

ISRAEL'S RESTORATION

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Two Reasons for the Name “Yeshua”?



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By Asher Intrater

Names in the Bible have great importance. Our savior was given the name “Yeshua” for TWO reasons. Yeshua in Hebrew is a shortened form of the name Yehoshua, the original name of Joshua, the hero of faith who led the conquest of Canaan. “Jesus” and “Joshua” are at root the same name.

The name Yehoshua means, “God saves” or “Yehovah saves.” Of all the names that God could have given to the Messiah, He chose Yeshua (Matthew 1:21). The first reason is that **saving mankind from sin and Satan, from death and hell, is the highest priority in the heart of God.** Everything else is secondary.

Eternal life and forgiveness of sins, as offered to the world by the gospel, should be *our* highest priority as well. We need to leave the ninety nine to find the one who is lost (Matthew 18:12). The Messiah came into this world, first and foremost, to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).

The second reason that Yeshua was given the same name as Joshua is to show us that Yeshua’s second priority is to **take possession of planet earth at the second coming.** Joshua is an image and type of the Messiah. (In fact it was Yeshua Himself who oversaw Joshua in the conquest of Canaan in the first place – Joshua 5:13.) As Joshua conquered the Promised Land over three thousand years ago, so will Jesus conquer the entire globe when He returns.

There is a parallel between Jesus and Joshua. There is a parallel between the conquest of Canaan and the Second Coming. At the First Coming, He came to save; at the Second Coming, He will come to conquer. Those are His first and second priorities. Those are the two reasons He was given the name Yeshua.

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The Perfect GPS Really Exists



By Avi Tekle



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Have you ever been in a situation where you're trying to do something and you really mess up, but there happens to be a person next to you who knows exactly what needs to happen; and he comes in and shows you just what to do. It's such a relief!

At some point, each one of us finds ourselves *utterly lost* – in a crisis or a situation that we don't know how to respond to; and we don't know what the next step is. David says in Psalm 16, *"Father God, show me the path of life."* This verse is great because it shows the truth of our reality. Sometimes we get to a place where we simply don't know how to live. The second half of Philippians 4:5, *"The Lord is near,"* assures us that God is present and near to guide us back to the path of Life.

Like a Divine GPS, God Shows Us the Way

There is a similar theme in Leviticus 26:12-13. In these verses the Almighty God promises, *"I will walk among you, and I will be your God and you will be my people. I am the Lord your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from being their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and caused you to walk upright."* God always wants us to be aware of His presence in our lives. Our problem is that we often fail to access the "GPS."

When Yeshua walked this earth, He fulfilled the words of the prophet Isaiah (57:15) that God would dwell among us as Emmanuel – God with us. *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us"* (John 1:14).

But the exalted God of Heaven did not make do with being NEAR or dwelling among us. The Bible tells us also "Greater is He who is IN you than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). He's not just around us or in the city or in our neighborhood or even "just" in our home. **He is inside of us.**

Statistically, in the Western world a person's average lifespan is 80 years. Of those years, the equivalent of 25 years will cumulatively be spent sleeping and seven years trying to fall asleep. Thirteen years of that lifetime will be spent building a career, and one of those years will be spent working overtime. Whether we are sleeping or whether we're working or even trying to fall asleep, God is with us and dwells in us. It's like His word says *"He who keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps"* (Psalm 121:4). The battery life of the divine "GPS" is infinite.

Guidance for Joshua

An interesting Biblical comparison highlighting this subject is the book of Joshua and the book of Acts. Both begin with the "departure" of a great leader. The book of Joshua opens with Moses going up a mountain and not returning. God allows the people to pray for 40 days, and after 40 days, God comes to Joshua and He says *"Moses has died and gone... now you will lead the people into their inheritance."* Then in Joshua 1:5, God promises that *"Just as I was with Moses so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you."* God could have shared wisdom and strategies on how to inherit the land, yet He only says this one thing: *"No one will be able to stand before you because I will be with you."*



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A Royal Prophet, a Searing and Soaring Vision



By **Guy Cohen**

“I saw the LORD seated on the throne, high and exalted; and the train of His robe filled the Temple.”
And the angels cried, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”

(Isaiah 6:1-3)

The prophet Isaiah found himself gazing into the heavenly realm where he saw the angels praising the Lord. He was shocked to find himself in this place because he knew that he was not pure enough to stand in the Lord's presence. He realized how unclean both his lips and his people's lips were. Then the Lord sent an angel with a burning coal from the altar to purify his lips.

Isaiah ministered between the years 744 BC to 701 BC, mainly to the tribe of Judah, during the reign of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. According to Jewish tradition, the prophet Isaiah was a descendant of the royal Davidic bloodline. His grandfather was a king before the reign of Uzziah. *Isaiah could have chosen a life of wealth and ease. Instead, he chose to dedicate himself to God; and to convey His words of divine comfort, but also His words of searing rebuke.* Isaiah found himself commissioned and speaking prophetically to kings, tribes and nations.

Isaiah is the prophet through whom the Spirit of God revealed God's mercy and comfort for His people, perhaps more than any other. In the Spirit, Isaiah “saw” Yeshua 700 years before His birth (Isaiah 53). He is the prophet whose prophecies were most quoted by the disciples, and by Yeshua Himself (e.g. Isaiah 61).

When Isaiah was in the presence of God in chapter 6, he could have chosen to remain there. However, he heard God's conversation with the angels – he heard the voice of the Lord saying, *“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”* Isaiah chose to respond *“Hineini. Here am I. Send me!”* He was then anointed with authority as a prophet sent by God to the people. (In like manner, the prophet Jeremiah was anointed in Jeremiah chapter 1.)

Isaiah is the first prophet that I see in the Bible reflecting the heavenly kingdom – that kingdom we pray will come here on earth as in heaven. Even though Isaiah was from the royal family and acquainted with royal life; he realized that no kingdom could be perfect like the heavenly one to come. Yeshua prayed, *“Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven”* (Matthew 6:10). We pray for the Kingdom of God to come and reign over all the earth.

When I look at Jerusalem today, I understand that this physical city and the government which we see with our physical eyes is not the heavenly one. Yes, pray for the government and the peace of Jerusalem today. But know that King Yeshua is the One who will ultimately bring His shalom and the heavenly kingdom when He comes.

The earthly Jerusalem killed and rejected the prophets and the One who was sent to her. But we say *“Baruch haba b'shem ADONAI. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,”* to our Lord Yeshua!



Clothed



By Leon Mazin

Zechariah 3:1-5

(v.1) *“Then he showed me Yehoshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.”*

After 70 years of captivity, forty-two thousand people returned to Eretz Israel from Babylon. This was only a small percentage of the Jews exiled. The leaders of these Jews were Yehoshua the high priest, Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah.

Each leader represented a separate responsibility in the RESTORATION. Yehoshua (Joshua), the high priest, oversaw the Temple – the place of the glory of God being revealed. Zerubbabel was the politician, the leader of the nation. Ezra was the man restoring the tradition of the Scriptures and looking for ways to return Israel to the path of faith. Nehemiah oversaw building and supplies.

Many enemies and circumstances opposed them. The four leaders were exhausted by their efforts. To be able to continue to restore Israel they needed their souls restored. The prophet Zechariah was commissioned by the Lord to go and encourage these leaders.

(v.3) *“Now Yehoshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel.”*

In Hebrew the word filthy is even more extreme than the English, with the connotation of human waste. Even a minister can become soiled by burnout, constant criticism, gossip, spiritual crisis, temptation, family circumstances, etc. This is a word of severe caution for ministry leaders today!

(v.4) *“The angel said to those who were standing before him, ‘Remove his filthy clothes.’ Then he said to Yehoshua, ‘See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.”*

How important it is to hear these words of Zechariah not only to the high priest, but also to each of us whose garments become soiled from day to day life, from our own filth or even others'. Everyone makes mistakes. The right thing to do is to get help and address the mistakes and the sins.

Those around must be careful to not act as an “accuser of the brethren.” YET THE LORD HELPS. Peace and justification come from Him alone, as in the case of Yehoshua the high priest. [It is interesting to note that the name Yehoshua (Joshua) and Yeshua (the name of our Messiah) are the same name in meaning. Yeshua the Messiah is also our High Priest, the leader of the New Testament priesthood. He, too, was clothed in “filthy garments” when he took upon Himself the sins of mankind and became the sacrifice. Then He was justified and exalted in glory above every position on earth and in heaven. In Him is our purification and justification.]

(v.5) *“Then I said, ‘Put a clean turban on his head.’ So they put a clean turban on his head and **clothed** him, while the angel of the Lord stood by.”*

A hat, crown or turban symbolizes one's calling in life. Everyone has their own. Everyone, fulfilling their own calling, completes the divine puzzle of deliverance, which one day will be revealed on earth. You should not wish for the calling of another. It is important to fulfill your calling and do what the Lord calls you to do. Yeshua the Messiah helps each of His disciples in this.

I pray for our walk and righteousness before God, for pure garments and the fullness of His calling for everyone! Peace and grace to you in Yeshua the Messiah.

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Guidance for Yeshua's Disciples

In the book of Acts, just before ascending to the sky, Yeshua also instructed His disciples in a similar way. He said, *“Do not leave Jerusalem until you receive power...”* What does this power imply? It’s not just some power that clothes them; this is the indwelling of God Himself in their lives. Acts 2 was not just God dwelling among us, but God’s Holy Spirit dwelling in us – working in our lives, in our souls, in our hearts, in our minds and in our emotions.

When God dwells within us, we have an intimate walk with Him, and we are aware that He is leading us. Not only do we receive guidance regarding what to do and how, He also changes us from the inside out. This is His main purpose in our lives – to make us more like Him.

When you spend time with a person, your relationship deepens and their personhood and behavior impact you. Likewise when we walk with the knowledge that He dwells in us and He leads us, our life and our character are altered and we become like Him.

Your character is the content of your soul, who you really are from within – not something that you show off on the outside, but what your heart is made of. This is God’s desire – to transform the character of our lives, to make us into His likeness, to be His light. He encourages us as He leads and speaks to us, but when He dwells in us, His primary purpose is to change and transform us into His likeness.

If God *with us* is like a divine GPS, then God in us is like one of those futuristic tech gadgets that is inserted into the ear – like a hidden enhancement to the brain.

In Colossians 1:27, Paul encouraged the believers who understood the grace of the Messiah and preached the gospel with courage and truth, that he saw in their lives the good workings of God – the glorious mystery regarding the gentiles which is **“Messiah in you, the hope of Glory.”** Meaning all the glory of God is found in the person of the Messiah Yeshua – and the Messiah Yeshua **dwells in you!**



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(*Editor's note: Translated from a teaching given at Tents of Mercy: In a summer decluttering frenzy encompassing all of our spaces including the computer, I came across the transcript of a message from the days of Corona live streaming. As I read a few lines, it was an interesting exercise in corporate self-introspection. Life moves on. Things change, or don't change, but one thing remains the same – our need for the GRACE of God!)



Transformation Testimony



By Kosta Bikesh

The call to “make disciples” often necessitates going beyond teaching the foundations of the faith: it requires sensitivity to people’s mental and emotional needs, giving guidance and encouragement, and offering support during difficulties and challenges. Through my experience with Shai, a young man who connected with us to study the New Testament, I am reminded of this important spiritual truth: God does amazing things in our lives when we have a genuine desire to know Him *and* a willingness to change.

A Different Kind of Sickness

When I first reached out to Shai, I realized that he was in a dark place and had numerous addictions and emotional problems. After our initial conversation, we set a date to meet, but, on the day of the meeting, he called saying he was sick. So I scheduled another meeting for the following week, but when the day came, Shai called again to tell me that he was sick. This time I knew that something other than a virus was keeping him from our meetings.

I started asking him questions and quickly realized that Shai had a debilitating anxiety which made it difficult for him leave his house and be around other people. Instead of suggesting I come to his place, I simply told him, *“The right thing to do is to come and learn to deal with spiritual issues, with spiritual tools.”* Amazingly, Shai listened. Or rather, God gave him the grace to overcome his debilitating anxiety; and an hour later he arrived at the congregation. This would be the first of many breakthroughs that Shai would experience.

Overwhelming Desire

I have discipled many new believers, and I can say that Shai is different from most. From our first meeting, he showed an incredible desire to get to know God. The more he learned, the more convinced he became that only Yeshua could save him.

So he clung to Him fervently and sought Him in the Word and in prayer. Over five months of meeting weekly with Shai, often twice a week, I witnessed steady growth in his self-confidence and his ability to deal with everyday challenges which had previously paralyzed him.

Every positive step we suggested, he implemented, no matter how frightening or challenging. And through every critical step he took, God did wonders in him. When we told Shai that it was important to connect with believers in his area, he immediately found a home group and started attending their weekly meetings. Through this process, he started changing his circle of friends and the environment he surrounded himself with.

The Transformation

Over a period of five months, we have witnessed a steady and powerful transformation in Shai. If someone is willing, God will do amazing things in them. And that is exactly what we have seen with Shai: he has been set free from powerful addictions and anxieties. He has received grace and strength to radically change his lifestyle, and He continues to be filled with Yeshua's transforming love.

Two weeks ago, Pastor Moti and I were honored to be a part of Shai's immersion to declare his surrender and commitment to follow Yeshua. The witness of Shai's life is a great personal encouragement for us, and we are grateful and blessed to be a part of God's plan to save and restore His precious people.

Please keep Shai and all the new believers we disciple in your prayers for continued grace, growth and protection

Tiferet Yeshua Congregation in Tel Aviv

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Three Keys to Walking in the Light



By Tal Haroni

Our primary calling as believers is to be conformed to the image of His Son, Yeshua (Romans 8:29). To truly allow this transformation to happen is to be honest with God and others, allowing God to change us through His body of believers.

Ever Feel Irritable?

One of the ways God works in our lives is through people. A community of committed believers helps us discover who we truly are, enabling us to grow and change. How many times have we encountered people who *push our buttons, annoy us, or say things that almost make us explode?*

We all walk through this world at times with *hyper-sensitive, irritable nerves*. These are indicative of areas where we still need healing. But how can we truly understand these raw wounds in us and be healed without the people who scrape against us and trigger them? As we allow light to shine in these **dark corners**, we are able to receive healing.

Let the Body of Messiah be a Source of Healing

I grew up in a kibbutz, a close-knit community where people were antagonistic. Everyone wanted to outdo each other to be seen and heard. We had no reverence. However, when I found Yeshua and the body of believers, I discovered a different kind of community. Finally, people accepted me for who I was and didn't try to put me down or outshine me. They genuinely loved and cared for me, wanting the best for me. Over time, I started desiring the best for them too. They are committed to me, and I to them. I no longer needed to wear masks or compare myself to others. I allowed the Lord to use them to heal my heart.

As a teenager, I spent years trying to be different from everyone else. If everyone went right, I went left. If everyone wore black, I wore white. Now I am free to be my authentic self, without pushing the boundaries of others or seeking attention. Our greatest desire as humans is to belong and this can come from the people around us. So, how can we practically live this out?

Here are three keys:

01.

Find one or two people with whom you feel safe and can open your heart. Make sure they can also open their hearts to you.

02.

Choose to love and trust them, even when it's difficult, even though you may hear lies that try to convince you that they don't like you or that they will judge you.

03.

When you're going through something and carrying a burden, don't hide. Don't listen to the lies trying to convince you that no one will understand or desire the best for you. Choose to trust and bring your struggles into the light.

I pray that you choose life today and become aware of the areas that are challenging for you; that you will bravely let God in and grow into the image of His Son. May you recognize that irritability with the people around you, is a signal that God wants to heal you. He wants to use them for your good and His glory. Choose to walk in a community. This is your decision – you can make it. Choose to be open with others, and if you're hiding something, don't hesitate to find someone you can truly trust. Be confident that Yeshua within them, will use them to bring healing to your heart. And seek to be a tool for healing in someone else's life.



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