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Fit for a Queen

By **Betty Intrater**



The Wagners are a hard-working family from Ahavat Yeshua Congregation in Jerusalem. As in many families, for years the children pressed their parents for a dog. Aware of the amount of work and expense a pet brings, the parents consistently refused.

However, as the fifth child graduated from high school and David, the youngest, was left alone, the parents Hannah and Alon reconsidered. A dog could be a helpful companion to young David.

So they began looking, imagining what kind of dog would fit their family. He must be partially trained, low maintenance, in good health.

David and his brother Shmuel (now a soldier) found an ad for an adoption agency in Tel Aviv and off they went. After surveying the many canine contestants, they decided upon one that almost fit the bill. The parents weren't sure and said they needed a day to think it through.

On the way home from the kennel, Hannah, a fervent intercessor, received a call. A good friend now living in the US, with whom they hadn't spoken in months, had a request. An acquaintance they had contracted to watch over their house and pet in Israel, was no longer able to do so. They wanted to give their beloved dog up for adoption and in prayer had thought of the Wagners. The glitch, the dog must be picked up that very day.

Ecstatic over this "divine" offer, Hannah immediately agreed. With no further information, they picked up the dog and its papers and returned home.

No sooner had they gotten out of the car, when a man on the street stopped them. "Is that a Corgi?" he asked excitedly, "I grew up with a Corgi and loved it, and have never seen one in Israel!"

David and Shmuel ran inside, checked the papers and opened a search on the computer. Indeed, their new adopted dog was a purebred Corgi, like the beloved pet of Queen Elizabeth. And in addition, the dog's given name was Viva, Spanish for Life. (The Wagners are from a Spanish background.)

The Lord in His infinite kindness had heard the heart of a dog owner and a dog seeker, and blessed two families above and beyond what they could ask or think!

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to this power that is at work within us..." (Ephesians 3:20 NIV)



A Ride on the Other Side...



By **Hannah Tekle**

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”
(Hebrews 4:15-16)

Most of us in our everyday lives tend to “stay in our own lane.” When you have the chance to take a ride on the other side - it is sometimes surprising the things that you see. But how often do we really stray from the automatic pathways that make up our everyday lives?

This summer I have had the chance to step out of my regular routine and see some scenes that I don't normally witness.

My recent rides on the other side

A few months ago, we found ourselves as a family near one of the most luxurious neighborhoods in Haifa. Just for fun, we drove through some of the streets, looking at the gorgeous houses and their sea view, oohing and aahing, pointing out special entryways and fancy cars. As we returned home, the GPS navigator took us, via a different route, through another small town. It was notable and strange to pass through what was clearly an area of underprivileged population in government housing so very close to the fancy neighborhood we had just toured.

This week, with my car in the garage, I wound up riding on the “Metronit” - one of the public transportation options which offers straight-shot kind of bus lines on the main roads from one town to the next. I don't often have the

chance/need to ride on public transportation like I once did. (Our children do use the Israeli public transportation system and, in my opinion, it's quite convenient.)

Many elderly were on the bus that I rode on. Recently a law was passed that public transportation over age 75 is free. I was glad for them that they had the option, but couldn't help feeling sorry for them as they went through the tiring efforts of getting on and off, electronic payment and then finding a seat - with their shaky limbs. I tried to imagine my parents riding and felt even more sympathy and even worry for the senior citizens, many of them new immigrants, who were with me on the bus.



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Down to the Last Drop



By **Guy Cohen**



There is always a fight for the soul of man. Our soul is always thirsty; looking for something to satisfy. When the soul is outside of God's will, it will seek water from all kinds of toxic wells.

God is the one who gave us the spirit of life, and He wants us to drink from Him as the source of living water. As I look at this world, I see how difficult it is for all of mankind, because they think their only potential water sources are what they see around them.

In Jeremiah 2:13, the prophet speaks about two evils:

1. Leaving the source of living water
2. Hewing out cracked and leaky containers that cannot hold water

"What fault did your fathers find in me, that they strayed so far from me?..."

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water." (Jeremiah 2:5, 13)

What happens to people who dig and dig, plan and build, run to achieve, look to each other for satisfaction, look to politics for solutions and look to peace agreements for security? Their soul quickly runs dry, finding itself far from the promises of God, drawing from an empty well.

When Elijah stood on Mt. Carmel after three and a half years of drought and famine, it was time for the rain to come. It was time to stop the idolatry. Time to look to the real source. Time for the king and the people to see who the real God is.

After Elijah's prayer, a cloud appeared from the West coming toward the Carmel coastline, carrying water - rain for the dry land. What a victory, what an amazing moment it was to see this water falling on the earth! However, at the same time, Elijah was broken because he could see that the heart of King Ahab had not changed. When God looks over the earth, He is searching for a people with a heart toward Him. The people are His creation, His beloved and He waits for the moment when they will turn their eyes toward Him and soften their hearts.

In John 7:37-38, Yeshua proclaimed from the Temple during the finale of the Feast of Tabernacles:

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within him."

When the soul meets its creator and trusts the Lord, then it meets the source of living water and it fulfills its destiny here on earth.

We, whose eyes the Spirit has opened, are called to be priests of the Lord in every area where He puts us here on earth. We are called to intercede, to witness and to reflect the source of living water so that every soul will have the opportunity to connect to its creator and be satisfied in Him.

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" (Psalm 42:1-2)



A Lesson I learned from My Grandson

How to continue growing, now that we have tasted that the Lord is good



By **Leon Mazin**



We are creatures of habit.

Sometimes, after we have tasted the blessings and grace of the Lord, we become accustomed to them and forget the “garbage heap” from which we were extracted, and the light of God becomes something ordinary for us.

Then, a list of temptations can pop up as we are tempted by the world, the flesh, and the devil. That’s why it’s important to be on the alert and to triumph over them.

“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”
(1 Peter 2:1-3 NIV)

Peter writes this warning to believers. He provides a list of temptations that attack us when we are complacent. Malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander, and gossip can all destroy the Divine life.

Peter’s solution is to become “like newborn babies craving pure spiritual milk,” that we may grow.

I have a grandson a little over one year old. Every time I see him, I am simply amazed at how dynamically small children grow and develop compared to adults. It seems like only yesterday he was still crawling. Today he can run around the room without stopping, launch a smartphone app and do all sorts of complicated things.

Don’t get lazy! We have an obligation, as part of our birthright, to continue to *grow up in our salvation* as spiritual creatures and children of God.

Just as my grandson is constantly reaching for new skills, God beckons us to continue growing in the likeness of Messiah’s character. Even today, 2000 years later, Peter’s shepherd’s heart still calls us to feed and grow as a flock. It reminds us of a shepherd taking his sheep up to higher and greener pastures on the Mountain of the Lord.

Envy, grumbling, and gossip (negative bad mouthing) lead to a sad result - stunted spiritual growth and disease.

Now is the time to reflect, to rid ourselves of these footholds, and to rebuild. This topic is relevant for everyone who wants to grow up in our salvation, to ascend, to stand in the Light of the Lord, and to help others find the grace of God in Yeshua the Messiah.



A Ride on the Other Side...

By **Hannah Tekle**

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Abruptly, about 15 minutes into the ride the bus driver had to brake and suddenly I heard a loud THUD behind me. I turned around to see that an old man had lost his balance, flew across the bus and knocked into the door. He had apparently stood up to prepare to get off at the next stop, lost his balance and fallen, knocking over another not-quite-as-old man; and they both fell to the floor! From my seat in front of them, I mentally calculated if I should jump up to help. Two young men were closer and quickly came to their aid - helping them up and setting them straight on the chairs and helping them gather their scattered belongings. When the old man stood up he was disoriented and had a lump on his head. The young men helped him get off at the next stop, and I couldn't help feeling guilty over not being able to do more to help. The old man took his shopping cart and walked feebly across the bus station platform.

It was a jarring experience and made me think about how there is a whole other side, a world of people that I don't often see or interact with.

Do human leaders really sympathize?

In November, we are again facing elections after only a year and five months of the current government. That is the 36th government of modern Israel in only 74 years and is due to the delicate nature of our parliamentary coalitions. As in every society, the politicians jockey amongst themselves to show the voting public how much they supposedly know and understand the problems that the common citizens are facing.

It seems an impossible task, trying to assess which politician to vote for, which one has a good chance to put together a government, which one will have the guts to do what needs to be done to steer our country in the right direction and the integrity to stand up for their convictions, even in the face of corruption.

And as we watch our own political and national scene with concern, we are also painfully aware of the political unrest, social injustice and war that continues to rage in other national arenas. It's safe to say politicians everywhere should focus less on their re-election and more on the everyday existence of the "little guy."

We, as believers, should also increasingly sympathize with the difficult stories in the lives of people around us - whether family members, neighbors, friends, congregation members or even strangers in our path.

God humbled Himself

The Bible explains how God came down from heaven to take "a ride on the other side," taking the very nature of a servant, in human likeness, so that He is fully acquainted with all of the trials we experience as humans and with that full knowledge, offers us full grace.

"He is merciful and tender toward those who don't deserve it; he is slow to get angry and full of kindness and love. He never bears a grudge, nor remains angry forever. He has not punished us as we deserve for all our sins, for his mercy toward those who fear and honor him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west. He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic to those who reverence him. For he knows we are but dust and that our days are few and brief, like grass, like flowers, blown by the wind and gone forever.

But the loving-kindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting to those who reverence him; his salvation is to children's children of those who are faithful to his covenant and remember to obey him!"

(Psalm 103:8-18 TLB)

We at Tents of Mercy send you greetings - may you know the heavenly Father's mercy and His grace!



When the Promise Suddenly Feels Light Years Away



By **Tal Haroni**

Have you ever felt the amazing boost of imbibing a “now” rhema word from God? And then, soon afterwards, dipped into despair, hopelessness, or depression?

Have you ever felt how the promise that just yesterday gave you faith and peace suddenly seems light years away from you?

Last week I had such an experience. Things I believed in and held on to, all at once seemed far away. I felt like God didn't love me and didn't care. Then, in my daily reading, I came across a jolting juxtaposition in Isaiah.

Isaiah 35 holds a wonderful promise for the restoration of Israel - ten amazing verses of hope, encouragement, healing, and the desert blossoming.

“And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness... and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.” (Isaiah 35:9-10)

However, immediately after this chapter, in the very next verse, Isaiah's friend King Hezekiah faces a phenomenal test of faith. The Assyrian conqueror Sennacherib invades Judea and sends his field commander to threaten, accuse, humiliate, and dishearten Hezekiah and all the residents of Jerusalem before coming to lay siege to the capital city. The sinister voice reminds them of the failures suffered by other nations and armies when attacked by Sennacherib. It even reminds the Jerusalemites of their past sins! The voice tells them how bad their current situation is and questions God's ability to rescue them.

Sound familiar?

This is exactly what the enemy does to us after God gives us a promise. He starts planting thoughts of despair in our hearts, reminding us of all our mistakes and past

disappointments. And, of course, he does not spare us the present situation, and lays doubt on God's ability to act in our lives.

In response to the threat of doom, Hezekiah and his men put on sackcloth asking Isaiah to appeal to God on their behalf. God encourages them through Isaiah. But then it happens again. This time the Assyrian field commander brings written messages to intimidate Hezekiah. He even calls Hezekiah “deceived” because he believes in God (37:10). Now, when Hezekiah hears the words of this war edict, he goes up the hill to the Temple and spreads out the written accusations before the God of Israel. He reminds himself who God is, and he reminds God who God is.

*“Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Give ear, LORD, and hear; open your eyes, LORD, and see; **listen to all the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God.**”* (Isaiah 37:16-17)

Like Hezekiah, we would do well to ask “prophetic” believers to pray with us when opposition, thoughts and circumstances laugh in our face. However, God also calls us to come before Him personally, *honestly, desperately*, and to hang on to the identity of who He really is. When we stand on God's promises and identity, we will see miracles and wonders. At the end of chapter 37, we see God's promise fulfilled as Sennacherib experiences an epic fail.

The moral of the story:

Don't let those accusing voices keep you from hearing God's voice and laying hold of God and His Word!



Summer, Summer-Fruit & The End



By **Youval Yanay**

I have become fascinated by the connection in Hebrew between these intertwined concepts above, just as here we have finally parted from the long, dry, hot summer. Yeshua created summertime and the summer fruit harvest as an agricultural parable of the deeper truths of fruition, completion, and ripening - of individuals, of mankind, and of His redemptive Story.

“Kayitz” means **summer**. “Kayitz” can also mean **summer fruit/figs ripe for harvest**. “Kaytz” means **End**.

Jeremiah:

“...but you are to harvest the wine, **summer [fruit]** and oil...” (Jeremiah 40:10)

“The harvest is past, the **summer** has ended, and we are not saved.” (Jeremiah 8:20)

Amos:

“This is what the LORD showed me: a basket of **ripe summer fruit [also translated figs]**... Then the LORD said to me, “The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer...” (Amos 8:1-2)

Yeshua:

In Matthew 24, Yeshua talks about the last days, about the end of the world (as we know it) before the new heaven and earth.

“...the disciples came to him privately. ‘Tell us’ they said, ‘when will this happen and what will be the sign of your coming and of the **end** of the age?’

“Yeshua answered: ‘Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name...

“The love of many will grow cold, but he who **stands firm to the end** will be saved...there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

“Now learn this **lesson from the fig tree**: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that **summer** is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door...” (Matthew 24:3-33 NIV; emphasis added)

The fig tree drops its large, thick-fingered leaves before the mild Israel winter. Its bare white branches look dead, like sun-bleached bones, with no life in them at all. Suddenly, as summer approaches, the branches soften. Life begins to flow in them. When leaf buds begin to appear - everyone knows summer is at hand. Then, in midsummer, the green figs grow abundant on the tree and start turning purple or yellowish depending on the variety. When the figs soften and become squeezable, they are ripe for harvest.

Yeshua, like Amos, plays with the words summer and end (kayitz/kaytz). He connects the two words to reflect a season of readiness/harvest/completion/ending. The end will come when everything is ready for the return of King Yeshua.

Jesus, in the parable of the fig tree, explains to us what these days will be like. For a season, the world will be dead, dry, and lifeless. When we see fruit coming forth, softening and ripening like a fig - we will know that the End Time harvest is at hand.

“By this is my father glorified: that you bear much **fruit** and be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Stand firm in my love.” (John 15:8-9)

Even as “meta” things are happening nationally and internationally, I pray on a personal and community level, for abundant, ripening fruit for each of you - the fruit of the spirit and the outflow of God’s life in every way, right now, even as the end approaches.



IAMWITH
ISRAEL

Ukrainian War Spurs Aliyah Spike

Greetings!

Since March 2022, due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, tens of thousands of new immigrants and refugees have fled to Israel, many with barely more than the clothes on their back. Leon Mazin and his team at *Return to Zion* are urgently and practically helping the newcomers make Israel their home!

This is further **fulfillment of numerous Biblical prophecies** of the return from the diaspora, for example: “See, I will bring them from the land of the North. And gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return. They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back.” (Jeremiah 31:8-9)

Leon reports that if more know they will receive extra assistance in being absorbed into Israel, then the numbers coming from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus to Israel will easily double, if not triple.

From the very first days of the war, “Return to Zion” Humanitarian Center launched active assistance in Haifa. Through food packages, clothing, essential household items, and sometimes targeted financial assistance, the employees and volunteers of Return to Zion Ministry are supporting these needy ones who fled the war zone. Those of you who have supported #IamWithIsrael have already shown your love to these people, as Return to Zion is one of two primary ministries in Israel that we have supported in this effort.

After receiving initial help, several of the new arrivals shared snippets of their stories. It breaks our hearts to hear their trauma. It makes us want to be “there” for them now.

“My son and I are from Kharkov. We were under bombardment for two weeks. After a particularly “loud” day we decided to leave. With the help of the Jewish Agency, through Uzhgorod we reached Bucharest, Romania. We passed the consular check. Now we have settled in Haifa and are learning to be Israelis.” (Natalya B.)

“In my hometown, Dnepropetrovsk, rockets are now falling, constant air raids. There was no work from the first day of the war. The psychological conditions were terrible. My husband sent me to Israel, while he himself remained in Ukraine. Now I live here with my daughter. The decision to leave for Israel was made after she said: ‘Mom, how many more missiles are coming? I want to live!’” (Catherine R.)

“I am from the city of Dnipro. On February 24, hostilities began in Ukraine. Bombing, the sound of sirens, and fear forced us to leave the city. I came here for my son. Without our stuff. It’s good that there are organizations like ‘Return to Zion’, they helped me a lot with the support I needed. Thank you so much!” (Larisa)

We have an opportunity to make a big difference for hundreds and even thousands of families – some of whom are already *joining Messianic congregations*. Now is the time to act.

A gift of any size will be a great help: \$10, \$30, \$50, \$500, etc.

\$100 will provide basic food staples for a family for their first month.

\$200 will provide a basic kitchen supply kit for one family.

\$200 will provide blankets and bedding for a family for the winter.

I want to urge you to invest in these new immigrants. You can **change the lives of these Ukrainian-born Israelites who have suffered so much**. Click [here](#).

Thank you for the effect you are having!

Ron Cantor

CEO, Tikkun Global

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