

# ISRAEL'S RESTORATION

*Commemorative Issue*

## Reaching You From Zion:

Celebrating Three Decades of Connecting Monthly

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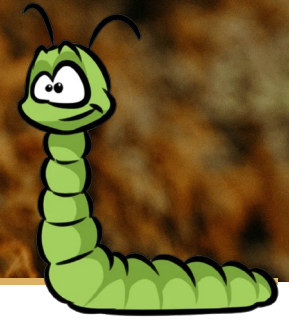
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# Worm Identity



By **Asher Intrater**



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Yeshua calls us to “follow after” Him. Among other things, that means to be “conformed to His image” (Romans 8:29). We become like Him as our divine image from creation in Adam is restored to us (Genesis 1:26).

Being conformed to His image is a lifelong process with high and low points. Through it all we are called to walk in deep humility and ultimately to be glorified with Him as other “sons” to our heavenly Father (Hebrews 2:10).

When I think of cross-like humility, I think of “worm” identity:

*“I am a **worm** and not a person, the disgrace of man and despised of the people” (Psalm 22:6)*

וְאֲנֹכִי תוֹלַעַת וְלֹא אִישׁ חֲרָפַת אָדָם וּבְזוּי עָם: תהילים כב' 6

Psalm 22 is well-known as a prophetic image of the Messiah crucified – describing the greatest moment of sacrificial love and faith in history. The expression, “I am a worm,” is a spiritual reflection of how Yeshua would have felt as the weakest and lowliest of creatures.

Often when we have lowly feelings, we think we are missing God. David felt so low on a personal level that he could only compare himself to a worm. Yet this is in fact an exhortation reminding us to walk faithfully in praise and obedience, even amidst severe humiliation and rejection

This might sound depressing. However, our miserable experiences may later be seen as positive from the perspective of eternity. Feeling good is not actually the measure of spirituality and true godliness. We are to have victorious faith, but that is not the same thing as “self-confidence.” A moment of eternal victory can have the immediate, temporary feeling of “being a worm.”

At times of lowliness, we should yield ourselves to the Lord. Remember, Joseph was in a dungeon in Egypt until he was suddenly raised up. We can only be raised up high to the degree we trust God in the low times.

Another important consideration is that when everything is going well, we tend to forget God; and when we are going through difficulty, we cling ever more closely to Him. **That’s the secret: not the high place or the low place, but the intimacy with God.** Since we can be just as close to God in lowly times as high times, we should receive them with equanimity. Whether high or low, in need or in plenty, in comfort or attack, our desire is to share the experience with the Lord (Philippians 4:12). That is our measure of victory.

Many of the early disciples were crucified by evil people to mock their faith. Yet *they considered it an honor and privilege to share Yeshua’s experience* (John 21:18). That’s being “more than a conqueror” (Romans 8:37). The word *tola’at* (worm) throughout Scripture can also refer to the color scarlet or crimson. This type of worm would produce a beautiful deep-red dye used in the priests’ garment and the tabernacle weaving. Is there a metaphorical lesson for us in the lowly position of the worm that becomes the glorious color of the priesthood?

This imagery also brings to mind the caterpillar. It begins as a lowly worm-like being. Then it goes into a semi-death stage in the cocoon. Finally, it is transformed into a beautiful butterfly, fluttering in the sky. Likewise, we humble ourselves, join with Yeshua in His death, and receive the promise of resurrection.

God is so good and so powerful. Even during the worst worm-like experiences, we can embrace the situation, and let God raise us from the lowliest to the highest. You may feel like a worm, but let God transform the worm into dazzling glory.



# Reaching You From Zion:

Celebrating Three Decades of Connecting Monthly



By **Eitan Shishkoff**



Thirty years ago we had no idea that this publication would endure, expand, and extend our words across the globe. I'm amazed and humbled to reflect on what God has done by bringing us together – using the simplicity of a “newsletter” – to create entire congregations, ministries to the poor, and raising up disciples of Yeshua in His land, Israel.

So, I thought it would encourage our faith for the significant days ahead, to reflect on the privilege you've given us. Spanning thirty years and well over 1000 articles, we have expressed our hopes and dreams for Israel's end-time awakening to Yeshua as our Messiah. You have allowed us to share our lives with you and God has joined our hearts in His prophesied plans at the climax of history!

## How It Began

In 1993, my family and I had just made *aliyah*. We settled in Haifa, on Israel's northern coast, from all the way across the world – Maryland, USA. Only a few short months after our arrival, I accompanied my wife Connie to the *maternity ward on Mt. Carmel* for the birth of our youngest child – the first native Israeli “*sabra*” in the family.

Just a half year earlier, Asher Intrater and his wife Betty had likewise moved here from abroad, bringing their four young children to live in Jerusalem. Our families joined millions on the epic journey of return prophesied by Moses, Isaiah and God's prophets through the ages.

The Intraters and Shishkoffs had been sent out from the US by the “Tikkun” family of congregations. We were “returning from the diaspora” with our families. Our prayerful longing was to play whatever part God would put before us in the broader saga of restoration and redemption here in Israel, prophesied repeatedly in the Hebrew scriptures.

*“For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness.” (Ezekiel 36:24-29 NIV)*

From our Messianic roots in the States, the “Tikkun Israel” contingent grew to include the Morrisons, Chopinskys, Santoros, Justers, Cantors and many others. In full partnership with you, over ten Tikkun-associated congregations and ministries have been planted and/or fostered during the ensuing years in the Galilee as well as the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv corridor, impacting literally thousands of lives.

## Joining in Mutual Faith for Restoration Both in Israel and in All Nations

Asher and I, together with Dan Juster, began serving you on the pages of this publication, a year before our move. We wanted to be a joint voice, lifted up from Israel. Already, we had been long-time partners in Messianic Jewish ministry in the greater Washington DC area. With fellow teammates, we adopted the name “Tikkun.” In Hebrew, the word means repairing or restoring. Hence, the title of this publication became “Israel's Restoration.”

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# Give Us A King



By **Guy Cohen**

In 1 Samuel 8, the nation of Israel came to Samuel the prophet and asked him to anoint a man as king over Israel, like all the other nations had. Samuel took their request to the Lord with a heavy heart. The Lord's response was that the people were not rejecting Samuel, but they had rejected God and God's rule over them.

From that day on, many kings ruled over the nation of Israel and the tribe of Judah. The majority of them ruled exactly as God warned that they would. *Instead of serving the people, the kings controlled the country and people for their own benefit and interests.*

Throughout history, we see kings and rulers set themselves above their subjects in order to use them, their land, the fruit of their labor and their very lives. Most ruled as if the blood in their veins was different from that of the common person – noble, “blue” blood.

Unfortunately, even today we see this type of leadership. Governments are elected, chosen by and for the people, but *not truly for the benefit of the people. We see a lot of people running for office but not for truly serving the people.* From the beginning, they were called to serve the people, yet most fail to do so.

**What is our role as followers of King Yeshua?**

*We are called to intercede for God to impact our flawed human governments, and ultimately for the Kingdom of Heaven to subsume the kingdoms of the earth.*

The King of the Kingdom of Heaven dwells in every follower of Yeshua. May His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We pray that Yeshua the King of Kings, son of the most high God, come and bring His Kingdom, where peace and justice will reign. *“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”* (Romans 14:17).

That is what is missing from the hearts of man throughout the earth. That's what mankind really yearns for earthly kingdoms to provide.

With this in mind, we ask you to join us in praying together for the State of Israel's newly elected government, flawed as it might be, in accordance with Paul's instructions in 1 Timothy 2:1-2,

*“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”*



# Mysterious Members



By **Leon Mazin**

Thank you for being with us throughout 2022. With your support, we were able to serve the Lord effectively in Israel!

Passing into the New Year, we feel the importance of the words of Yeshua, who commanded:

***“When the Holy Spirit descends on you, you will receive strength and will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”*** (Acts 1:8)

Albeit, Abraham had begun a form of “evangelistic” witness which continued from Israel in various forms to the nations regarding the one true God. This included David and Solomon building a “court of the Gentiles” at the Temple. Still, the people of Israel, lacked maturity and strength to fully carry out this divine plan.

Then Yeshua, the Son of God, died and rose again. Through Him, the power of Holy Spirit witness was released in Israel. This gave believers the ability to reach out to closed hearts. This gave pagans – who had strayed from the truth in their delusions – the ability to repent and turn to the truth, together with Israel to follow the path of God's promises, to become children of God, walking in the Light of the Messiah.

In recent weeks in the congregation, we have been studying Ephesians. Paul says:

***“...you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations... through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body ... in Christ Jesus.”*** (Ephesians 3:4-6 NIV)

Paul's simple words to the Ephesians encourage us to stand in simplicity and modesty, and to develop what each of us has been given as joint heirs and various members of one body.

For some it is prayer. For some it is words of encouragement for others. This is not about being a “high achiever” as various motivational-coaches teach non-stop. This is the realization of God's gifts for the benefit of the community. We each cooperate with the Messiah and fulfill our destiny. This seems too simple, but it is what the Lord expects from each of us, and He turns it into the power that changes the world around us.

Our prayer for everyone in 2023 is that they may step into their various personal gifts, revealing the Spirit of the Messiah in themselves and, through their good deeds, bringing and proclaiming the Light of the Messiah to others!





The concept of tikkun-restoration extends even beyond the miracle of rehabilitation for this specific stiff-necked people Israel, to include **restoring the world and mankind**, “*tikkun olam*.” This is a biblically-inspired concept going back in Judaism that points to the prophetic realization that God is in the process of restoring and redeeming humanity and even creation itself (Romans 8). Tikkun aims to cooperate with God in His restoration of the children of Jacob and of all nations. That’s why you also see the term *Tikkun Global* – whether it be for mutual faith-filled intercession between Israel and the nations, or balanced Hebraic teaching, personal relationships, live broadcasts, etc. By God’s grace alone, we seek to be “*a global family contending for revival and restoration – from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria to the ends of the earth and back again.*”

### “Ancient” History – Just Before the Internet

It’s hard to imagine, but three decades ago email was a brand new concept. The first major search engines such as Google had yet to be launched. Facebook and YouTube were still a decade away, and smartphones were not even a distant dream.

So, we started with snail mail, and many of you have indicated that you still enjoy the token of physical connection between us that the printed pages provide. In this cyber era, the “magazine” also goes out via email and websites. The initial team of writers has grown to

include the second generation of leaders who are now directly responsible in a day-to-day manner for all the Tikkun-related initiatives and ministries here in Israel. Our original aim was to inform, instruct, inspire, and involve you. These goals continue to motivate all of us, month after month, to share what God has placed on our hearts.

As founding editor, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the vast number of contributing writers (whom I shall not even attempt to name) as well as editorial and graphic layout staff that worked at one time or another behind the scenes. These include: Susan Tolkein (z”l), Hannah Weiss, Michele Clark, Lynn Frederick, Lisa Hutcheson, Marty Shoub, David Coddington, Jose Lopez, Diego Polly, Joanna, Avichai, Leora, David S., and Orit.

I conclude by thanking you for **your** connection with Israel in general and with the Tikkun-related ministries specifically. You are all deeply appreciated! Here in Israel we are aware that the progress being made is due in large part to the partnership we so enjoy with you, in financial support and prayerful intercession.

With warm affection,

**Eitan Shishkoff**

*On behalf of Tents of Mercy as well as all the Tikkun-related Israel ministries and congregations.*



# Revive Israel & Revive Arabs?!



By **Revive Israel Staff**

Revive Israel held its first all-Arabic equipping session, “Abraham’s Tent” in January 2023. Over the years, several of the staff and participants in our Hebrew language programs have been Arabs, but this time we had a vision for a session specifically in Arabic – expressing that Arabs are not second class citizens in Israel, nor in the Kingdom of God.

One of the values emphasized was walking in the light – transparency (I John 1). There were no walls and no masks, and we accepted each other without judging. This allowed them to open up and feel that they were in a protected environment. The fact that they became willing to share testimonies and issues regarding family relationships was not to be taken for granted, due to closed aspects of Arab culture.

As discipleship facilitators, we realize we cannot ourselves cause growth and change to happen. *That is the action of God alone.* Our role is to provide a daily framework, to open our families and our homes – and invite the Lord to act. These young people were hungry and thirsty for Yeshua, and they experienced His touch.

We were delighted to have had a fertile week of much new seed in our hearts and the hearts of our Arab brothers and sisters. With one heart we lifted up our prayers and praise. The teaching of the Arabic-speaking team was powerful, and the young people left encouraged.

## Testimonies of the Participants:

### “S” from Bethlehem

It was a new experience. Through the work in the field I encountered the Lord and understood the parables of Jesus in a deeper way. While tugging the weeds out of the ground, I realized how important it is to clear the soil of your heart. The Lord showed me things that are hidden

under the surface inside my heart, like weed-roots that I need to remove so they don’t choke my life.

I understood that plants need sun, water and soil; and likewise I need to take in God’s Word and I need regular time in prayer. My relationship with the Lord is made up of several factors and if one of them is missing I will not be able to live.

While working in the field, I prayed, and I felt the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon me, things that cannot be expressed in words (Romans 8:26-27)

I was very blessed by the connection between creation and the Creator, working on the land and serving God. It changed the way I read and understand the Scriptures.

Community life – without walls and without separation between people I felt like I was at home, that I was in my spiritual family. I saw everyone pitching in at mealtimes, performing their task; and this made me get up and wash the dishes – for the first time in my life. Others were always serving me in this way at home growing up, but here I realized the importance of me being a servant to others.

### “M” from Ramallah

From the very first day I was blessed by the times we were together, and I felt like family.

Working the soil was hard physically, but at the same time was a pleasure and joy. It is similar to my journey with the Lord. It is joyful, but there are difficulties and you have to make an effort if you want to see fruit.

During the weeding, the Lord showed me that I should rehabilitate my mindset, restore my ways of thinking and how I perceive things. I know what is right but I don’t always do it – God showed me this and showed me

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that I need to rebuild. I saw that wrong priorities have prevented me from seeing God and hearing His calling for my life. Now I realize that even when I experience loss, I need to believe and know that God has prepared bigger and better things for me. God showed me that this process of getting to the root of things, and of restoration will not be easy. I am now ready to start.

I learned that in creation there is an order that God has established. Everything happens in order. First prepare the soil and only then plant and sow. God blesses what I do if it is done in the order He created and according to His plan. I have to follow His order and plan and not mine. The program gave me a starting point and new hope in my journey with the Lord.

### “N” from Hebron

I started reading a book before I got here, and a sentence from the book really encouraged me: “One step at a time.” While praying together in the program, this came up again and again. While we pray and praise we are solving problems in the spirit realm, and every spiritual act has an effect on what happens in our life.

All my life I wanted to reach the invisible spiritual world but I didn't want to go there alone. Here I found a group with which I could dare to enter the spiritual world – supporting and strengthening each other.

During prayer, reading the Scriptures, praising and especially while working in the field, God gave me confirmation to take one step at a time because it is not easy for me to say yes to the Lord and submit to Him.

### “L” from Jerusalem

I saw the kingdom of God in the program and community life that I was exposed to. I saw His character in them and in the way they behaved.

I'm usually a spoiled person, I don't like working in the mud and cold. But in the program I realized that there is more depth to working in the land, in direct contact with God's creation. There is a spiritual dimension in God's creation as indicated in Romans 1:20.

*“Since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made...”*

**Please join us in prayer for “S” “M” “N” and “L.” And also for the participants and staff of the 3-month-long discipleship program we began in mid January, immediately following the above program. Stay tuned for updates. Thanks!**

