

Israel's Restoration

REVIVE ISRAEL | TIKKUN GLOBAL

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The Rope of Hope



By Paul Wilbur

*“As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.
Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope;
even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.*

(Zechariah 9:11-12)

I recently re-discovered this gem in Zechariah, and although some might focus on the obvious blessing contained in the last few words, I found myself infatuated by the phrase, “prisoners of hope.” The Apostle Paul declared himself to be a “bondslave” of Messiah Yeshua in Romans 1:1. But here, Zechariah says we are tied to this thing called “hope,” by reason of a covenant of blood.

I had always thought, until recently, that hope was kind of like the “red-headed” stepchild of faith. This turns out not to be the case, at least in my mind. We all know the word HOPE is the title of the Israeli national anthem, Hatikvah. But it turns out that word “tikvah” (H8615) has two meanings, and the one meaning of “an expectation” or “an attitude of anticipation” was NOT the primary meaning of the word. Rather, the first definition of hope really surprised me. Strong’s Concordance defined it as “A feminine noun referring to a cord, a line. *It refers to a piece of rope or a cord made of bright red thread...*[e.g.] that Rahab placed in her window.”

Very interesting! Also of note is the color chosen for this signal cord that was hung outside Rahab’s window. The crimson red color with a hint of bright orange was used for several articles found in the Tabernacle of Moses, and it is also the color representing the birthright (as you might remember, the firstborn of every womb, whether man or beast, had to be redeemed with blood, see Exodus 13:12-13).

A cord is not constructed from a single strand. Ecclesiastes 4:12 reminds us that **“Though one may be overpowered ... a cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”**

So my question was: What might be the three strands that make up the rope of hope? *Here’s what I received in prayer:* First, there needs to be a *promise*. Rahab asked the two spies for a promise to save her life, and the lives of her family in exchange for the kindness she had shown them. Second, there must be *patience*. She had to wait patiently for the promise to be fulfilled. And, third, there was an *appointed time* for the promise to come to pass.

While sharing this little insight recently, I began to braid together three lengths of crimson cord. You could clearly see that a single strand was very difficult to grasp and could easily be taken from my hand with very little force. But, by the time I finished the process of braiding the three strands together I had something of substance, which would not easily be taken from me.

And so it is with HOPE. Hold on to the **promise**, as you persevere with **patience** until the **appointed time** when the hope will be fulfilled.

Now you have something to hold on to...the rope of hope.

Season of Change

A time to release and a time to take hold



By **Avi Tekle**

The change of seasons never ceases to amaze me. In Israel, summer is the dominant season. In the long months of sweltering heat, you are in survival mode just trying to keep cool. Then seemingly all of a sudden, in October you notice the air conditioner is no longer ON all the time. Days feel shorter. The temperature is pleasant and a gentle breeze is blowing on your face.

Pay Attention to the Changing Seasons

Trees releasing their leaves are one of the signs of the season changing. Leaves go from green to yellow, orange and red before they finally give up and fall to the ground. This phenomenon of release from the tree is what we call in Israel *shalechet*.

Change in general has its ups and downs. **There are areas we need to let go of and areas we need to take hold of.** The hold vs. release can be a bittersweet experience. Through this process it can feel as if so much is being taken from us. Yet I am reminded of Yeshua's words at the home of Miriam (Mary) and Martha in Luke 10:41-42.

“But answering her, the Lord said, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and bothered about many things; but only one thing is necessary. For Miriam has chosen the good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Just like Miriam, in this season of change, you and I are also called to choose the part which is good, that will remain with us. We must embrace this in order to live in an emotionally healthy manner. When we sit at the feet of the True Source, we are equipped to deal with anything that life may throw at us. Please, do yourself a favor, make sure you are daily connecting with Him, and that your view of life comes through His eyes!

Inspired by Serving

Last month, in celebration of the biblical Fall Feasts, we held a citywide food distribution. We prepared 800 food baskets for needy families, in close partnership with the municipal welfare department. Local volunteers from our congregation and the wider community came to help pack the food. In order to minimize crowds (due to the Covid restrictions), we also needed help delivering the bags to people's homes.



One of the groups that offered their assistance was a “club” of disabled IDF veterans. Of all the volunteers, they struck me as one of the most joyful and available groups of people I have ever encountered! **Even though they all suffered loss and were disabled in the army, somehow they each took hold of serving others as a life goal**, kind of like a tree that dropped its leaves but then grew even more beautiful ones in their place.

I pray that, just like those who eagerly responded to pack and deliver food bags, we may all be ready to serve **“in season and out of season”** (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

As one practical avenue for serving, we warmly invite you to join us, and many wonderful, warm-hearted people in Israel and around the world, in reaching out to these Israelis in need. tikkun.tv/tents-of-mercy-donate-provision

Tents of Mercy Network of Congregations and Humanitarian Aid

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The Time of Our Rejoicing and His Outpouring



By Guy Cohen

We just celebrated the Feast of Sukkot. It is known by many names, including The Feast of Tabernacles, The Time of Our Joy, and Our Time to Rejoice (*Hag Z'man Simchateinu*). Two references to rejoicing can be found regarding Sukkot in Deuteronomy 16:13-17:

“You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress. And you shall rejoice in your feast...the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.”

Another name for Sukkot is the Feast of Ingathering (*Hag Ha-Asif*), as seen in Exodus 23:16.

“The Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.”

There are four things which take place during this ingathering:

- An offering is made to God.
- A portion is given to the poor, the orphans and widows.
- A portion is set aside as food for the upcoming months.
- A portion is sown for the next harvest.

The main point, when giving is that it be done joyfully—realizing that up until now, God has been our Provider and we must trust and have faith that He will continue to provide.

Sukkot is also one of the three pilgrimage festivals, when the nation of Israel is called to go up to Jerusalem, bringing their thank offering (their tithe) to God. In John 7, we read that Yeshua was going up to Jerusalem. What would He have seen while He was there? As mentioned above, people were bringing their offerings to the Temple. In addition, the Levite priests walked down from the Temple to the Pool of Siloam, with music, singing and celebrating as they filled pitchers with water. Then the priests would return to the Temple and pour out the water on the altar. This was done throughout the seven days of Sukkot. When the ceremony was completed, they would ask God to pour out water (rain) over the dry land. This all took place at the end of the dry season, before the beginning of the autumn rains.

Zechariah 14:16-18 clearly explains the consequences of judgment in the last days, of not observing the Feast of Tabernacles by coming to Jerusalem and joyfully bringing our tithe—no rain! In addition to the obvious natural application, we can also see this as a spiritual picture of a lack of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Yeshua says that whoever believes in Him, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water (John 7:37-39). Just as the land of Israel is a dry and thirsty land; so too are the hearts of man. We, the believers in Yeshua, thirst in our hearts for the Word of God, Yeshua. He takes our dry hearts and fills it with Himself, **pouring out** rivers of living water, healing rain, by His Spirit, over a dry and weary land and people.

Who is Seeking Connection?



By Leon Mazin

Dear Friends,

First, I would like to thank you for praying for us and strengthening our hands in the service for the nation of Israel. This past month our country has been in lockdown and your prayers are unbelievably valuable for us right now!

And now, some *word pictures from Hosea regarding our relationship with God:*

The prophet Hosea, who lived around 550 BC, exposed Israel's sin of idolatry—putting other things before Him in their lives. Hosea described this unfaithfulness harshly as *adultery and cheating on God*. Then the tone of voice changes and God says:

**“Therefore, behold, I will allure her,
Will bring her into the wilderness,
And speak comfort to her.
I will give her vineyards from there,
And the Valley of Achor as a door of hope.
She shall sing there,
As in the days of her youth,
As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.”**
(Hosea 2:14-15)

One day, the Lord will turn His people back to Himself, like a faithful husband enticing an unfaithful wife to return.

**“Turn us back to You, O Lord, and we will be restored;
Renew our days as of old.”** (Lamentations 5:21) These words are proclaimed in the traditional Jewish prayer book -Siddur.

Hosea's “*days of her youth*” refers to the time following the Exodus. Even though the Israelites sinned after leaving Egypt, they indeed heard and responded to the “love call” of God. Now the message to Israel, and to us all, is to return to our first love. (Revelation 2:4)

“And it shall be, in that day,” says the Lord, “That you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ And no longer call Me ‘My Master.’” (Hosea 2:16)

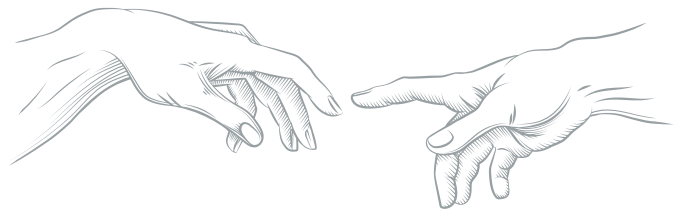
For the words “My husband,” the Hebrew *ishi* is used. It is associated with *ish*—a man, and *isha*—a woman (Genesis 2:23).

This is a prophecy about the restoration of the relationship that Adam lost with God. *God is seeking a deep and intimate connection with His people, like the connection between Adam and Eve at the time of Creation.*

Let's listen to the message of God's Spirit. If we return to Him, that connection can fill us today!

I wish you blessings from the Lord and a personal bond with Him. We are in prayer for your spiritual and physical well being in the name of Yeshua!

Leon and Nina Mazin



What is in my Heart?



By Eitan Shishkoff

“And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the desert, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”
(Deuteronomy 8:2-3)

What IS in my heart? During our 40 years of wandering in the wilderness our hearts were exposed—by the hardships, the sense of deprivation, and the unknown next steps. We had to trust in the God who led us out of Egypt. How telling that our Father, who liberated us from the chains of our slavery, *led us into a dry place to see what is in our heart!*

Does some of this sound familiar? Are we not passing through what feels like an unprecedented desert season, without the ability to know what is ahead? Are we experiencing the exposure of our hearts—insecurity, fear, confusion, impatience, complaining? Does the experience of the Israelites in the wilderness hold valuable guidance for us, to equip us—to empower us?

Indeed, press fast forward 3400 years, and God is still teaching us about trusting Him. During the just-concluded Feast of Tabernacles/*Sukkot*, we “dwelled” for seven days in temporary shelters (*sukkot*) next to our homes. In this way we remember our dependence on Him. How compelling that we must now learn the same lesson, due to a worldwide pandemic that is affecting all of our daily lives.

A Plague of the Heart?

A strange reference during Solomon’s dedication of the Temple further touches on this question: “What is in my heart?”

“When there is famine in the land, pestilence or ... whatever plague or whatever sickness there is; ... [when] supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spreads out his hands toward this temple: then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men).” (1 Kings 8:38-39)

So there are outward plagues (like the Corona virus) and there are inner plagues (like arrogance, un-forgiveness, jealousy and covetousness). In our concern about the outward plague currently troubling the globe, are we giving sufficient attention to the inner plague—in our hearts?

May we come before the Holy One, as Solomon did, presenting ourselves, calling upon Him in our most earnest prayer—for His cleansing. It is time to rededicate our own body as the Lord’s temple—cleansed of any plague, joyfully trusting in His provision as we travel through the world’s current “desert.”

Feed Tel Aviv – Street Stories

A Surprising Holy Spirit Moment



By Moti Cohen

Each week we are on the streets in south Tel Aviv, handing out food and ministering to the poorest of the poor in our nation – drug addicts, those enslaved in the sex industry, and those who have simply fallen on hard times.

Each week I encounter people whose stories would break your heart. Each week God touches someone in an amazing way. I would like to share about a man I met on the street who *shares my name, Moti*. My experience with Moti deeply impacted me and the volunteers who were there serving with me that day.

On Thursday we started our weekly food distribution handing out sandwiches and drinks where the addicts are. I approached a thin man who was sitting against a building who looked exhausted. I asked him if he wanted something to eat. “Yes,” he replied. “I haven’t eaten in two days.”

I gave him two sandwiches and sat with him while he ate. I asked him his name, and he said, “Moti.” I told him that is my name too and asked him how he is doing. “If you want to know the truth,” he told me, “I don’t want to live anymore. In fact, I have been asking God to just take me.”



Moti shared with me his story, which, sadly, is the story I have heard from so many who end up on the streets. He had a job, a home, a family, and then he became addicted to drugs. In the clutches of his addiction, he lost everything: his job, his home, all his money, all his possessions, and his family too.

“My family tried to help me. But then I would steal from them to be able to buy more drugs,” he sighed. “I lost everything. Now I’m on the street, and I just want God to take me.”

“So, if you want God to take your life,” I asked him, “why don’t you give your life to God?” I started to share with Moti the message of the gospel when he stopped me:

“I’ve heard it before. I know all about Yeshua,” he told me.

Somewhat skeptical, I asked him:

“Okay, tell me what you know.”

Moti started telling me that the Hebrew prophets spoke of the suffering servant Messiah who would come and give his life for the people, that Yeshua came as the Messiah, lived a perfect righteous life, was crucified and rose again, and that His blood is the atonement for our sins.

He absolutely knew the Gospel! I asked him if he wanted to pray and give his life to Yeshua. Moti said yes, but when I asked him to pray after me, he said, “No, I need to pray from my heart.”

At that moment, Moti closed his eyes and started praying: he cried out to God, thanking Him for forgiveness through Yeshua, asking Yeshua to come into his life. I and those who were with me felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as he prayed. It was one of the most powerful moments I have ever experienced in all my years serving on the streets. Moti gave his life to Yeshua there on the street.

We prayed for him, gave him the contact information of drug rehabilitation centers run by believers and encouraged him to go. I haven’t seen Moti since, but I pray for him often and invite you to do so as well.

Please consider supporting the Feed Tel Aviv outreach program: tikkun.tv/feed-south-tel-aviv-partner/

Thank you!

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Revive Israel Discipleship Testimony



By Tal Haroni

How were a bunch of young fishermen and a tax collector transformed so much that they said of them, *“Here are the people who came to transform the world”* (Acts 17:6)?

The answer: They were with Jesus!

After 40 days (only) we were privileged to also see a transformation starting in four young adults in our discipleship program, and even in us as staff facilitators as well.

We at Revive Israel love to ask regarding Israelis, *“How it is possible to influence the faith life of young people and others toward Messiah King. How can we live daily life walking with Yeshua in the Holy Spirit?”*

Precisely now, during the Covid/Corona crisis, when many of the young people don't have work, it is a good time to invest in the life of faith. And four young people responded to God's call in their lives and agreed to be the first crew of participant disciples in our **new discipleship platform**.

We called the program “40 Days of Fire.” The “fire” was spiritual - to be baptized in the fire, to let God touch us and purify us (I Peter 1: 7). And it was also physical ;). Several days a week the disciples worked outside in the hot summer weather. Using picks, shovels and rakes they prepared rocky terraces for growing vegetables. This physical farm-type work was a platform for practical service and for God to work in hearts.

We all made room in our schedules to seek Yeshua together, to serve, eat, laugh and praise together, and listen to one another. To embrace each other in our hearts. No compromises, no walls. We decided to be transparent. We did not look down on the disciples. We were one family.

The spiritual mother and father of the program, Valerie and Yuval led us with love, patience and kindness, often in their own living room. Brothers and sisters on the team took up responsibilities, just like an extended family. Yeshua came and changed each of us, touched our hearts, and challenged us. Each of us passed through fiery trials. We all leaned on each other.

The staff and students testified that God was at work. One of the girls told me recently, *“If I hadn't committed to this discipleship process, I would probably have quit on myself.”* As a result of the program, she believes more in herself and in God who is able to act in her life. Another student, who was more introverted, has begun sending her friends verses and words of encouragement. Although she is shy, she allowed herself to be filmed, and testified to what God did in her life during this discipleship. One participant testified that he was strengthened and found it very easy to connect to the presence of God. Another disciple testified: *“thanks to the students I have matured spiritually, and I grasp the grace of the Lord more deeply.”* New friendships were formed.

I would like to say “Thank you” to all our partners in prayer and funding. Thanks to you we have been privileged to see a miracle happen before our eyes. People are changing more into the image of God and taking further steps into who God intended them to be.

We also thank all the Bible teachers and others who helped in the process. We could not have done it without you. Every teacher who came and shared gave the young people more hope and strength. Your variety showed that there is hope for unity in the body of Messiah.

We can work together for the kingdom of God!



I AM WITH ISRAEL

Dear Friends,

Did you know that one of the Tikkun affiliate ministries in northern Israel is reaching out to at-risk children and youth in the Haifa area? Just like anywhere, underprivileged youth and children in Israel need a helping hand to keep them from traps of poverty, addictions and juvenile delinquency.

Leon and his wife, Nina, have a burden to meet this need. They have been reaching out to hundreds of these kids for 10 years now. They do it through Rainbow of Sounds, a school of music and arts sponsored by Shavei Tzion – Return to Zion Congregation in Haifa. Their vision is to keep poor kids off of the city streets and to develop their gifts and talents. Part of the fruit born is a **practical witness for many unbelieving families in Haifa and also the equipping of young, upcoming “Levitical musicians” who are already becoming a vital part of worship teams** in several congregations, including a local Arabic-speaking congregation.

Other than the two lockdown periods of several weeks, this special outreach has managed to stay open even during these last months of Covid-19 restrictions. During the lockdowns they even did some online “zoom” teaching. As I am writing this letter, Israel is beginning to lift the second lockdown and Leon and Nina will soon be opening their music school doors again.

Unfortunately, the economic crisis caused by parents losing their jobs due to the Covid-19 closures has affected enrollment. Even though they are continuing to teach, Rainbow of Sounds has seen a drop in the number of kids applying for the program.

Would you please consider supporting Leon and Nina in this outreach? Your gifts will help pay the salaries of the music teachers and even enable the school to temporarily increase the standard 50% discount currently given to students’ families.

Thank you so much for your prayers, support and friendship,

Asher Intrater, President
Tikkun Global & Revive Israel



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