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A God of Wrath or a God of Love?



By **Dan Juster**

The idea of God as a God of wrath in the Old Testament, but a God of love in the New, is completely false. God's great love and mercy are the same throughout the Scriptures. His righteousness and just reckoning are also the same in both. The *Book of Revelation* is the greatest testimony to the consistency of the revelation of God in the Tanakh and in the New Covenant Scriptures.

God's great commitment to righteousness remains constant, and His righteous anger for those who act in **flagrant rebellion against Him and contempt of His ways**, is the same. As with the flood, and Sodom and Gomorrah, the human race will come to a place of final judgment and experiencing God's active indignation against recalcitrant evil and corruption. Yet His offer of mercy before judgment and His offer of love and forgiveness for those who turn to Him remain throughout. Here is a passage noting this:

"Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.'" (Revelation 14:6)

Both the warning of God's judgment and the proclamation of the Good News are announced *together* in the book of Revelation. And many respond. Revelation 7 describes a multitude that no one could count from every tribe, tongue and people. Revelation 14 is parallel and gives great hope of a great harvest during these times of shaking. All of this displays God's love and mercy.

The themes of the **fullness of human sin, of depravity toward his fellow man**, of judgment and of wrath come to an ultimate climax in Revelation 14:17-20. The grapes are gathered into the winepress of God's wrath. Revelation 19:15 says that Yeshua *Himself*, *"treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God almighty"* (see also Acts 10:42, Matthew 23:32, Genesis 15:16).

The Bible shows that God is a God of amazing love, compassion, forbearance, forgiveness and mercy. God desires to act in love, compassion, forgiveness and mercy to every human being and to His whole creation. However, He is also a God of justice. **His justice, though compassionate, requires that the law of sowing and reaping eventually brings to fruition the sobering results of our actions.** Repentance can bring mitigation—*"None of the transgressions he has committed will be remembered against him"* (Ezekiel 18:21-23). Beyond this, at a certain point of wickedness, God's active judgment is engaged and He will act, sometimes in severe wrath, yet always in just compensation.

The fullness of God's love is seen in Yeshua, the Lamb of God. In His life, ministry, teaching, atoning death, and resurrection; we see the greatness of God's loving offer of salvation. However, Yeshua reaffirms God's justice, both in terms of sowing and reaping and ultimately active wrath against wickedness when there is no repentance. Yeshua teaches an ultimate separation of the righteous and the wicked at the end of this age in a final judgment. *The Book of Revelation completely reaffirms all these themes and expresses the dynamic tension among them (Revelation 6:16, Isaiah 2:21) in referring to the "Wrath of the Lamb."*



Discovering Royal Connections



By **Avi Tekle**



My own story growing up Jewish in Ethiopia was that due to Communist oppression our family had to keep our Jewish ancestry under cover so as not to get the wrong kind of attention from the authorities. This gave rise to a curiosity and longing to explore and live in my full identity.

In the Communist-stricken metropolis of Addis Abeba, almost daily I saw the big palace that had belonged to the deposed monarchy of the Ethiopian Empire before the Communists took over. Every time we drove past it on the way to school, I *wondered* what the palace was like inside, and I imagined how the royal family must have lived there in opulence before being overthrown. I dreamt many times of visiting it and envisioned its beauty and luxury.

Through several crises and critical circumstances I found myself leaving my beloved parents in the Ethiopian capital city, and making *aliyah* (moving to Israel) all by myself at the age of 17. In my new homeland of Israel, I began to revive my Jewish heritage; and while doing so I encountered Yeshua and received Him as my Messiah! Ever since then I have sought to live out my complex identity as an Ethio-Israeli Messianic Jew, or Black-Ethio-Israeli Messianic Jew.

I recently had an opportunity to travel from Israel back to the city where I was born, Addis Abeba. While there, I learned that the secretive Royal Palace had finally opened up to the public for visiting. (Communism gave way to a democratic regime in 1991.)

Well, I seized the opportunity and entered the palace I had always longed to see. It is named after 19th Century Menilik II. His ancestor Menilik the First was also called “*Ben Chacham*” (Son of the Wise Man). Legend has it that Emperor Menilik the First was conceived when King Solomon tricked the Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10:1-12), into sleeping with him; that the queen raised him as a Jew in Ethiopia; and then he traveled to Jerusalem to meet his father Solomon and was crowned as ruler of Ethiopia.

The modern emperors of Ethiopia have derived their right to rule based on two dynastic claims: their descent from from Menelik I, the son of Solomon and the son of the Queen of Sheba; and from the kings of Axum. This modern line of emperors of the House of Solomon has ruled Ethiopia going at least as far back as the 13th century. Menilik’s Solomonic dynasty thus continued 225 generations until Emperor Haile Sellasie was deposed in 1974. That was the year I was born.



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Pastoring Through the Darkness of War

"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20)



By **Yulia Mazurovsky**

Pastor Vadim was simply travelling around the Poltava region of Ukraine and telling people about Jesus. This was back in the nineties when people in Ukraine had only one "god" – Communism. Vadim wasn't being paid for ministering. The only support he had was his wife. Today he pastors the biggest church in the Poltava region, "Blagovistia" (the Good News Church), with many daughter churches in the regional villages.

When I asked Pastor Vadim before the war what was his main task, he replied: "I want to bring to the Lord as many people as I can. You cannot imagine how many people in remote villages have never heard of the good news." He told me excitedly about God's miracles which occurred when he and his team went to the farthest villages of their region to share the good news. In Frunzovka Village a lame man walked. In Colotiyi Village a 10 year old boy dying of blood cancer was healed.

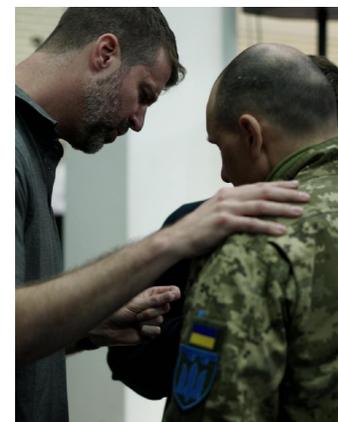
A central objective of the Good News Church is *reaching out to Jewish people*. The church has a big team helping Jews in Ukraine understand their calling as part of the Jewish nation and the importance of Israel. They help Jews to move to Israel in any way they can, by assisting with navigating the bureaucracy and through financial support. The ministry also prays regularly for Israel, Messianic congregations in Israel, and *Katzir Asher Congregation, in particular*.

This year, though circumstances have drastically changed, Pastor Vadim's vision and focus remains the same. When the war broke out, Vadim had an opportunity to escape, to move to another country with his wife and two children, but he didn't. I asked him why, and he answered that if he leaves his country and his people, he cannot be a pastor again. "I'd better think of a career of a cleaner."

He laughed, but I knew what he meant. He meant that God raised him to a position as pastor of many churches, He blessed him with an anointed team, guided him and blessed his service, and all these would mean nothing if he failed his people in days of darkness.

Now Vadim, the leaders, and many members of the church spend their days helping those who are in need. They go to bombed cities and villages to bring food and supplies. They help Jews leave the country quickly and safely. They take care of the 53 refugees who sleep in the church building. They do anything they can, and the only thing that the pastor regrets is that they cannot do more. I look at the pictures he sends us *almost every day*, and don't understand how he can continue smiling. Yet, the answer is simple: he is happy because God is manifesting His power and truth through their work, and nothing brings more satisfaction than that.

"For behold, the **darkness** shall cover the earth, And deep **darkness** the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you." (Isaiah 60:2)



Do You Want to Serve?



By **Leon Mazin**

Why am I not in the “ministry” like the Levites? Or why can’t my family be in leadership like Aaron the high priest? Are they more worthy than I am?

I think believers who desire to serve often ask questions like these.

Perhaps they don’t preach sermons, but they do set up chairs in the sanctuary, clean the floor, or visit the sick. Perhaps they have ambition and desire, and they pray for the guidance of the Spirit! Perhaps they are yearning for a “higher” calling.

More than once the Scriptures describe conflicts in which one brother resented another for his calling, even leading to fatal outcomes. This was the case with Cain and Abel. We also read of the strife between Ishmael and Isaac, and between Esau and Jacob.

But then we read of a refreshingly different brotherly relationship; Aaron comes out to the desert to meet Moses. Aaron does not oppose the leadership position that Moshe, his baby brother, has been given! The Lord God takes this humble attitude into account. Later those sons of Aaron who have the same spirit as their father, receive the highest position in the ministry of the Tabernacle.

The New Testament describes similar human characteristics. During the last supper, Yeshua tells His disciples, “*The greatest among you will be your servant*” (Matthew 23:11). This reminds me of Aaron’s acceptance of Moses’ calling!

We are now in the season of Shavuot (Pentecost). The Spirit of God, the Spirit of the Messiah, is working in us, **entrusting good deeds into our hands, refining our attitudes, and investing in us the Messiah’s thoughts and intentions.**

It’s so important to open ourselves to God in humility. Let Him create in us not greatness or power, but **RIGHTEOUSNESS IN HIS EYES!**

Here is an example of practical ministry as seen in Numbers 4:21-25:

The Lord said to Moses, “... This is the service of the Gershonite clans in their carrying and their other work: They are to carry the curtains of the tabernacle...”

When you help out practically by “carrying the curtains,” cleaning the floor, inconspicuously exhorting, or visiting and supporting those who need it; may you simply burst with a feeling of gratitude to God that HE, the CREATOR of all things, is using you for HIS purposes wherever HE PLEASES!

Be satisfied with what God has set out for you to do. Be joyful that you walk before Him and participate in building the local and regional Body of the Messiah. And one day a great reward will be added to this satisfaction. “*So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded*” (Hebrews 10:35 NIV).

Recent news: Israel continues to experience a great wave of *Aliyah* – returning exiles, comparable in size to what it was in the early 90s. All the pastors and ministers of our congregation have additional work. It’s a blessing; I’m not complaining at all! Yet still, I ask for your prayers. The cost of supporting these many newcomers has also increased dramatically. Therefore I also ask for your contributions.

Blessings to you in Yeshua

Leon & Nina Mazin



Discovering Royal Connections

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Walking through the different rooms and courts of the Royal Palace, I found myself pacing through this long history of Ethiopian Jewry and their journey. I had already known of Ethiopia's deep and official Christian connections going back to the first centuries AD. (We read how Philip explained the Good News of Yeshua's atonement to the Ethiopian Eunuch-Treasurer in Acts 8: 26-40). However, to my surprise, while looking at all the various royal artifacts of gold, cars, royal garments, weapons, and beautiful architecture from the Royal Family, I couldn't help but notice a *theme common to all of them: the Star/Shield of David - Magen David!* Almost every artifact was imprinted with the Magen David seal. [See photos of the white royal residence, imperial coat of arms and Magen David symbols.] The more I walked through the palace, the more it dawned on my spirit how the royal family members were apparently the first Ethio-Messianic Jews!



Needless to say, I came back to Israel full of inspiration from my visit. My first thought went to the importance of each person's own history. How essential it is to know our roots! If we disconnect ourselves from our roots, we will be homeless, without a true origin of identity. Our history is like the ground in which we are planted. At times God allows us to revisit those grounds to deepen and strengthen our sense of *calling* and *identity*.



I wondered how it would have affected my childhood had I grasped that the Royal Family of Ethiopia were Jews. Instead, being Jewish was an identity I was encouraged to hide for fear of persecution. Would it have boosted my self-esteem or made me prideful? But then another question arose...

What if all of us were to suddenly discover that we are part of THE Royal Family in Messiah?

Simon Peter proclaimed, "You are chosen, a royal priesthood,...people for God's own possession." (1 Peter 2:9)

Paul claimed that all believers are adopted princes and princesses that God has "...blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places...chosen us...to be blameless before Him...predestined us for adoption as sons...to the glorious praise of His grace." (Ephesians 1: 3-6)

Truly the most significant and important of our identities is the one we have through Yeshua. It is one adorned with royalty, one we could not have attained for our own selves. May we learn to celebrate the truth of who we are in Him and live out our calling and identity to the fullest.



Serving in One of Israel's Toughest Neighborhoods

By **Moti Cohen**

The area around Tel Aviv's central bus station where we do our food outreach to the homeless is a very tough neighborhood – it may even be the worst in all Israel. The streets where the hard-core drug addicts hang out and there is much prostitution – are controlled by Arab crime families from the cities of Lod and Ramle in central Israel and from Rahat, a troubled Bedouin city in the Negev, where crime is out of control.

At the Mercy of Criminal Gangs

So how do the criminal gangs that control the area view our presence there? To say that they don't like us is putting it mildly. Criminal gangs make their money by selling drugs and running brothels. So when we help drug addicts and prostitutes get off the street, we are hurting their ability to make money. Every drug addict is like a walking ATM for the dealers because each day the addict goes to great lengths to get money for drugs. The same goes for the women who are working in prostitution (many of whom have been forced to do so); each woman turns a profit for her pimp. Most of the women in prostitution are also drug addicts, and they pay for their drugs through prostitution. Thus, when these women succeed in getting off the street, it's a double loss for the drug and prostitution rings.



Moti offering food and drink to one of the women working on the streets

Tiferet Yeshua Congregation in Tel Aviv

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“Why Are You Here?”

To be able to do the work that God has called us to do in this area, we have to be diplomatic and smart. Honor and respect are inherent currency in the Middle Eastern culture, especially in Arab communities; and we always make sure to be very respectful to criminals running things in our area. Very often, they will ask us why we are doing this, who is supporting us, and what our motivation is. That is when we have the opportunity to share the gospel with them.

Sharing the Gospel With Arab-Speakers

Whenever there is an opportunity, we share the gospel with anyone who crosses our paths, and many who do are Muslim-background Arabs. In addition to the Arab criminal groups who control the area where we serve, many young Arab Muslim men come to this area because of the prostitution. There are also Palestinian construction workers from Judea and Samaria (called the West Bank in the media). Some have entered Israel legally and some illegally and many end up sleeping on the streets because they don't want to risk not being able to get back to their jobs if they go home for the night.

In addition to Hebrew and Russian, we keep Arabic Bibles and outreach material at our center, which we hand out on a regular basis. In order to be able to discuss the gospel with Muslims, we need to have a basic knowledge of how the Koran speaks about Jesus. When we talk about *Ee'sua ibn Miriyam* (Jesus, the son of Mary), using His proper Arabic name from the Koran, it somehow opens their hearts, and we are able to share about His work of redemption and the forgiveness of sins.

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Serving in One of Israel's Toughest Neighborhoods

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An Arab man gets a copy of "Run Baby Run" from a volunteer at our outreach

A Surprising Outreach Tool

One book that we always make sure to have on hand in Arabic is *Run Baby Run* by Nicky Cruz. In the 1950s, Cruz led a notoriously violent street gang in New York City and was saved by the gospel of love that he heard from preacher David Wilkerson. Because many of the Arab men in our area are either directly involved in criminal gangs or influenced by them, this book has a powerful impact on them.

When the Crime Gangs Lose Profits

Just recently we dealt a blow to the bottom line of the drug dealers' when I had the honor of driving a man to a rehab center run by believers. This man who suffers from a serious drug addiction has been coming to our center for meals for several years. This man knows us well and over time has learned to trust us. At one point when he was badly wounded in a street fight, he came to us for first aid.

Recently he shared with us that he has a young son whom he is not allowed to see because of his drug addiction. During the day he keeps himself busy at a construction job, but in the evening, when he is alone and has nothing to do, he ends up succumbing to his addiction.

Each day he tells himself that he will break the cycle of addiction so that he can make a new start and have a relationship with his son, but each evening after work, he falls back into his addiction. That evening when he was sharing with us his sadness and frustration, he let us pray for him. As we prayed, he asked the Lord into his life, and, immediately afterwards, he threw away all the drugs that he had in his possession. Right then I asked him if he wanted me to drive him to a drug rehabilitation center run by believers, and he said "Yes!"

That evening when I drove him to the rehab center, I felt such joy! Serving on the streets, we see so much pain and sadness in the lives of many who are unwilling to make the serious commitment to go to a rehab program. Not only did this young man open his heart to the Lord, but then he agreed to being taken physically out of the cycle of crime and enslavement to addiction and brought to an amazing rehabilitation center run by believers where he will have the opportunity and support to become free through God's grace. It is truly a lifesaving step!

I want to thank you so much for your faithful support of this ministry! Without your prayers and donations we could not be out there providing food, love and hope to so many.





IAMWITH
ISRAEL

Once again – Israelis are being discipled as followers of Yeshua!

Dear Friends,

The hardest thing we have found with new Israeli believers is helping them grow strong in the faith. As Yeshua said, many people will profess faith, but for various reasons, may not grow deep roots (Matthew 13). The deeper the roots, the more adversity, challenges and temptation a disciple can withstand.

With that in mind, Revive Israel under the leadership of Yuval and Valerie Yanay, has planted a revitalized, intensive discipleship program using as its *platform/framework an organic, community farm* on one of the world's only Messianic, Hebrew speaking "kibbutz" villages, just west of Jerusalem.

In the short time since the Corona "reset" Yuval and Valerie have spearheaded this program, with their young children even playing a part. They and their team have seen phenomenal results and have **just completed the 6th intensive session to be held in the last 24 months**. The full-time, immersive programs typically last 1 to 2 months at a time. They aim to go deep in healing and "hearing," and instill a life of daily practical service and devotion.

As a result of this program, a few dozen young Israeli believers have already sent their roots down much deeper into the Living Water and are thriving back in their home congregations. **Ex-Orthodox inquirers are coming to faith, and the first of them have already made strides as disciples of Yeshua.**

Expanding Into New Ground

This indigenous program takes place in their rented "Upper Room facility," in rented dorm rooms, on the farm and in the homes of staff members. **It is one of the most exciting and fruitful new discipleship paradigms in Israel.**

To increase their practical reach and fruitfulness, the team is expanding both the farmed area and the program. They have now added a volunteer session at a secular kibbutz as a blessing and a *testimony*. The activities also include practical, prayerful *weekly outreaches to drug addicts and the homeless* as they partner with **Feed Tel Aviv** out of Tiferet Yeshua congregation in Tel Aviv.

This autumn just after the Feast of Tabernacles, the next batch of discipleship students will plant vegetables in the ground of the second, newly added, terraced field.

We need your help!

It is through your partnership that we can pour into these future pastors, evangelists, business owners and professionals. Please consider a generous gift this month and make an eternal difference in the life of an Israeli. Just [click here!](#)

Ron Cantor
Director, #IAmWithIsrael
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