiah 31:1). God brings His people to a point where every human source of security fails, so that we will return to seek His face. It is there that the way will be opened for Israel to recognize the Lord alone is her Savior. Israel will find herself standing alone against all nations, but God has not forgotten His covenant. He has not rejected His people, and He has not canceled His promises.

Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 describe Gog coming against Israel with many nations. In this prophecy, God declares: **"*Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD*"** (Ezekiel 38:23). God's intervention reveals who He is – to all.

One of the troubling signs of our time is the growing propaganda against Israel in the media and across social networks. Israel is often portrayed as a hostile nation and a source of evil. At the same time believers in Yeshua are being persecuted and murdered in different parts of the world. Spiritually, both of these persecutions reflect mankind's opposition to God, His Messiah, and all His covenant people.

Dear brothers and sisters in Yeshua, I want to encourage you to remain steadfast in your faith. Governments change, but the Lord remains faithful. Don't allow fear, disappointment, or betrayal to weaken your trust in Him. Remember the words of the Lord to Paul: **"*My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness*"** (2 Corinthians 12:9). Our hope is not in political leaders or earthly governments, but in the unchanging Word of God and the sufficiency of His grace. Continue to pray for your nation. Remain faithful, and let the love and truth of Yeshua guide your steps.

The same God who remains faithful to His covenant with Israel will sustain all who put their trust in Him.

Stand firm in His Word. Rest in His grace, and remember that His kingdom cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12:28). World powers rise and fall; political alliances change, but the Word of God stands forever. And when Yeshua returns, it will become clear before Israel and all the nations that true hope was never found in human strength, but in the faithfulness of the God of Israel.



GRAFTED INTO ONENESS



By **Jonathan Moore**

Arab Christian Brothers

We are unabashedly Israeli, Zionist, and also favorable toward Jewish tradition. That's why it was unexpected and so meaningful that I was invited to preach at an **Arab Christian Baptist church in the Galilee.** We see no conflict in both holding those values and loving Arabs. In fact, the focus of the sermon was about how important they are as Arab Christians in reaching the Muslims and even joining Messianic Jews to reach Jews! I also shared the Sukkot message, emphasizing the temporary nature of this world; and that what we do in this life is what stores up treasures in eternity. Although it's not easy to be an Arab Christian with Muslims and even some Jews against them, it is vital that they continue to be a light.

Prayer Requests *(Please take a moment to pray!)*

- **Discipleship** - We are making our biggest push ever to disciple our congregation! Pray for not just information to transfer, but impartation and life transformation. Pray for all the new members as well as those who never experienced discipleship. Pray for more people to gain confidence in discipling others so that a culture of discipleship grows among lay members
- **"Deployment"** - Praise God! We received the money we needed to subsidize the two planned outreach trips. Pray for the Iranian underground leaders to be able to come meet with us (location not shared intentionally). Pray for the approximately 15 people traveling to Ethiopia in December and the impact God wants to have in our lives as well as the lives of Ethiopians.

Grafted into Oneness

God is incredibly interested in oneness. He even boggles our minds with a three-part unity that somehow includes three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, without compromising the declaration, ***"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!"*** We even see Yeshua (Jesus) praying some outrageous things in John 17. ***"Holy Father, keep them... so that they may be one just as We are"*** (v. 11pp).

What is the best way to approach unity between Jews and Gentiles? Through the lens of Romans 11:17–18: ***"But if some of the branches were broken off and you – being a wild olive – were grafted in among them and became a partaker of the root of the olive tree with its richness, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, it is not you who support the root, but the root supports you."***

If we look at oneness through the lens of being grafted in, we see Gentiles as being supported by the root, not the other way around.

For example, without becoming idolatrous of Jewish practices, Gentiles should recognize God's message of Passover deliverance as relevant for all, to this day. Shabbat is still important and has ongoing relevance in 21st-century modern life. But even with this appreciation of the "Jewish roots," Gentiles continue to be who they are, carrying their unique and individual history and heritage across the globe. Both Jews and Gentiles can and should be proud of their cultural richness. Because we are grafted into oneness, the gifts, benefits, and promises from Genesis 1:1 onward are the birthright of all through adoption into the family of God.

"God, help us to see unity in You through the lens of being grafted into oneness. May no one feel second-class because You have called each of us into first-class. Help our non-Jewish family to never develop arrogance toward the natural branches, the Jews, but to love them as You do, provoking them to jealousy through a vital relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."



SURPRISE VISIT



By **Motti Cohen**

Just a few days before Israel's previous elections in 2022, I had a surprise visit one night at our Feed Tel Aviv outreach from Gadi Eisenkot, a former IDF Chief of Staff. Today he is a grieving father (in December 2023, his son was killed in the Gaza War). He is also currently the head of the second largest political party in Israel and a candidate for prime minister.

Eisenkot heard about what we do in South Tel Aviv. He came to meet me and learn about our outreach to homeless drug addicts and prostitutes. While Eisenkot came to see us at the height of a political campaign to show that he cares about Tel Aviv and the weak and marginalized of our city, I felt that his concern was indeed genuine.

I took Eisenkot on a short tour of the area where we serve and told him what our outreach is doing for the neediest of the needy:

- preparing 1,500 home-cooked meals for the homeless every week
- taking sandwiches, drinks and first aid to the addicts in the alleyways who are too weak to come to the outreach center

I explained to Eisenkot that the goal of Feed Tel Aviv is to help people get off the streets and into rehabilitation programs. (We were recently able to help six men get into Messianic rehabilitation centers.) I also shared about our faith in Yeshua as the Messiah and that the true power to heal and restore people, is through faith in Him.

Seeing the dire circumstances of the people on the streets with his own eyes clearly made an impact on Eisenkot. I could also tell that he was truly impressed by all that Feed Tel Aviv is doing together with the many volunteers who serve with us every week. He is the only politician who has ever come to visit us and express concern for the people living on the streets.

When a leader of Gadi Eisenkot's stature steps into our outreach, **it validates** the undeniable physical impact of what we are doing on the streets. But as a ministry, we know that true, lasting rehabilitation **only happens** when a broken life meets the transforming power of Yeshua.

This is why Feed Tel Aviv, and the wider ministry here, are vital.

As we push toward our Year-End Goal of $130,000, we ask you to stand with us to raise up the end-time remnant in Israel. Your support helps ensure that no matter who leads this nation politically, the light of the Gospel will continue to shine in the darkest corners of Tel Aviv.

WHEN THE KINGDOM TAKES ROOT



By **Youval Yanay**



© David Rudolph with Youval and Valerie - betrothal ceremony after discipleship training

As a pastor, father, and leader of Revive Israel, a ministry dedicated to discipling and equipping young Israelis to follow Yeshua, **I know how important it is to have people who will walk alongside them and help them grow in their faith.**

When I train young Israelis to trust God, I understand the reality many will soon face: being called back to IDF reserve duty as the only believer in their unit. There will be days when they are afraid, weary, and lonely; days when loving their fellow soldiers is difficult. *So, I want them to learn now to speak honestly with Yeshua and trust His promises in Scripture – to taste the Lord's goodness for themselves.*

As a young man, I went to a discipleship program in Cyprus in 2003 called "Gateways Beyond." At the time, I was a very new believer who had grown up in Israel. I deeply desired to follow Yeshua, but I also knew the destructive directions I had turned to when life was hard. I still remember my mentor, David Rudolph, inviting me to join their program – his sincere desire to walk with me and invest in my life touched me deeply.

David and his wife, Emma, made room for me in their lives. I could ask questions and tell them what I was going through. I saw up close how they turned to God themselves. In that season, I learned to read, pray, and hear God speaking to my heart. I learned to come to Him.

After Valerie and I became betrothed, we talked about what we had received at Gateways. I thought about my own brother. Perhaps, if he had a place like this, where he could live alongside mature believers, he too would come to know Yeshua as I had. ***I wanted there to be a place like that in Israel – for Israelis like me.***

Two decades later, in Yad Hashmona near Jerusalem, at the property that serves as the headquarters of the Revive Israel community, we now devote forty days to discipling Israelis who come to us. Each morning, we study the Scriptures in Hebrew, verse by verse, creating space for each participant to hear what God says, receive His promises, and build a faith that will sustain them when fear, disappointment and the failures of life overwhelm them.

After studying, we work together in the fields. Raphael works alongside the participants, helping them recognize when they want things done their own way and bring those struggles before the Lord. As they grow in their understanding of Yeshua's love, they become more honest about their struggles and more attentive to one another. They begin to listen and care about what others are going through. **This is where we see Yeshua's love growing within a person.** In the evening, we return to the morning's passage, reflecting on what the day has revealed in our hearts.

At other times, Liel welcomes the participants to dinner in her home. With her children on her lap, she answers questions and spends time in long conversations. They see how we work, speak to one another, and turn to the Lord in the ordinary moments of life.

At Revive Israel, we have seen how time spent studying, working, sharing meals, and learning to follow Yeshua together can shape a young believer's life. **Yeshua is the One cultivating each heart, and what He plants through these relationships can continue to grow for years after a participant returns home.**

Scan the QR code to hear more about why discipleship matters to us and the vision behind Revive Israel.