

ISRAEL'S RESTORATION

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PREPARE!

What we thought was good enough,
will not be sufficient for what is before us.

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"For the restoration of all things." (Acts 3:21)
"Tikkun" in Hebrew means restoration.

TIKKUN ADMIN. OFFICE
P.O. Box 535157 | Grand Prairie, TX 75053
T: 301.695.1315 E: info@tikkunglobal.org



Called to the Frontlines



By **Sarah Gerloff**

Many of our loved ones have been called up to serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as reservists. They have been sent to Gaza, the northern border or elsewhere in the country to bolster the standing army. As a wife and sister to these brave ones risking their lives, I believe we are *ALL called to the frontlines of the spiritual battle*. Not one soldier that I know is glad to be in this war; we didn't look for it or want it. But the duty has fallen to them in this hour to fight forces of evil and death on the ground, and our place is to back them on the spiritual battleground. Just as in Israel's ancient battle against Amalek:

"...when Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed." (Exodus 17:10)

Let's raise our hands for the spiritual victory against forces like Amalek, to be manifested on the ground through the IDF's physical victory.

There are more Messianic soldiers in the IDF today than ever before – between hundreds to a thousand. Each one of them carries Yeshua with them into the darkness. Here are a few prayer points for them:

1. To be a purifying critical mass, affecting the entire army:

"For if the first-fruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches." (Romans 11:16)

This isn't glorifying the IDF or justifying its every action. For sure, every soldier (just like us) is an imperfect human who makes mistakes, and war is a messy, complicated thing sometimes with no "right" option. However, we can pray for the Holy Spirit to use the "yeast" of these believers to affect and purify all the wider decisions made by the army.

2. For the kingdom of God to come in every place touched by the sole of their foot, the wheel of their jeep or the treads of their tanks:

"Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon, I have given to you." (Joshua 1:3)

3. For physical, spiritual, and emotional protection, including mental healing from war-related trauma.

"For He will command His angels over you, to keep you in all your ways." (Psalm 91:11)

4. For wisdom and alertness: After over a month, many are weary and need refreshment, mentally and physically. Many have not had the opportunity to grieve and process their losses. Pray for them to be led by the Holy Spirit even in tiredness and under stress, and for their faith to be renewed and strong. Not only in the IDF, but also the government needs wisdom from heaven for military strategy and long term solutions.

5. For success and victory: As in the battles of ancient Israel, for the Lord of Hosts and angelic armies to go before us and win the victory. This is NOT a war between Arabs and Jews, or Israel and Gaza. This is a war between light and darkness, forces of evil and death; and we want to join Yeshua's side as the commander of the armies of the Lord (Joshua 5:14). Let's pray for a quick, effective victory that saves as many lives as possible, and overcomes Islamic jihadism, for the Middle East and the whole world.

6. For a heart of mercy in the midst of judgement:

"In wrath remember mercy." (Habakkuk 3:2)

When the Lord used nations to punish other nations, He judged them for the degree they misused His authority and acted out of anger or revenge. Let's pray for a heart of love and compassion, especially for those directly interacting with the other side, that they would reflect the Lord's heart and bring the Gospel.



...So striking it almost felt staged



By Hannah Tekle

Arab-Israeli Dental Clinic in War Time

We waited impatiently outside the dentist office. “He’ll be right back,” the secretary had promised us when we arrived.

After a few minutes Dr. Basel appeared, holding a supermarket bag bursting with treats and snacks. The little girl holding his hand was grinning from ear to ear. He welcomed us in a warm and relaxed way as if we had come to visit him at his home in Nazareth and not at his elegantly styled modern clinic in the middle of suburban “Kriyot” where I live.

Once we were inside the treatment room, an assistant came in. While she responded to his wordless sign-language request for the tools he needed, the white haired Arab-Israeli dentist explained:

“She’s only been here for 6 months from Ukraine, a [Jewish] war refugee. She doesn’t yet speak Hebrew, so we don’t have a common language, but we understand each other perfectly.”

Dr. Basel had agreed to employ this dental assistant whom the other [Jewish] clinics had not wanted. The little girl, who we had speculated was his granddaughter, was actually the Ukrainian assistant’s daughter, and his grandfatherly concern was only that she enjoy the ice cream he had bought for her.

While the TV in the waiting room buzzed quietly with ongoing war news, the Arab and Jewish staff moved about the clinic purposefully as clients came in and out, receiving service and warm attention from Dr. Basel. As my daughter was being treated, I chatted with the other dental assistant, a Muslim woman also from Nazareth. We joked about the crazy traffic in Nazareth, and she warmly recommended that we visit while the town is garbed in full Christmas attire.

Walking out of the clinic at the end of the last treatment, I thanked Irena the Jewish secretary and Ismahan, the Arab assistant. The feeling of community and cultural collectivity was tangible.

Social media and news feeds tell us that this is a war between “us” and “them,” between Jews and Arabs; but regular day-to-day Israeli life proves otherwise. While social justice is far from perfect in our tiny country, democracy is alive and well and is shining even brighter against the darkness revealed on October 7th. The casualties we are mourning and the heroes we are celebrating, cover the gamut of Israeli demographics. Among the kidnapped are: Sephardic and Ashkenazi; Jewish, Muslim and Christian; religious and secular; native born Jews and Arabs; and international migrant workers.

What the world doesn’t understand is that our daily lives as Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs are inextricably intertwined – like two gnarly vines whose stems have grown in and around each other. Avoiding engagement and interaction between Jews and Arabs here in Israel would be ridiculous, impossible. We live, study and work together in peace. Is it perfect? No. Is there resentment on occasion? Yes. Could it be better? Yes. However, Israeli society is one that is always seeking to make things better. Do we enjoy and engage in one another’s traditions? Yes.

This war is not about us and them. We wrestle not against flesh and blood. This war is about *evil forces working against peace and freedom*, working against divinely-inspired mutual honor and respect native to this area of the world. This war is about the enemy’s incessant attempt to derail God’s plan for all the world to be blessed through Abraham.

Children’s Dichotomy

In the first weeks of the war, school was cancelled. And then gradually, kids were sent back to school or diverted to online learning by areas: red (unsafe/evacuated areas), yellow (caution areas) or green (safe areas). Initially our area was yellow and the kids settled into remote study from home - “Covid style”.

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Tents of Mercy Network of Congregations and Humanitarian Aid

P.O. Box 1018 Kiryat Yam 29109 Israel | Tel: +972 (4) 877-7921 | E: admin@tentsofmercy.org | tentsofmercy.org



God's Response to Enemy Threats



By **Guy Cohen**

As a boy growing up in the Israeli Orthodox Jewish school system, every morning we would sing Moses' "Song of the Sea" from Exodus 15. For the last few days, the words spoken by the Enemy in verse 9 have been on my mind:

**"The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil; My desire shall be satisfied on them.
I will draw my sword, My hand shall destroy them.'"**

The next verses state God's response. When we are under the Lord's protection, the plans of the enemy will sink into the sea:

**"You blew with Your wind, The sea covered them;
They sank like lead in the mighty waters.
Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?
...You in Your mercy have led forth
The people whom You have redeemed;
You have guided them in Your strength
To Your holy habitation.
The people will hear and be afraid;
Sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia."**

[Modern day Gaza occupies the very same strip of coastland as Philistia.]

Throughout history, Satan has incited nations to violence against Israel. Since October 7th, Israel has over 1200 dead, over 5,000 wounded and 240 hostages. At first it appeared as if the enemy was 100% successful in its surprise attack. However, Israel stopped the incursion and went on the offensive. It is now Israel's duty to return the innocent hostages taken from the place where they should have been safe and secure, their lives and homes violated.

My brothers, it appears that here in the Middle East the rules are different than in the rest of the world. Peace can only be achieved after you have been victorious over your enemy. Moreover, I believe that any peace which comes after this war is still only temporary.



Painting by Bridgman © 1900 Public Domain

Israel has invaded Gaza with the goal of destroying every obstacle just as David did in order to free all who were taken by the Amalekites in Ziklag. [By the way Ziklag is at the edge of the area invaded by Hamas on October 7.]

We will go after every captive in the way that Abraham took back Lot, his nephew from the hands of the ten kings. It was not a negotiation of kind words, but a tactical invasion of the enemy camp (Genesis 14:14-16).

Israel understood then and now that we need to go in and bring our precious ones home. Even though we know the price will be heavy. This war will not be short because there is an even bigger enemy waiting on our northern border. Although we continue to battle on our southern front in Gaza, we must not let down our guard. We must remain sharp, keeping our eyes not only on the northern border but on all of the surrounding seven nations that are waiting for the moment of our weakness.

Please pray for us to be able to strengthen the believers and show God's love to our community. Israel's citizens are going through hard times – with husbands, sons and daughters serving on the front lines, daily rocket sirens and the fear of another ground invasion. Pray that we will succeed in bringing comfort to His People.

Harvest of Asher Congregation

Bornstein Moshe 11, Akko, Israel | Tel: +972 4-991-5487 | E: harvestofasher@hoamail.org | harvestofasher.org



War Report

By Leon Mazin

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Messiah Yeshua,

Shalom! As you know, Israel continues to wage war on multiple fronts, and we at Shavei Tzion are doing our best to support our military and our country.

With over 300,000 IDF reservists called up, there is a constant need for hot meals, personal hygiene products, warm clothing and supplies for living/sleeping outside and even additional tactical gear. Every week members of our congregation, with the help of donations from overseas friends, buy the soldiers needed items and make hot meals for them.

Recently we hosted an unusual workshop at our ministry center. This time the speakers shared neither biblical truths nor Israeli history. War dictates new topics and new goals. Tourniquets and medical kits were the main visual aids for this workshop. Young volunteers from the US shared their professional medical knowledge and invited all the participants to practice after the theoretical lesson. We hope that the knowledge gained will save lives in the future.

Shavei Tzion also continues to provide hot meals for people who live in a nearby home for the elderly. Some have no families here in Israel, and they are happy to have tasty homemade food once a week. It is a blessing to bless them as well as new immigrants from Ukraine, Russia and other countries who continue to arrive.

We are also happy to inform you that our new daughter congregation, "Living Light" - recently planted in a Haifa suburb, is now holding services. We are sure that it will bring light, hope, God's love, and truth to its surroundings. We ask you to pray for them to bring much fruit and glory to our Heavenly Father.

Your prayers and intercession are needed and appreciated. Please pray for our government and army, for the hostages to return home as soon as possible, and especially for the soldiers from "Shavei Zion" as we believe that for their sake God will protect and save the lives of those who are fighting together with them (Acts 27:23-24).

"See, darkness covers the earth and thick fog is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you." (Isaiah 60:2)

During these weeks of war we see how the fog of fake news, anti-Semitism, rumors and uncertainty hinder truth. We live in northern Israel, where there have been fewer sirens and rockets. Nevertheless, the rumors of war approaching in the north are not comforting. The United States has been greatly supportive, even stationing two aircraft carriers and a submarine nearby to deter our enemies. But fanatics are not easily intimidated, especially religious fanatics wanting to gain glory and paradise.

Questions without answers abound. Will we really topple Hamas' rule? What about the hostages? How will the families of the many victims rebuild their lives? What were Hamas leaders thinking? Their desire to provoke conflict has created a scenario in which their fellow Gazans are suffering greatly. Unfortunately, to my horror, innocents are paying the price of our war to uproot Hamas.

God, comfort your people! Cause all men to fear You. Cause truth to triumph.

"But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend, I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you..."

"All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all.

"For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."

(Isaiah 41:8-16)

Return to Zion Congregation

11 Tel Aviv St. Haifa, Israel | Tel: +972 4-851-0876 | Email: info@shaveitzion.org | shaveitzion.org



Overhearing my son's 10th grade language class from the computer, I noticed the teacher ask about the human complexities of the war and urge the kids to explore their own thoughts and opinions. "The poor innocent civilians in Gaza are not to blame for the atrocities of the Hamas. At the same time, we as a nation have a right and a duty to defend our citizens," she said and prodded them to offer their own thoughts in a well-reasoned opinion composition. In those first weeks, the news was



on constantly in our home. At the very moment my son was hearing a message of tolerance from his teacher, there was a program on TV that was showing how anti-Semitic, hate propagandist is systematically taught to the children in Gaza. The difference was *so striking it almost felt staged*. I was simultaneously sad for my son and the young generation who have to engage in such a complex reality – and yet immeasurably proud to belong to a country that holds human life so precious that we risk our own safety and freedom to protect innocent civilians in Gaza while defending ourselves. And at the same time we educate our children to that end.

Two Expressions

The **dental clinic** visit and the **children's dichotomy** bring to mind two expressions thrown around a lot currently in Israeli society: "Hatred for no reason" (*sin'at hinam*) and "Love for no reason" (*ahavat hinam*). In Genesis God promises Abraham that "in [him] all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). We know that the fulfillment of this verse is ultimately realized in the person of Yeshua who embodies entirely the expression "Love for no reason."

The scenario here in the Middle East, in southern Israel and Gaza; is impossible on every level, the suffering horrendous. However, the divine plan will not be deterred. Through Abraham's seed all nations of the world will be blessed. The victory won on Calvary will be revealed.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers!

Bringing Love to our Soldiers and the Displaced

Thank you for your warm and generous response in Israel's time of need. You have made it possible for Tents of Mercy to do so much already! To participate in our ongoing ministry to IDF soldiers and displaced Israeli families, please use the enclosed response card or the online donation options below.



High Altitude Bombers



By Jonah

Israel Air Force

This war caught me off guard. It was difficult for me as a leader to digest that this was really happening. What atrocities! I have friends in the IDF and police forces who have already fallen in this war. I asked God many questions. He took me to this verse:

“For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the *high places*.” (Ephesians 6:12)

The real enemy is not human, not Hamas, not the PLO. This battle is not something that Israeli soldiers can win on their own. This is spiritual warfare. We have a role as children of God in this war – to fight in prayer, to stand guard and give protection in God’s name against these spirits, to support the Israeli armed forces.

In the same breath I also received this verse:

“David said to the Philistine, ‘You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.’” (1 Samuel 17:45 NIV)

We fight in the name of the Lord. God has not forgotten us despite what happened, and He continues to fight with us now and in the future.

This is our war strategy at Ahavat Yeshua Congregation and it applies in other countries as well. You all have a role in intercession no matter where you are. Keep praying and stay on your guard. Together we will win!



Ahavat Yeshua Congregation in Jerusalem

Connect with us at tikkunglobal.org/ahavat-yeshua



Dear Family of God,

The atrocities committed in Israel on Oct 7th by the evil Hamas terror organization have left the people of Israel in extreme pain, shock and trauma. These were the worst attacks on Jews since World War II. Many Jews in Israel and around the world feel that we have been thrown back 80 years, as Jews were kidnapped, tortured, raped and slaughtered for hours without any defense.

As if this was not enough, anti-Semitism is raging in places like the USA, Britain, France, Germany, and other Western nations. Israelis are getting daily reports of Jew hatred in the Western world, of public figures voicing heartless anti-Israel opinions, some failing even to condemn the Oct 7th massacre or mention the 240 hostages held by Hamas.

We are seeing demonstrations around the world, joined by many non-Muslims, accusing Israel of war crimes against the people in Gaza (a Satanic lie), demanding that Israel immediately cease the war against Hamas (meaning Israel should surrender and allow Hamas to come back one day with more horrors), and even proclaiming that Palestine should be freed “from the river to the sea” (a chant which means the total eradication of Israel, most probably by the same means Hamas used on Oct 7th).

In the midst of it all, believers in Yeshua in Israel, have hope that God is using this crisis to soften and turn hearts to Him, to remove the veil and save many to eternal life in our Lord Yeshua. We also see how in this darkness, the love and support of Christians around the world shines brightly, showing Israelis that believers in Yeshua are dependable friends who will stand by them in loving solidarity.

For that purpose, we want to share as much content as possible showing Christians from around the world standing with Israel. We ask you to consider initiating or joining pro-Israel rallies or public expressions of support for Israel. Take videos and pictures, and share them with us. Video clips expressing support for Israel will be the most impactful. We will distribute them in Israel on social media so they can reach many Israelis to encourage and, above all, give honor and glory to our Lord Yeshua!

tiferetcontact@gmail.com



Tiferet Yeshua Congregation in Tel Aviv

Connect with us at tiferetyeshua.org



Prepare!



By Tal Ruben

What we thought was good enough, will not be sufficient for what is before us.

Israel thought the hi-tech fence on the Gaza border was secure and there was no chance our foes could get in. Yet it happened. The enemy broke through. The barrier was not good enough.

During the first week of the war, we did not go out to tend the Revive Israel farm. Upon our return we discovered that hedgehogs had entered. In spite of the sturdy periphery fence, the animals managed to dig a tunnel under the gate. They damaged vegetable beds and got into the chicken feed. We had to replant many vegetables and pour protective concrete barriers. Now we check the whole fence every working day.

As if we needed the message to be any more clear, this minor incident serves as an *added parable of warning* – BOTH regarding the security situation of in Israel; but ALSO about our readiness as the body of Messiah corporately, internationally and individually. Every believer needs to understand that his or her faith condition, which until today we assumed was fine, a safe protection – needs to be re-examined. Maybe it's not invulnerable. Maybe the "fence" is not actually strong enough and can be easily breached by the enemy.

"Stay alert! Watch out! Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, searching for someone to devour. Stand up against him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being laid upon your brothers and sisters throughout the world." (1 Peter 5:8-9 TLV)

When you go through the troubles that exist in the world, hold on to the hope of resurrection life and the assurance of ultimate divine justice.

On the other hand prepare, according to the parables of Yeshua in Matthew 24 and 25 about being found faithful. Will you be a faithful servant with what is entrusted to you? Be watchful and alert. Don't assume that everything will continue to be as it has been.

Be faithful before the Lord. Are you ready for His return?

Be prepared regarding the enemy. Are you ready to ward off his attacks?

I encourage each of us to persevere during this time, to understand that this war is not only within the borders of Israel. It affects the spiritual state of everyone the enemy is trying to eliminate. From the beginning of time he has been a murderer, liar and thief; those who act in that manner are being used by the enemy.

Wake up, prepare and stand firm until the end.

Prayer Point:

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear." (Isaiah 59:1)

The people of Israel experienced a great tragedy. Everyone is affected by the events of October 7th. Death was close at hand and still is. It raises the question of what happens to us once we die. Where do we go? Though it's a tough season, the hearts of people are softening and many are more receptive to hearing the Gospel. *They're looking for answers. They're searching for something bigger to hold on to.* We know that Yeshua is the answer and that the arm of the Lord is not too short to save!

Pray with us for the people of Israel to find what they are looking for, to knock on the doors of heaven so they will be opened. May the veil be removed, their eyes opened to the truth of Yeshua, and may they be saved.

