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Among Us**



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God Who humbles Himself



By Asher Intrater

It is astonishing that the all-knowing, all-powerful, eternal Creator would be willing to humble Himself on our behalf. Why? Because He loves us. The fact that someone so great would be willing to make Himself so small on our behalf makes His greatness even greater. That He did this for us while we were sinning and rebelling against Him makes His greatness awesome beyond comprehension.

When we speak of the omnipotent, transcendent aspects of God, we are in agreement with most Orthodox rabbis. However, the Scriptures also speak of a mysteriously self-humbling part of God.

“Exalted to dwell, humble to see.”

(Psalm 113:5-6)

Poetically in Hebrew:

Hamagbihi lashevet

Hamashpili liraot

The word **humble** here means “to the point of humiliation.” I believe Paul (Saul) had this verse in mind when he wrote:

“He humbled Himself... even unto death on the cross. Therefore, God highly exalted Him.” (Philippians 2:8-9)

The cross was not only humility; it was humiliation. YHVH-God allowed Himself to be humiliated by us puny creatures in order to save us from the wrath we deserved because of our treacherous ways. Then He offered to exalt us almost to divinity, simply to the praise of His own unfathomable grace (2 Peter 1:4, Ephesians 2:7).

The book of Isaiah shows a similar paradox. On the one hand, we see an exalted, glorified king.

“I saw the Lord, sitting on a throne, high and lifted up... The whole earth is filled with His glory.” (Isaiah 6:1, 3)

On the other hand, we see a suffering servant, humiliated, and rejected: **“...despised and forsaken of men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief”** (Isaiah 53:3). Can there be any connection between the glorified King of chapter 6 and the suffering servant of chapter 53? Yes. This exalted-humiliated aspect of God was also predicted by Isaiah:

“I dwell in the high and holy, and with him who has a contrite and humble spirit.” (Isaiah 57:15)

The exalted King of Isaiah 6 and the humiliated servant of Isaiah 53 turn out to be one and the same in Isaiah 57. To those who see only the lofty, transcendent aspect of God, it seems disrespectful and offensive to see Him as lowly and humiliated. But it is in His lowliness that He comes close to us. In His humility, we find intimacy. A God who is only exalted and transcendent is not one with whom we can experience intimacy.

God was willing to be humbled, even humiliated, for the opportunity of sharing intimacy with us. This aspect can be found only in Yeshua - God humbling Himself in order to have relationship with us.

Problem Solvers



By Hanna Tekle

One of my favorite things to do is ... grocery shopping! Such a straight-forward solution to basic problems: toilet paper all gone, olive oil almost out...

I love the satisfaction of identifying the need, making a grocery list - and then solving the problem at the supermarket. Admittedly, I come from two list-loving parents, and enjoy menu planning and food prep and consumption, plus I no longer have little ones in tow. Even so, I would like to think that my grocery shopping infatuation comes from a deeper place - we humans are designed to be problem solvers.

This past year most of us have been confronted by new and unexpected problems and “mountains being shaken” (Isaiah 54:10). Many of us were impelled to focus on the more basic “problems” of life. Now, as things return to some version of normal, we can rejoice that God has faithfully brought us through this present trial. Our kids are finally going back to school after being in distance learning since September!

As a congregation, we have been waiting for Israeli COVID regulations to change enough so that we can return to in-person worship services. After over a year of posting weekly worship and teachings in Hebrew (and English) on our new [YouTube channel](#), this month we will all come together again for the first time - but outdoors due to the number of people. As of this writing, we are still looking for an outdoor venue for the gathering. Other congregations have found various and sundry solutions: an enclosed parking lot, a large yard adjacent to a congregational building, etc. We are still on the hunt. Driving last week towards the Sea of Galilee to visit some of our families who live in that

area, it struck me that Yeshua and His disciples had an identical dilemma, minus the issue of sound equipment. ;-)

Like us, they were also gathering in the Galilee. They needed the area to be conducive to hearing the preacher preach, with enough space for families to sit and not be disturbed by passing traffic (granted their traffic was comprised of donkeys and carts - but the problem was fundamentally the same).

The “Mount of Beatitudes,” where Yeshua preached Luke 6, is a lovely hill overlooking the Sea of Galilee. I don’t think they had large sunshade nets then, and they definitely didn’t have any outside electric fans. Maybe the weather was great as it sometimes can be here, but maybe it was scorching hot. It makes sense that they would choose that kind of spot: the breeze from the lake kept people cool. The slant of the hill allowed people to sit and see Yeshua as He preached. We read in Luke 6 that there were many “**...who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.**”

So much in our modern life is different from theirs, but the message we are carrying and the power we believe in is the same. I pray that as we all return to the more complicated lifestyles than we had in lockdown, we will not abandon the simple message of the Gospel and that we will hold on to the peace and security we have in Him, allowing Him to be our ultimate Problem Solver as He also anoints us to be problem solvers in His image.

Tame Your Tongue



By Leon Mazin

Blessings to everyone in Yeshua the Messiah and thank you for standing with us!

In the Torah portion of Leviticus, chapters 12-13, we read of the ritual purification for bodily discharges, and also for one suffering from a strange skin disease - “*Metzura*” in Hebrew. It is often translated as leprosy or a defiling skin disease. Traditional Jewish commentators say that this disease had nothing to do with ordinary leprosy, since it was not viral, but externally it looked terrible. Tradition says that this disease also appeared in the walls of houses where idols were being concealed, as well as on people who were speaking evil. “*Metzura*,” in a Hebrew play on words, is connected to “*Lashon Hara*” - meaning defamation and speaking ill of others (literally an “evil tongue”). In the days of Moses, the cleansing and purification process involved a temporary separation from society, repentance and atonement.

Quite often, the Apostles, when they were writing their epistles (and usually they were addressing a non-Jewish audience), used the interpretations of the Biblical texts that were familiar to Jews in order to explain the rationale behind God’s commandments. The Apostle Jacob (James) used the same principle of the “*Metzura* - or the Evil Tongue” corrupting or infecting a person, in his famous writings on the tongue. He is drawing on the Torah connection to give authority to his instructions when he says, “**Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly**” (James 3: 1-2).

“The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.”
(James 3:6)

James emphasizes how important it is to mind what we say, especially for those who teach. In truth, this instruction applies to everyone because, though few of us are Bible teachers, we all have moments where we teach others - be it our children, friends or acquaintances. If we do not guard our speech, we can easily say things in anger or distort the truth.

Gossip, false witness, and unfounded criticism are all examples of an “evil tongue.” What a pity that they continue to harm the Body of the Messiah today, nearly two thousand years after James wrote these words of instruction! Today we rarely see infectious skin diseases such as leprosy, but God forbid that internal “leprosy” might corrupt our lives. Let’s watch our language and draw good words from the Lord, instead of evil words from elsewhere.

God wants our tongue to serve Him, to encourage others, to bless, and to build up. Therefore, it is said:

“I am the Lord your God, Who brought you up out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.” (Psalm 81:10)



Up From the Ashes



By Eitan Shishkoff

Crematoria ovens at Dachau

A quintessentially Israeli public event is the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) ceremony. Held at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, it features the lighting of six torches in remembrance of the six million Jews who were wantonly and brutally executed in the Nazis' "final solution."

One of the speakers at this year's ceremony, held on the evening of April 7th, said that the State of Israel was not built on the ashes of the Holocaust. I respectfully disagree.

The still fresh smoke of the crematoria undoubtedly influenced the United Nations decision in November of 1947, to grant the Jews a sovereign nation in our ancient Middle Eastern homeland. But a political decision cannot explain the raw determination and sacrifice that fueled the Jewish defense of barely reborn Israel following the U.N. vote.

From my early days as an immigrant here in Israel, I wondered **"What makes these people so aggressive, so defensive, so argumentative, so in-your-face?"** One day the answer dawned on me: the Shoah. Modern Israel is the human and divine response to the hellish attempt to eradicate every man, woman, and child descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Israel exists today through God's intervention and through the heroic response of the men and women who returned from 2000 years of exile. The subtext of Israeli society is the Holocaust. You cannot get around it. And it explains so much about who we are.

Miraculously they made their way to Israel

Listening to the stories of survivors, one hears a common thread. Children then, in their 90s now, they tell chilling stories of seeing family members gunned down before their eyes and hiding for the remaining years of the nightmare. Eventually,

miraculously they made their way to Israel. Here, each one found work, found a spouse, and raised a family, being woven into the fabric of a vibrant society that, against all odds, came to be.

The six survivors who lit the commemorative torches came from the previously thriving Jewish communities of Greece, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine, Netherlands, Poland, and Belarus. What is their conclusion? How do they feel about life? While carrying the indescribable grief of the horrors they witnessed, each one glowed with gratitude to be alive here, in Eretz Yisrael—to see their great grandchildren. Their stories are not just of survival, but of triumph over death.

"To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified." And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations." (Isaiah 61:3-4)

"Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off! Therefore prophesy and say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD."" (Ezekiel 37:11-14)

Tents of Mercy Network of Congregations and Humanitarian Aid

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Uncomfortable Kingdom



By Jonathan Moore

In Israel, we are finally coming out of the COVID-19 crisis. Less than 0.0006% of the population is currently infected as of this writing. Of those roughly 5,000 infected, only 319 people are in serious or critical condition. That's ten times LESS than the average number of people killed in car accidents worldwide ... in one day! Praise the LORD, COVID-19 is really disappearing here!

So, if we are "post-corona," why are people struggling to get to congregational meetings and events? Has the year of live-streaming and zoom meetings made us even more addicted to ease and convenience? And, if we are comfortable, what does God have to say about that?

“Then Yeshua was saying to everyone, ‘If anyone wants to follow Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross every day, and follow Me.’” (Luke 9:23)

Here Yeshua tells us that we must daily put our shoulder into the work of lifting a reality that is NOT comfortable - a potential destiny of martyrdom. We are living sacrifices. We are on a path that might lead to a gruesome, painful end and will certainly lead to death to self. Welcome to the Kingdom of God!

The kingdom of *this world* is absolutely a kingdom of being comfortable. It seeks the pleasurable and the easy. It seeks stability in all the wrong places. It trusts in horses and chariots and governments and Facebook likes. We are not of that kingdom.

We are of a Kingdom that is only partially found in this world. We have a deposit of the Kingdom in this age and a much, much greater fullness to come. We know that the most amazing sounds, colors, tastes and relationships are waiting for us after we pass this world. We know that, as Mother Teresa said, *“In light of heaven, the worst suffering on earth, a life full of the most atrocious tortures on earth, will be seen to be no more serious than one night in an inconvenient hotel.”*

At the end of the path after carrying our “cross,” we may have martyrdom, or we may have health issues, or we may pass in the night at a ripe age surrounded by family; but no matter what, the next thing we will see is Yeshua. As Yeshua said to the man crucified next to Him, **“Amen, I tell you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise”** (Luke 23:43).

We are not taking up our cross daily if we find it too inconvenient to leave our home and come fellowship with our congregations. We are not taking up our cross daily if we cannot dedicate time to read our Bible, even on days we are tired. We are not taking up our cross daily if we are not willing to suffer heat of summer to walk the streets and tell of Yeshua's love to those who don't know Him.

We must take up our cross daily, leave our homes, shake off tiredness and, yes, even suffer what must be suffered to make disciples. We have a bright future and an amazing hope if we leave the idolization of comfort and remember we are in an *“Uncomfortable Kingdom,”* pursuing the restoration of all things.

Discipleship Program Report

By Tal Haroni

Dear Friends and Family,

We just completed this 8 week session! The mighty Hand of God was working all the time, in ways none of us ever anticipated, even in the midst of severe challenges, including one member contracting Covid19, which meant the rest had to go into quarantine. How could we continue the program? God heard our cry and gave us creative ways to do it. Then Valerie, one of the key organizers, got “stuck” in Switzerland because of COVID-19 after her father’s funeral there. Yuval (her husband and program leader) had to look after their 6 young children.

Still, we saw during the 2 weeks when these two leaders were absent, how the Lord continued to work mightily in the lives of the students. It was ALL His doing. When we are weak, He is (very) strong. Our God is so faithful!

Tal Haroni, one of the organizers, says:

*“The theme of this program was **Your Kingdom Come**, and the Lord indeed had us experience His kingdom. It’s not an easy ‘walk in the garden.’ It has to be seized and held tightly. It often means we have to run after it and fight for it, never bowing down to the enemy and letting him steal it from us.”*

It is evident from the following testimonies how young lives have been radically impacted after only 2 months. This could not have been done without your prayer backup, love, and support.



Revive Israel

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Discipleship Student Testimonies:

“It was hard for me in the beginning, I was not sure I fit in the ‘frame-work’. Yet today ... I feel much closer to God, I can pray alone, read the Scriptures alone and ask questions. The team was wonderful and I felt comfortable to speak and share. I really want to see a change when I go back home to my regular life.”

“The Lord did so much for me in this time... it was a healing experience... I received the ‘tools’ needed to continue my life as a believer in Yeshua. I was able to experience many victories, for example, overcoming the desire to always put myself in the center. Doing that prevents Him from working through me.”

“During this time, I discovered a lot of hurts and unresolved issues inside me. One evening, during worship, I had an intense internal battle with the Lord. It took time, but as I submitted it to Him, all became calm and I had PEACE. It was such a revelation to me! The Lord promised to take me higher in my faith. This experience also inspired me to start growing plants outside my house!”

“I felt I grew and made leaps of progress on how to release and submit matters to God. Previously, I took everything too personally, hurting myself in the process. It was a constant struggle. During this program I was given the ‘tools’ to deal with this deep root of rejection. I am much more secure in who I am in God now.”

Please continue to pray for this program. Pray for the students to pursue His Kingdom victory as they go back to their regular lives.

With love and deep appreciation,

Revive Israel Community Farm Discipleship Team

Blessing the Mothers Among Us

By **Guy Cohen**



In Jewish households around the world, there is a tradition on Friday evening as families welcome in the Shabbat after lighting the candles. The father speaks a blessing over his sons, daughters and wife. The blessing often involves reading Proverbs 31:10-31 in praise of the virtuous wife. This is also a way of showing appreciation to the mothers who have spent the day cooking and cleaning in preparation for the Shabbat meal and the following day of rest.

Lydia in Acts 16:11-15, 40 was a Proverbs 31 woman, in spite of living in a culture where women had few rights. After she and her household accepted Yeshua as their Messiah and were baptized, she opened her home to Paul and Silas. This welcoming did not end there but continued after Paul and Silas were released from prison, a situation which took courage on her part. She was a true overcomer.

In this day and age, it is not easy to maintain a strong family, especially when our lifestyle and economy often require a woman to fulfill the responsibilities of home and family, work outside of the home and, often, even study to improve her ability to contribute to the provision of her household. Somewhere, in all of this, the woman also needs to care for herself as well. This applies to mothers in all situations, including single moms.

In the spirit of the Shabbat blessing, I would like to share the following testimonial of a brave and determined woman from Akko, where our congregation and humanitarian aid center are located.

Hello, I am Hagit [pseudonym]:

I am the mother of two daughters, divorced after a decade of marriage in the shadow of severe economic, mental and physical violence. The first years after the divorce were devoted to our rehabilitation. We were gradually able to regain our trust in people and in the fact that our world is beautiful and good. Along the way I was helped by many who strengthened me and helped me begin to realize that I am capable of working and earning a decent living... and a better future for myself and my daughters.

One of the best tips I received was to enroll in academic studies. I did not know how... I would get tuition funding, how I could continue to support my family as a single mother, how I would overcome academic difficulties and many other concerns and doubts.

With the encouragement of my family and friends and also with the support of the social worker, I faced my fears and gained the courage to enroll in a program for a bachelor's degree at the Western Galilee College... I had great hope and determination to succeed.

*In addition to the tuition there are additional expenses such as a laptop, printer, textbooks, etc. I received assistance from a fund that helps single women. The fund covered most of the tuition for me and in return **I was required to volunteer in the community.***

I decided I am not ashamed to get help from those around me. I enlisted the help of friends and family to care for my daughters. I enlisted the help of my classmates and tutors to help me to successfully complete my assignments. Friends have encouraged and supported me all along and stopped me from quitting school and giving up during times of difficulty and crisis.

Harvest of Asher is partnering with the city of Akko to lend a helping hand to mothers like Hagit.
We appreciate your support and prayers in this matter.

I AM WITH ISRAEL

#IAmWithIsrael

Dear Friends,

The city of Akko, with its ancient walls, castle, moat, underground tunnels and stunning view of the Mediterranean Sea has a dark secret. Akko has hundreds of single mothers, dear women who have been neglected and discarded by society. Such things should not be in the reborn nation of Israel. There are so many broken families, which leads to a cycle of poverty, abuse, neglect and low self-worth.

Pastor Guy Cohen, along with his wife Tali and their Tikkun-related Akko congregation (Harvest of Asher), are working together with the city to help families break out of this vicious cycle. They are embarking on a program to empower single mothers, who find themselves stretched to the breaking point, between the demands of rearing children, maintaining a home and earning a meager income.

Guy, who grew up in Akko, was approached by the city's Social Services Department to assist them, *even though they know he is a believer in Jesus*. The city is developing a pilot program to serve and empower 10 of these women. After three years, these precious moms will have a bachelor's degree to aid them in breaking out of the poverty cycle. Most of them never dreamed they would be able to get a college degree. More importantly, they will be equipped with a skill, whereby they can support their families.

The Social Services Department has the resources to cover technical issues, such as tutoring for the women and childcare for their young children. The municipality has obtained half of the budget, and they have asked Guy if his congregation can help by matching the remaining half of the cost.

The congregation's contribution to the program will only cost \$1,700 annually for each of the 10 women, totaling \$17,000 per year.



I know you love Israel and that you want to see these women rescued. In the process, I know you will be praying from them to find their Messiah. I ask you to go one step further and make a \$25 monthly commitment to this program. We need 58 people to make this commitment and the need will be met! Can these mothers count on you? I know they can!

Just go [here](#) and make your monthly commitment, or use the response card provided. Thank you so much for standing with Israel!

“Until all Israel is saved.” (Romans 11:26)


Ron Cantor
Director, #IamwithIsrael

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PS Pastor Guy and Tali are also eager to match female mentors to each of these 10 Israeli women. If you are interested, please write to guy@hotmail.org.



DONATE HERE




“In those days Yeshua came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. *Immediately* coming up out of the water, He saw the *heavens opening*, and the *Spirit like a dove* descending upon Him...”

Mark 1:9-10

Revive Israel | Tikkun Global

Pentecost/Shavout
שבועות



“...but you will receive *power* when the *Holy Spirit* has come upon you; and you shall be My *witnesses* both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

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