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Worshipping in The Midst of the Flames



By Sarah Singerman

This week, forest fires raged across the Jerusalem area, the Judean Hills and the West Bank, destroying hundreds of acres of forests. Dozens of firefighting teams and planes worked tirelessly for days on end.

Although those who set the fires have not yet been apprehended, evidence is showing that most likely the fires were arson - set as acts of anti-Israeli terror by throwing "Molotov" fire bottles into the dry forested areas in several locations at the same time. Those brush fires were immediately multiplied by the hot summer winds that caused sparks to fly swiftly to other parts of the forest.

The main line of the fires was right across from our offices and discipleship center at the Messianic Kibbutz, Yad Hashmonah. We began to receive preparation warnings for evacuation from the police.

Our team was in the midst of worshipping in our global broadcast just as the fires were blazing around us. **We saw this as a surreal picture of the intensity we will go through as Yeshua's return draws near. Will we focus on the fires outside or will we fix our gaze on Yeshua and His kingdom coming?**

In the midst of racial tensions and strife, a new historic "unity government" has formed with the first Arab political party ever to join it. Although this party is Muslim, for now they have put aside the radical Islamic and liberation agenda in order to seek to improve the Arab, Druze and Bedouin people's lives through programs for schools, homes, police, education, etc.

- Pray with us that this government will be stable in unity, protected and directed by the Holy Spirit.
- Pray with us that all participants would lay aside violent, radical religious agendas to seek a way of peace and to live holy, honoring and peaceful lives.
- Pray with us for the acts of terror to be stopped and for righteousness to be established.
- Pray with us for unity among the remnant of faith in the Land, Arabs and Jews, even as a "unity government" is being formed in the political realm.



Credit: KKL-JNF

Sons and Daughters of the Covenant



By Hanna Tekle

This weekend was very special for us. We celebrated the bar mitzvah* of our third child and first son, Mattan. Truthfully, after the crazy year we have had, we weren't sure if or how we would be able to celebrate. By God's grace, the last of the Covid-19 restrictions were lifted just in time to have a traditional celebration as he and we had dreamed.

Matti's weekly scripture portion was Numbers 16 and 17. Under the guidance of his father, he studied diligently and prepared to chant the verses of scripture that he chose from the portion and to give a commentary on what he had learned from the portion. Watching him study so devotedly and approach the mentorship with his father and the other leaders in the community who met with him was a special experience. He truly went through a process of embracing the role of becoming a "bar mitzvah," a son of the covenant.

In this section of scripture, Korach and a group of men that he incites and leads, revolt against Moses and Aaron. They come against the order God has set for the role each tribe should fill. As a Levite, Korach was already in a place to have special ritual duties, but he was not content with the position he had and rebelled against the authority God had set. The rebellion is quenched and punished by God, but it is notable that the sons of Korach, his descendants, did not follow in their father's rebellious footsteps. They submitted themselves to the ordained leadership and are the writers of the Psalms from which we have some of the most anointed worship songs we sing Psalms 42, 46, 84, 87 and more. It is so encouraging and such a picture of God's redemption that the sons of Korach were not bound by the mistakes of their father but were privileged to make good choices and then be instrumental in penning words that touch eternity.



Here is an excerpt from Mattan's bar mitzvah commentary regarding the rebellion of Korach in Numbers 16-17 and Aaron's staff that budded.

God told Moses to take the marked staff of representatives from each of the twelve tribes, including Aaron. Through them God would make clear whom he was choosing to be the high priest.

So, Moses put the staffs in the tent of meeting before the Lord. The next day Moses came to the tent of meeting and saw that on the staff of Aaron, almond flowers were blossoming!

Moses presented the staffs to all the tribes and returned them to their owners.

So, what is a staff? A staff is a rod, a baton, or a stick used to support and assist in walking. Beyond that, a staff symbolizes leadership, identity, and authority. Leadership - as a shepherd in front of his flock or as a baton in the hand of the orchestra conductor. Identity - as a staff in the hand of Moses and Aaron. Authority - as a golden scepter in a king's hand.



There were two reasons I chose these specific verses from the weekly Torah portion:

1. In the verses I heard: “matteh, matteh” – “staff by staff” in Hebrew, and it sounded like my name (Matti). So, it was special to me, as if God called me by name; and it was also funny at the same time.

2. Ever since I was a child and even now, I like to play with sticks. When I hold a stick, I feel like my hand is longer and I can reach things that I could not reach with empty hands. I would take broomsticks and practice on them as if I had a weapon. I did not know that the passage I would read in my bar mitzvah would be about a stick!

I believe this is a message for me from God, and I hope for you too. The message I received from this passage is that if we despise one who is sent from God, that is, a person whom God has chosen, then we are also despising God. A man or woman of God is not perfect, but neither are you. This person is simply a messenger and God is the sender. If the person being sent is despised, then the sender is also despised.

The High Priest was chosen by God, and he was to be a bridge between God and the people. Today on my bar mitzvah, I want to say that my High Priest is Yeshua who took my sins upon him and made a way for me to be in touch with God.

I want to tell you a secret about me. I love superheroes. My favorite is Spiderman. Thinking about superpowers encourages me to seek what heroism God has placed in my life. I understand from today's chapter that the story of the staff is a story about us. Each of us is a staff in the eyes of God. I declare today that I want to be a rod in the hand of God. I don't want to leave God's hands empty. Therefore, I want to give my life to be a staff in the hand of God, to find the “heroism” that is within me and to fulfil the call that God has given me.

I don't want to leave God's hands empty.

The Bible is filled with ceremonial events, Old Testament and New Testament alike. We need ceremony to mark significant events, changes, milestones. When Yeshua was ready to begin his ministry, God the Father attended His “immersion-ordination” by speaking from heaven.

This week as we prepared for the bar mitzvah, we also had the honor to immerse in water one of our young women, who is just about to finish her army service. She also engaged in a ceremonial act of covenantal commitment.

This week's ceremonies were important for our son, and this young woman, but they were equally important for the rest of us, to witness anew a transaction of decision and declaration of Faith that has weight in the spiritual realm. We have all been given the divine gift of free will. We must choose to walk in service and relationship with God, and to renew our covenant with Him regularly.

*The bar mitzvah is the coming-of-age ceremony in which, at age 13, a boy becomes directly answerable to God's commandments according to Jewish tradition. Girls celebrate their bat mitzvah at age 12.

Are These The Birth Pangs?



By Leon Mazin

Anyone who has either given birth or witnessed childbirth knows about the ambiguity of labor pains. Sometimes you think the time has almost come, but the actual birth is still hours away. Just recently, our daughter had a baby. We were with her when her contractions began. For a while they were coming with regularity and then they would stop. Of course, the labor continued its course and eventually she gave birth to a son. **So you can congratulate us on our first grandchild!**

Israel also seems to be experiencing birth pangs. Many people refer to Israel as God's global "clock." The clock is currently behaving strangely, and it is not easy to tell the time. For several years we have had a very challenging situation with our government. Tension and misunderstanding between secular Israelis and the Orthodox Jewish community has been increasing. Forty-five Orthodox were tragically killed during the overcrowded celebration of Lag BaOmer on Mount Meron. Then the military conflict in Gaza commenced, and tensions rose with the Arab population inside Israel. Then there was another tragedy in the Orthodox Jewish sector – with the collapse of synagogue bleacher stands during Shavuot, with two deaths and many injuries. All this happened as our country was gradually relaxing Covid-19 restrictions.

We recall the words of Yeshua concerning a disaster that had recently occurred:

“...those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them — do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish” (Luke 13:4-5).

Yeshua implied that disasters are not caused due to the victims being more sinful than others. He emphasized the IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE. For us at least, these disasters are a signal of spiritual quaking, changes, and a call to repentance.

Many of Israel's pastors have come together in prayer groups. This initiative is captivating many. It is important for us to understand what the Spirit is saying, since we need to understand what the Body of the Messiah should do in these difficult days. It is possible that the Lord is leading us in an “unfamiliar” way. Those hoping for the usual sequence of events may become even more confused.

Indeed, the “birth pangs” in our day are still intermittent. Like Elijah the prophet, we need “ravens” – daily sustenance and guidance from the Lord, to live and to pass on the Way of Life to our children, and even grandchildren.

“Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.” (Psalm 105:4)

Friends, we gratefully encourage you to stand with us in prayer.
We pray too for you and your loved ones.



One Body?



By Guy Cohen



You have surely heard about the events that recently occurred in Israel. I am not referring to the rockets which Hamas was shooting into Israel, but rather to our Arab neighbors (mainly from Muslim backgrounds) who suddenly took to rioting in usually quiet Israeli towns and neighborhoods. Those involved in the riots and violent demonstrations were mostly Arab Israelis who had decided to participate in the jihad fight against the Jews who, in their eyes, were the ones who took the land which belongs to them. Jihad is a holy war in which Muslims are commanded to kill enemy infidels, even at the cost of sacrificing their life.

There are several ways in which a jihad can be carried out. One is through the media where a call goes out to join the “holy” fight. This is how the Arab youth in the mixed Israeli cities and surrounding areas were incited to go out into the streets. Also, there is a jihad against the economy via a boycott against purchasing goods manufactured in lands defined as being occupied by the “enemy” (e.g. BDS). This also includes agricultural products grown in that land.

Even if a practicing Muslim is disabled and cannot join physically, he can contribute to jihad if his prayers are directed against the enemy. Even women who give birth to children who will eventually join in the jihad to defend Islam, are considered jihadists.

I was born and raised in the city of Akko, which is home to both Jews and Arabs. In mixed Jewish/Arab Israeli cities like mine, we have been living a life of pluralism - honoring one another, along with our differences and beliefs. Therefore, we were in shock to see what happened on our doorstep, as neighbor turned against neighbor, betraying trust. To be fair, there were also a few incidents of Jewish violence towards Arabs, although they paled in comparison to the Muslim violence.

Israel’s enemies noticed how, in the last two years, we have had four elections, no unity and an unstable government. They saw this as an opportune time to aim for Israel’s soft spot. What our enemy didn’t realize is that you cannot overcome Israel and her people with this tactic because it’s in the hard times that we rise above our differences and join together in the fight.

Unfortunately, a lack of trust surfaced between Jewish and Arab neighbors after these riots. We, the leadership of the believing community, are the priests who stand before God representing the people. Please join us in praying for the leadership of the believing community, here in the land, to be attentive to God’s heart for His people, and a lot less focused on our differences. Instability in the land is connected to division among the leadership of the Messianic Body in Israel. Please join us in praying that the leaders will put differences aside and come in humility to wash one another’s feet so we can see change.

As for the mixed cities, those spiritual leaders who serve Yeshua, both Arab and Jew, must come together and stand in the gap for our communities. We must be in a place where the blood and body of our Lord is ever before us; in the place where His blood continually cleanses all iniquity.

“For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.” (1 Corinthians 10:17)



Some True Essentials



By Jonathan Moore

Something that is essential is of vital, foundational importance.

The essence is the simple, crystal-clear, distilled bottom-line.

While the Bible contains nothing but truth, have you ever noticed those short, pithy verses that really sum up the essence of a particular concept? We could also call them maxims or axioms.

For example, if we had to summarize all the commandments in the entire Bible, could we do it? Yes! Yeshua gave us two essential truths that sum up what we have to do:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire Torah and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

1. Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

2. Love your neighbor as yourself.

These two simple statements clarify what we need to do, although the actual process of changing ourselves from selfish and rebellious to loving is not easy. With a loving community, daily renewing our mind in the Bible, and worship and praise in our hearts continually, we can change!

“But we all, with unveiled faces beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory—just as from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18, emphasis added)

Not surprising, the Bible offers many more distilled words that help us focus our minds on His truth. Here are a few more to meditate on over the next days and weeks:

3. Give and it will be given to you.

We generally like to receive gifts from others. Whether we want more time with someone or more respect or more money in our bank account, Yeshua set forth this rule, this truth: **“Give, and it will be given to you—a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, overflowing, will be given into your lap. For whatever measure you measure out will be measured back to you”** (Luke 6:38).

4. Forgive and you will be forgiven.

The “Sermon on the Mount” is full of great truths but for me the most poignant is this one found in Luke 6:37. We all mess up. Sometimes even in huge ways with those closest to us. We desperately want to take back those words or those actions but ... we cannot. The most we can hope for is to receive forgiveness. Before we expect forgiveness from others, let’s consider, “Who has wronged us?” Then go back and think of the people who really, really messed up and did us wrong. Now, start a conversation today with someone you trust on how you can start forgiving that person who wronged you.

5. Whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

Three of the four gospels record this statement. One gospel even repeats it twice, eight chapters apart. If this wasn’t enough to highlight the importance of this simple rule, let me help: **THIS IS IMPORTANT!** The full verse states, “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it” (Luke 9:24). We must be that living sacrifice, trusting God will save us in the end.

Meditate on these five essential truths of God’s Kingdom this month, and see what truth can do in you.

We Discovered Our Calling as Women!



By Valerie Yanay

We just had a wonderful, week-long women's workshop. The workshop was designed to gather women to seek the face of the Lord together, to experience working the land together, and to spend time together praying and praising the Lord.

Every day we looked at the life of a woman from the Bible and extracted practical take-home lessons from her example and the things God did in her life. We talked about Hannah, the mother of Samuel. We talked about Miriam, the mother of Yeshua. We talked about the sisters, Miriam and Martha. We talked about Abigail, Ruth and Naomi.

The day we focused on Ruth and Naomi was especially powerful. We felt like we received revelation and breakthrough. There was a believing sister of Muslim background who loves Israel, much like Ruth; she shared her testimony of how she came to the Lord. We saw that we can all be like Naomi, mother figures who embrace those from other backgrounds, who accept others, who give rest and love, who open our homes (Ruth 1:6-18).

We saw that a woman can strongly seek God on a particular subject or a particular prayer, as Hannah did in her fervent prayer (1 Samuel 1:9-28). She prayed and had the desire to serve the Lord. Because her prayer was so powerful, she changed history through her son who prepared the way for King David and KING Yeshua.

We began to understand that as women, we have a spiritual womb that brings life. We need to keep focusing and persisting in prayer with the motherly anticipation of bringing forth new life. This is our calling as women. God places a seed in our hearts that will bring the kingdom with our prayers. We can even change history, praying in unity with one heart.



There were women among us from all sorts of backgrounds – some a little more conservative, some a little less, some younger, some older, and some very new believers. We were brought into such unity. It was amazing.

These were five very intense days from morning to evening, but each day was filled with so much peace. I was personally very blessed. I grew in strength and the other women did as well. It was a very beautiful week focused together on hearing from God.

Now the Revive Israel discipleship team is preparing a 2-week program in August for young leaders and also preparing the extended discipleship program that will begin in October.





Dear friend of Revive Israel and Tikkun Global,

Thank you so much for standing with Israel and with us. Have you ever noticed the fact that part of the end-time events revolve around fiery young Israeli witnesses?

Our passion at Revive Israel is to raise up just that: fiery young Israeli witnesses to share the good news of Yeshua with their fellow Israelis. The Revive Israel Discipleship Training Program has been a breath of fresh air in an otherwise very challenging year. Youval and Valerie Yannay started it in early 2020 when COVID restrictions temporarily shut down Revive Israel's public gatherings.

They use practical working of the land and growing of vegetables as part of this discipling framework/platform. In addition, the organic farm serves as a testimony and point of connection to many Israelis in the area, including secular Israelis and ex-Orthodox Israelis.

With a lot of sweat, the help of many volunteers, and your vital partnership, the Revive Israel team was able to get the new discipleship platform ready quickly. They have already run several programs over the last 11 months - including two extended programs for young adults and, most recently, a week-long program for just women, from all walks of life. It was a rich time of healing, bonding and hearing from God. How are we going to reach the nation if we are not made whole?

In August the team is planning a two-week intensive program for 10 to 20 young adult leaders-in-training. Taking a cue from the IDF, it is affectionately called "Course Makim" (squad commander course), since it parallels the army concept of taking a young soldier who has already gone through basic training and giving him or her the practical skills to serve as commander of a small squad, as one under authority.

Tal Haroni, one of the staff members, herself served as a commander for special-needs recruits in the IDF. Tal brings a unique skill set in seeking to raise up anointed ministers of the gospel as faithful servant-stewards.

I know that you, too, want to see Israelis raised up into maturity to be able to lead. Some of these men and women will not only be leaders in congregations, but in business, education and maybe even in politics. Just imagine that one day we will have Messianic Jews in the Knesset.

The basic cost for each student per week is \$400. Your gift of \$50, \$200 or even more will be a great help.

I can't thank you enough for once again saying boldly, "I am with Israel!" Well, I want you to know that we are standing with you!

Ron Cantor
Director, #IamwithIsrael

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