

ISRAEL'S RESTORATION

Published Monthly Since 1991

Based in Israel | July '23 | tikkunglobal.org

My God, Why Have You *Forsaken* Me?

Page 2 & 7 | By Asher Intrater

Between a Rock and a Hard Place

03 - 06 | By Hannah Tekle

The Stone that the Builders Rejected

05 | By Leon Mazin

Israel's Story

08 | By Youval Yanay

Fear Is Not My Future

04 | By Guy Cohen

More Joy Over One Sinner's Rescued Life...

07 | By Roni Rejwan

TIKKUN
GLOBAL

"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



My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?



By Asher Intrater

Have you been in a situation where everything seems to be going wrong, and you don't feel the presence of God at all? Well, you are not alone. Most of us have gone through similar situations.

King David prayed this way:

אֱלֹהֵי אֱלֹהֵי לָמָּה עָזַבְתָּנִי רְחוּק מִיְשׁוּעָתִי תהילים כ"ב:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? So far from my salvation? (Psalm 22:1)

Yeshua quoted and repeated David's prayer when He was on the cross (Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34). How could Yeshua say such a thing?

1. Not abandoned – It was not because God had forgotten about Yeshua or abandoned Him for no purpose. God never abandons us when we are faithful to Him. This abandonment was temporary for a purpose.

2. Prophecy fulfillment – Yeshua is quoting Scripture (Psalm 22). The whole Psalm deals with the suffering Messiah. Jewish people read Psalms in times of distress. Yeshua is identifying with and indicating to us that what happened to Him on the cross is a fulfillment of Psalm 22.

3. Test of obedience – The cross was a test of faith for Yeshua. Would He obey even during a time of being left alone? The nature of a test necessitates being left alone. See the example of Hezekiah for instance (2 Chronicles 32:31). Yeshua was passing His test on the way to receiving all authority (Philippians 2).

4. Encouragement to us – When going through difficult times, we may feel that God has forgotten about us. Knowing that Yeshua felt that way during the crucifixion, can help us deal with our feelings. *"If He felt that way, it's understandable that I feel that way at times."*

5. Punishment for sin – Human sin turns us away from God. The punishment for sin is that very result: to be separated from God. Yeshua took that evil situation upon Himself to pay for our forgiveness. For our sake He had to experience separation from God.

6. Necessary to be killed – Scriptures prophesy repeatedly that the Messiah had to die for us. If God did not remove His presence from Yeshua, then Yeshua could not have died. Being forsaken was the prelude to being killed, which in turn, saved us.

7. Warning of damnation – Total justice demands eternal punishment. God warns human beings, but we do not listen. God's temporary forsaking of Yeshua is a warning sign that eternal abandonment is pending. God is doing everything to turn us away from damnation.

When everything seems wrong and we don't feel the presence of God, that doesn't mean that things won't turn out well as a result. Often the best results come out of the worst situations. God is all-good, all-powerful, all the time.

What should we do in those times? Let's follow Yeshua's example. He re-dedicated His life to God, *"into your hands I commit my spirit"* (Luke 23:46; Psalm 31:5) and forgave those who had done him wrong, *"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do"* (Luke 23:34).

We don't have to try to change the situation. We have to respond correctly to it. Our response is the same: rededication and forgiveness. We trust that God is in control and entrust ourselves to Him. That gives God room to work in our lives.

It is normal for a godly person living in an ungodly world to feel that everything is against him. In times of trial, one may not sense the presence of God. Yeshua told us that in the world we would have troubles but that we should be encouraged, because He has overcome the world (John 16:33).

Continued on page 7



Between a Rock and a Hard Place



By Hannah Tekle

Here in Israel several incidents of discrimination against the secular population by the ultra-religious community have recently been reported.

A 13 year old girl wearing a tank top was not permitted to board a bus in Ashkelon due to her “immodest dress.” In Tiberias, in a religious neighborhood, a young married religious woman received threatening letters in her mailbox claiming she was not properly attired, having been seen wearing pants under her skirt and failing to wear stockings.

Meanwhile, on June 8th the annual gay pride march took place in Tel Aviv right on the beach between Tel Aviv proper and the old city of Jaffa. This came shortly after our Israeli song presentation at the annual Eurovision (an international music competition which celebrates hedonism and alternative expression) won 3rd place, a dubious honor.

The social and political climate in Israel is at an all-time-record state of polarity. Since the elections in November 2022, each side is digging in their proverbial heels. The FAR RIGHT is pushing for legislation which will regulate life according to religious standards, affecting issues such as public transportation on the Sabbath, content that is taught in schools, and the role of women in the army, to name a few. The FAR LEFT is concerned with issues such as civic equality, religious freedom, the LGBTQ agenda, and removing military draft exemptions for the ultra-Orthodox.

Most in the Messianic community feel caught in the middle. For example, it is easy to identify with many aspects of quasi-biblical Orthodox Jewish standards. Yet, some of the Orthodox hate us and hate Yeshua, whereas the liberal side of Israeli society has tended to be more tolerant of Messianics. Keep in mind that the Messianic community in Israel is only 0.2 percent of Israel's general population of 9.5 million people. It can feel at times like standing in a no-man's land of society – between two large armies which are attacking each other. It can feel like finding yourself between a rock and a hard place.

Yeshua Between Two Worlds

Yeshua also walked here in this same land, in a manner that touched both the secular and the “religious.” He rejected the legalism of the Pharisees who were always trying to catch people in the wrong, to count and give an account of how many *mitzvot* (commandments) were missed. Yet He did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfil it. He consorted with those who were considered sinners – tax collectors, adulterers, (not to mention those who picked wheat on the Sabbath), yet He did not condone unrighteous behavior.

Your mandate and mine, is to be in the world but not of the world. This paradoxical tension is an intense challenge. Our everyday reality is tied to the physical world, the rules of human society, the etiquette and expectations of an unredeemed system.

Occasionally, while going about life, it overwhelms me momentarily to look up and see that probably everyone around me does not believe like I do. In so many ways, it would be much easier to live a solitary lifestyle in a bubble away from all human interactions. But that is not the example that Yeshua gave us.

Yeshua was engaged with the messy people in the world, loving the Pharisees and the sinners alike, wanting them all to be saved. The scriptures call us to take up our cross and share in Yeshua's suffering. The loneliness of walking in this no-man's land is one of the difficulties we are called to bear.

In the northern Israeli town where we live, there are a few neighborhoods where one street is completely populated with devout Orthodox and the next street over is “hipster”/secular.

Continued on page 6

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



Fear Is Not My Future



By **Guy Cohen**

In the second letter to the Thessalonians, we see that **these new believers really suffered for their faith. Trials will always exist in a believer's life, tempting us to be afraid.** Yet what we learn from the Thessalonians is that they gained hope and trust, enabling them to respond with patient perseverance.

Paul wrote to the church of Thessalonica along with his co-laborers Silvanus and Timothy. Together they had witnessed a breakthrough of the gospel in this city of idolatry. When the new believers accepted Yeshua into their hearts they were filled with the love of God and compassion for the citizens around them. Paul gave thanks to God for them, expressing his pride in their patient endurance and their walk with Yeshua.

It reminds me how every time a new immigrant comes to Israel and begins to learn the language and culture, we teach them the Hebrew word *"savlanoot"* which means patience. But to be honest, Israelis don't have much of it themselves. And if we look at the world today, we see wickedness and impatience growing. How can I, as a follower of Yeshua, walk in patient perseverance?

- By internalizing the fact that I am saved by grace
- By actively being filled with the love of God
- By growing in faith
- By looking ahead in hope, knowing eternal life in Yeshua

As I move through life, I know that our present surroundings are temporary as we journey into eternity. That knowledge allows my heart to be filled with compassion toward those who do not know Messiah and are not born again.

In chapter 3, Paul says there are challenges still in store for us throughout this lifetime; but the Lord is faithful. He will strengthen us and keep us from evil. The enemy wants us to fall. He lays many traps to ensnare us and *paralyze us in fear*.

However, when I'm filled with the Presence of God, I have peace in knowing that His shalom will help me through every challenge.

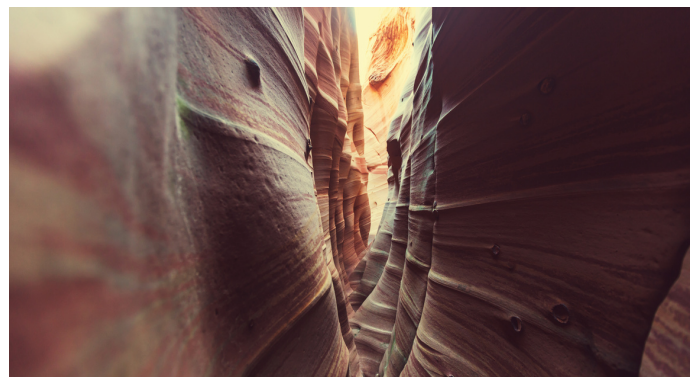
"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." (Psalm 23:4)

Even and especially when the enemy tries to put fear and concern in my heart, I will trust God!

Fear may have been our past, but fear is not our future.

"...your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring."

(2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 NIV)



The Stone that the Builders Rejected



By **Leon Mazin**

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!" (Psalms 117:22-24)

Shalom dear brothers and sisters in Yeshua the Messiah! Blessings and peace to you from our Heavenly Father. We are immensely grateful that you are standing with us in the proclamation of the Glorious Name of Yeshua the Messiah in Israel. As summer arrives, I want to update you.

Congregational Planting

As a congregation, we have existed since 2001 and then started a sister congregation in Upper Nazareth in 2004. From there, we developed many projects in Haifa, including humanitarian aid programs, a theological school, an internet TV channel, educational initiatives for youth, and the "Eagle-Nesher" equipping project for IDF soldiers after they finish their obligatory service.

Now we are **planting a new congregation** – preparing a team, looking for a space to rent, and gathering funds to pay for repairs.

The Eagle-Nesher Project:

After having taken a break due to Covid restrictions, with God's help, this August a team of 15 will be going to Norway. Together, we will focus on the disciplines of faith, study, service, development, and hiking in this wonderful country with dear friends. Our goal is to give more Israeli youth an opportunity to get involved in the ministry of Yeshua the Messiah.

Humanitarian Aid:

Mercy for mercy's sake – Israeli law forbids giving humanitarian aid in order to change a person's religious beliefs, and we are grateful for this law. It protects our children and adults from bribery. With God and your help, our humanitarian projects have grown threefold since 2020. We are happy to freely bless people in need, and they are enthusiastically grateful to receive. We pray that though we cannot openly share about Yeshua, this giving will serve an important divine purpose – to help the needy know that their Heavenly Father cares for them and that hope is not lost!

Return to Zion:

We are preparing a group of new believers for water immersion (baptism). At the same time, we are running the Alef Course (Bible Study). We ask for your prayers for both. We are also preparing groups of new leaders and want to continue to train the next generations for positions of leadership, that we may advance with enthusiasm and proficiency.

We would appreciate your prayers!



Return to Zion Congregation

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





Moving through these streets, my head spins. I confess, the Orthodox are intimidating especially to me as a woman. Their strange black and white garb, side curls, and determined looks of avoiding what is “*ta-may*” (dirty), make me feel guilty by association even though I’ve done nothing wrong. One street over, where the hippie co-op is, tipsy, unshaven men sit drinking beer. Walking along the sidewalk to get to a shop or restaurant, I feel myself shrinking small so as not to brush up against the “locals.”

Empathy

When dealing with others in the world around us, to which we do not fully belong, it is always best to choose empathy. Yeshua loved both the Orthodox-religious and the outright sinners. His mission was not to judge either of these camps. He longed for both to approach Him in honesty, in spirit and in truth. He accepted anyone that came to Him with no pretense, no lies or masks, in humility and drew them to Himself.

Sticking Together

Those of us who are stuck in this no-man’s land need to stick together. It is critical that we hold on to each other and not give in to the enemy’s tricks to pull us apart and pick us off.

“I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one.”

(John 17:14-15 ESV)

“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.””

(Luke 15:1-2)

Please pray for the annual children’s camp Tents of Mercy is hosting in July, with participants from the other Tikkun-related congregations in Israel as well as volunteers from a sister congregation in the US. Thank you!

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



TIKKUN GLOBAL
CONFERENCE
2023

SEPTEMBER 7-8

WESTIN DALLAS SOUTHLAKE
DALLAS FORT WORTH, TX - USA



ASHER
INTRATER



ARIEL
BLUMENTHAL



PAUL
WILBUR



RON
CANTOR



BEN
JUSTER



BASSEM
ADRANLY



KES
EVANS



More Joy Over One Sinner's Rescued Life...



depositphotos



By Roni Rejwan

Jerusalem rehab center update: lost "sheep" are being rescued.

Alexey was an opiate addict for decades. He came to the rehab center because he was living on the street, completely discouraged. When Alexey started the program we had a miracle. He had a relatively mild withdrawal. (Usually the body's withdrawal symptoms when an addict stops taking opiates are very severe.) Initially Alexey was in great soul distress and had a hard time learning to submit and accept authority. However, God touched him in stages – really met him. Thank God, Alexey has succeeded in quitting drugs. Now we are trying to help him restore his relationship with his family. He is divorced with four children, and we are excited to share that there is progress on this front.

Since March 2022, we have also had Victor with us, a 60 year old who finished Program A and is in the continuation phase. He is a very nice man who was previously an alcoholic and drug addict.

Michael had been a police officer in the Soviet Union, but began to consume alcohol and his mental and physical condition

deteriorated. He has been with us for over a year. Michael became a believer early on in his rehabilitation. He attended a conference in Nazareth with Korean believers, where God miraculously touched him. Michael struggled before eventually learning to receive authority and get along with the staff. He has become a faithful member of our community.


In addition to their bio-chemical withdrawal symptoms, recovering addicts also go through a painful reckoning with how they have damaged others and themselves. It takes time, but eventually those who persevere gradually comprehend that God loves them and forgives them. This makes all the difference!

Most recently we have had some disappointments due to addicts leaving the program prematurely. *Please join us in prayer that new people will come, who truly want transformation.*

Congregation Beit HaYeshuah, that was originally built of recovered addicts, increasingly includes "normative" members with no connection to substance addiction.

Beit HaYeshua Rehabilitation Center & Congregation

Connect with us at tikkunglobal.org/beithayeshua

בית הישועה 



Continued from page 2

Shared Experience

I find it a great comfort that Yeshua felt forsaken on the cross. This was the great moment in history when the love of God paid the price to redeem mankind. We are called to share experiences with God. What an amazing moment to "share" with Yeshua!

Think of the thief on the cross, who repented and asked to be with Yeshua in paradise. In essence, he was already with Yeshua. He was sharing the experience of the cross. That may have been the best spot in the whole world at any moment in history.

We are called to be crucified with Yeshua (Galatians 2:20) and to take up our cross daily (Luke 9:23). If you feel like crying – "My God, why have you forsaken me?" – share the experience with the Lord, and He will share it with you.

Israel's Story: A Testament to God's Steadfast Mercy and Grace



By Youval Yanay

Ephesians 2:8 summarizes our faith in simple terms. It says, *"We are saved by God's grace through faith, and this salvation is not something we can achieve on our own – it is a gift from God."*

Living in Israel as Messianic believers, we look at the richness of the New Covenant from the context of the Hebrew Scriptures and their account of God's dealings with Israel. Israel is a testament to God's mercy and grace. Despite her rebellious behavior and betrayals that we read of throughout Scripture, God remains faithful to His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He continues to be Israel's steadfast God, abounding in mercy and grace. Jeremiah 31:35-37, along with numerous other promises in God's word, unequivocally affirms that His commitment and covenant with the nation of Israel will never be revoked. We find reassurance that God will also extend His mercy and grace to people in all nations, not because of anything we have done, but because of who He is – a loving and gracious Father.

Not only does God remain faithful, but He delights in extending mercy and forgiveness to His people. His grace brings us joy and security, even when we fall short.

"Who can compare to You, O God, who pardons wrongdoing and overlooks the offenses of His chosen people? Your anger does not persist, for You take great delight in showing mercy." (Micah 7:18)

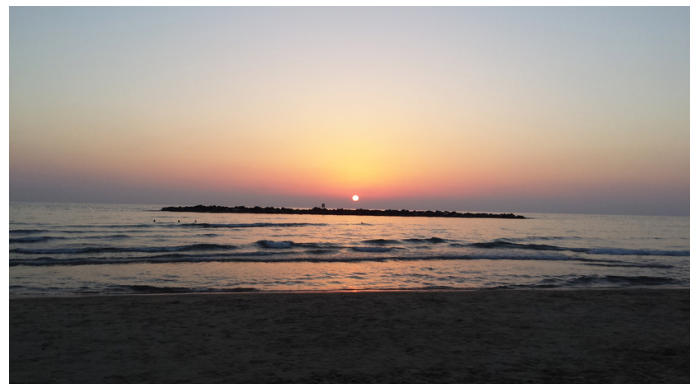
It is through this grace that we have been saved and forgiven, allowing us to walk in freedom and security in the midst of a broken world. This is the very grace that we carry within us as believers, and we are called to reflect it to those around us.

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:20)

When we interact with others, whether fellow believers or those who have not yet encountered the grace of God, may they see His grace in us. Let us extend kindness, forgiveness, and love, just as our Heavenly Father has extended it to us. In doing so, we become living examples of the transformative power of God's grace, and others can be drawn to Him through our words and actions.

As we hold on to the truth of Ephesians 2:8 and witness the evidence of God's grace in Israel, we can find peace in knowing that our salvation and security are not to be earned, but depend solely on God's grace. This grace enables us to live with joy and confidence, fully aware that we are dearly loved and fully accepted by our Heavenly Father.

So, let's joyfully celebrate this extraordinary gift of grace that has been generously given to us. Let's embrace it, reflect it, and extend it to those around us. Let's reflect the transformative power of His redemptive work in our lives, and may it draw others to encounter the same love and forgiveness that we have received. Let us continue to hold onto the truth of God's promises to Israel and to all of us, trusting in the grace of God to sustain us and guide us as we navigate this journey of faith.



Revive Israel Discipleship Community

Connect with us at reviveisrael.org

