



Israel's Restoration

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Don't ~~Fear~~
Corona
Conspiracies!

Focus on this instead...

Also Executor of the Wrath of God

We have known Yeshua as the healer walking by the Sea of Galilee. But we haven't known Him as YHVH-Yeshua, the commander of the armies of heaven, the judge of all the earth, the executor of the wrath of God, the omnipotent and "pantokratic" (all-ruling) king.

From a recent post by Asher Intrater at reviveisrael.org

In order to deal with the events before us, we need to have a radical change in our understanding of who Yeshua is. This is what happened to John on the Isle of Patmos.

John was shocked and transformed by the experience on Patmos. John "the beloved" had known Yeshua as his friend. During the "Last Supper" he had leaned on Yeshua's chest, but now he fell to YHVH-Yeshua's feet as if dead (Revelation 1:13-17). We all need to have our own personal Patmos-type experience. How can we deal with the events of the book of Revelation *if we can't deal with the Yeshua of the book of Revelation?*

Yeshua has two forms: one of glory and fire and one of non-glorified human appearance. He came the first time with a normal humble appearance, riding on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 21:1-9). But He will come the second time in the glorified divine form, riding a white horse, with eyes of fire (Daniel 7:13-14, Revelation 1:14; 19:11-16).

Mankind has been alarmed at this virus epidemic which is still a long way from killing one-thousandth of humanity. The book of Revelation speaks of one-third of humanity being killed (Revelation 9:13-18; 16:1-9)!

This is a critical "kairos" moment of transition. Let's read and understand **Revelation chapter one** so we can embrace and even experience the events of the rest of the book.

Many of the Jews misunderstood Yeshua at the time of the first appearance. Many Christians will likely misunderstand Him at the second. This is no longer a matter of theoretical theology. *We are crossing into the end times, and we need to have an understanding of the end times' Yeshua.*

Before Moses faced Pharaoh in Egypt, he needed to understand Jehovah's mighty ways of judgment and redemption. Before we can face the end times, we also need to understand Yeshua as "Jehovah-Jesus." The mighty ways of judgment and redemption of Jehovah are also in the name of Yeshua, and we have not realized it.

As Jehovah sent Moses and Aaron to confront the evil empire of Pharaoh, so is Jehovah-Yeshua sending us to stand against the evil powers of the Beast in the end times (Revelation 11:8). The authority of the name Jehovah is inside the name Yeshua. Let us resume the Exodus cry and the Exodus moment:

"Let My people go!"

Passover is not Over.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

By Avi Tekle

In the weeks since Passover we have all witnessed an unprecedented time of changes and challenges. Yet through it all God has proven faithful. He has been a present help in this time of trouble.

Passover for us in Israel is a season when we celebrate the miraculous existence of Israel as a nation — in spite of strong enemies, whether thousands of years ago, or in our lifetime. It is a season to celebrate our rebirth in Yeshua the Passover Lamb and embrace His resurrection. As a community we also hold outreaches in our city to convey God's love and care to His people by providing practical humanitarian support to needy families.

This year, as in past years, we pledged to help 800 local families. However, unlike any other year, as we prepared the food outreach, the coronavirus pandemic became a real threat. The very days that we were hoping to distribute the food bags, the government severely limited contact and transportation within the population.

While in the past our problem was having fewer bags than people in need, this time our problem was the opposite because the needy were not allowed to come to our facility. We had bags ready to distribute, but didn't know how we could deliver them to their recipients.

But our challenges are opportunities for God. Initially we mobilized people from our wonderful family at Tents of Mercy Congregation who would voluntarily take the bags to people's homes. While doing so, **we were contacted by the city about getting help from the army. In a beautiful expression of solidarity, soldiers came within two days, and distributed the food bags on our behalf.** It was such an incredible testimony of God's faithfulness and His favor that the city would request help from the army for us.

Helping together reminds me of an Ethiopian proverb from my own childhood: *"50 lemons are heavy for one person; but for 50 people they are light."*

This has been one of those moments that we will remember. We are not on our own. **God is still the God of the Passover. God helps us pass over and through the challenges life throws at us.**

We are also so thankful to our readers and partners in the kingdom who continue to stand with us and Israel during these tumultuous times. Words fail to convey the depth of appreciation we feel towards you all.

May we be encouraged more and more that He is a very present help in trouble.

"50 lemons are heavy for one person; but for 50 people they are light."

Tents of Mercy Network of Congregations and Humanitarian Aid





Shalom Friends!

Greetings from the Messianic congregation Shavei Zion in Haifa, Israel.

This is Leon Mazin writing, and I thank you for the opportunity to be in touch with you.

I would like to change the style of our conversation. This is one of the results of the long quarantine and the new reality.

I want to communicate with you, our friends, on a deeper and more personal level. I hope it won't tire you!

Are These the So-Called Last Days?

God alone knows the exact times He has set, yet many believers in the Messiah and also Orthodox rabbis affirm that, "We hear the footsteps of the (approaching) Messiah."

We don't know where in "The Last Days" we are right now, but I am thoroughly convinced that we are already living in them.

At this point we don't even know who is responsible for Covid-19, be it the bats or be it Chinese biological laboratories - but God is in control, and He foresees the future.

This is the reason why it is so important to take literally, the words of our Teacher – Yeshua, **"Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near"** (Luke 21:28 NKJV).

Covid in Israel.

Many people say that Israel is doing just fine, relative to other countries; since we have quite a low percentage of deaths. On the one hand, we must thank God for His faithfulness upon Israel, especially in light of some deep, accumulated problems in our health care system. He is mercifully helping us.

Nevertheless, there are whole sections of the population that have a higher rate of infection. These include the ultra-Orthodox communities and some of the Arab towns.

I am writing this to encourage you to pray for your own countries. In addition we ask for your prayers for continued protection in Israel and for God's heavenly intervention in the lives of people, not only for their health but also for their **salvation!**

Politics in Israel.

Sadly, we are in a prolonged political crisis as well. This is a very strange situation and it "steals" a lot of energy, momentum, time and resources. After three elections and many financial problems, let's pray the new unity government can actually lead Israel.

Perhaps the Lord is speaking to you in this invitation for intercession on behalf of Jerusalem:

"I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till He establishes, And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth." (Isaiah 62:6-7 NKJV).

Our Family.

I was born in the USSR and lived there till the age of 22. Then I made aliya (immigrated), and here I am, living in Israel for 29 years! Maybe my past and the controlling regime in which I was raised taught me not to be open. As a result, I rarely write about my dear family. But it seems to me that now is a good time for a change.

One of my daughters married recently. Almost immediately afterward, social distancing began and restrictions were activated. My daughter and her husband didn't have the time to rent their own apartment. So now, we are nine people under one roof. Actually, we have another nice young man, a refugee from an "un-named country" living with us. So we are ten people. On the one hand it is not boring, but on the other, it is not always easy! When it's time to broadcast a service, the house gets even fuller, with technicians and musicians. If you are interested, follow this link to watch (<https://www.youtube.com/user/ReturntoZion/videos>)

And there is of course, the task of feeding everybody. The issue is not just buying the food...but preparing it! We received a brand-new nickname from our congregation. They call us "the Barracks."



Continuing to Minister.

We endeavor to broadcast live-stream three times a week in a mixture of Russian and Hebrew: a Shabbat service, worship and prayer times, and a mid-week lesson with me. For sure, we miss the opportunity to hug people, but the list of subscribers for the streaming services is growing, and now we are working to establish contact with our new viewers. Please, pray for us in this task.

As for the ministry "Return to Zion", we continue to distribute humanitarian aid with hundreds of food packages for the needy and elderly. We are in constant phone contact with new immigrants. Many are stressed and fearful, and we attempt to reveal the Lord to them. We ourselves also need Him.

That is all for now. Please do not forget us in your prayers. We ask the Creator in the name of Yeshua to sustain you!

With love and respect,

Leon Mazin
Senior Pastor, Return to Zion Congregation

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Fearful in Heart?

An excerpt from Eitan Shishkoff's forthcoming book: *With All Your Heart*

Fear is a major by-product of the coronavirus crisis currently gripping the globe.

I just listened to an impassioned message from Israel's President, Reuven Rivlin. He urged the citizens of Israel not to fear, not to panic, not to give way to anxiety. He addressed **the very present danger of our hearts giving way to fear.**

Yet how are we to manage our hearts in such a climate of uncertainty? Businesses and jobs have taken a huge hit. What is the hope for the future? An Israeli journalist noted how much this crisis differs from all other threats we've faced. *"Israelis ... don't like to confess that we're scared. But I'm scared"* (David Brinn, JPost, March 16, 2020).

[While we're on the subject of fear, I've got to interject that there is a healthy kind of fear that we're commanded to embrace. It's the **fear of the Lord**. It is knowing that God's power and authority are so awe-some that we are legitimately afraid of the consequences of sin, evil, and rebellion. It is our trembling, worshipful respect when confronted with ultimate majesty.]

The wrong kind of fear is something we really have to deal with. It can cripple us mentally and emotionally. It can also spur us to rise up, check its source, and reach for the faith and love to overcome it. How can I deal with the wrong kind of fear when it enters into my heart, silent, but deadly?

1. Know that the Prince of Peace is with you

A storm threatened to drown them all. The small craft carrying the disciples had little chance of surviving, as a violent wind filled the boat with wave after wave. Yeshua slept through it, oddly undisturbed. They shook Him, desperate to survive.

"Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!' And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, 'Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?'" (Mark 4:39-40)

The presence of Messiah in their situation changed everything. Remember. God has guaranteed that He will **"never leave you nor forsake you"** (Hebrews 13:5).

2. Counter Fear with Perfect Love

The Apostle John survived boiling oil, only to be cast alone, on to the island of Patmos. Yet, he received the greatest revelation of God's love. John said,

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear ... We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:18-19).

When we're attacked by fear it's time to run into the arms of our Savior Shepherd.

3. During Tribulation, Look Up!

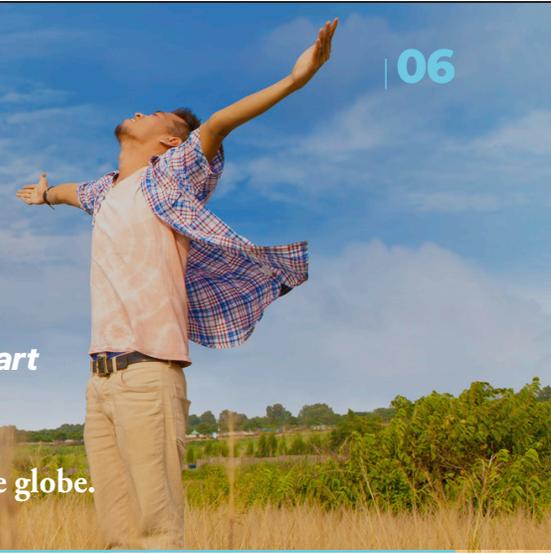
End-time events are already taking place, events given in the Bible as signs of the Lord's return.

"And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven ... Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near" (Luke 21:11,28).

We must not close our eyes to human suffering nor collapse in stressed-out fear. Yeshua makes it clear that these things are coming our way, but that they point to His ultimate return, when He will bring peace and blessing to all the earth. So, during these trying, life-threatening times, let's be confident that He is with us and ask Him to use us in the lives of those next to us who are hurting.

"Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

"Fear not little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).



Don't Fear Corona Conspiracies!

Focus on this instead...

From a recent post by **Ron Cantor** at tikkun.tv

Beloved, I am not writing to mock anyone. This came pouring out of me after spending time in prayer and the Word—out of a heart of love and deep concern for God's people.

Notice that I did not write “conspiracy theories” but conspiracies. Let's even start with the assumption that some of the conspiracy theories are true,

Okay, Now What?

The question is: **How should we respond?**

What is the response of the Christians in China to the fact that their government conspires against them daily? **Preach the gospel.** Win as many people as possible.

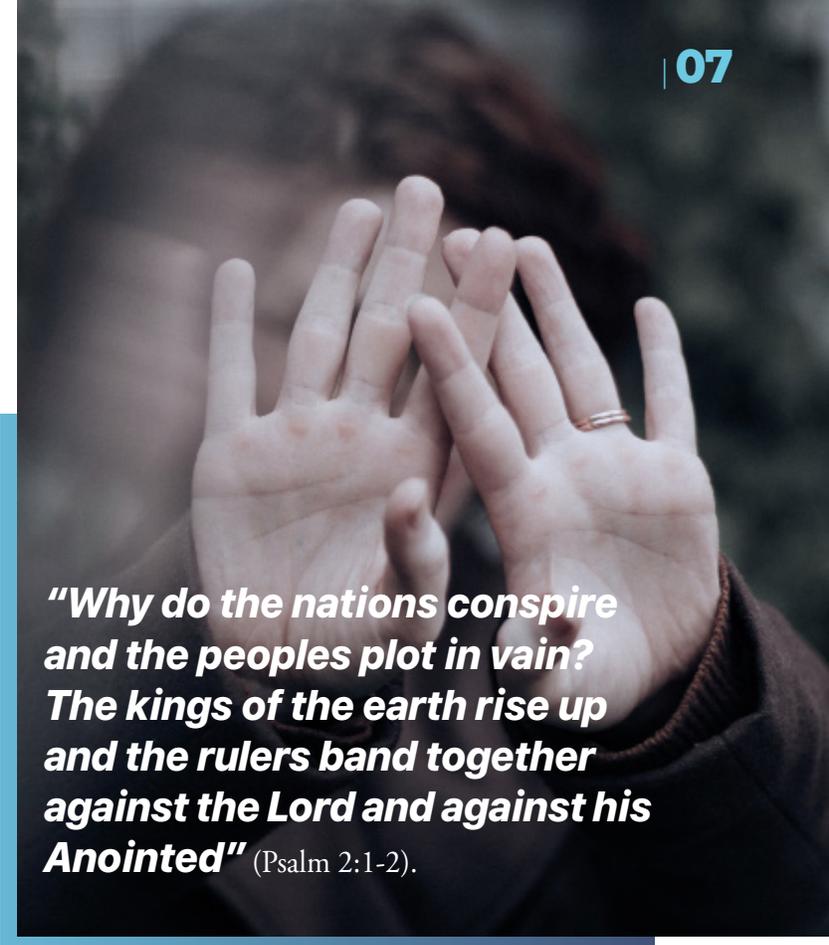
What was Paul's response to Rome's persecution of believers? **Preach the gospel.**

What was the response of the apostles when they were arrested and beaten (Acts 3-4)? **Preach the gospel.**

What were Yeshua's final words? “Warn the people about Bill Gates?” No, and forgive me, I am not trying to be cute here, but to make a point. He said to go all over the world and make disciples.

The Nations Conspire

The day will come when the governments of the world will turn on believers and persecute us (Revelation 13:16-17). I do not believe the present restrictions against gathering in large groups are motivated by a desire to shut down the church. However, this is a good opportunity to practice, because that day will surely come!



“Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his Anointed” (Psalm 2:1-2).

The fact that certain powers conspire against God and His people is neither news, nor shocking. It was prophesied long ago. The question is, are we ready?

Too often we fear the raging, conspiring nations, more than the One who created them. When we fret over the conspiracies of man, we make God very small. The greatest of all the bad actors to come is not Prince Charles, the W.H.O., Bill Gates or Dr. Fauci; but the Antichrist, and he is a mere puppet in God's hand. For three and a half years, this powerful man will be unable to touch Jerusalem. The two witnesses, who happen to breathe fire and “strike the earth with plagues as often as they want,” will hold him back as they proclaim Yeshua from the Old City of Jerusalem.

Despite all the plans of man, God will have His way. No one is going to pull the wool over God's eyes, (with 5G cell towers or fake vaccines). Those who seek to come against Him are serving His plans whether they know it or not. During the last seven years before Yeshua's return, they will have great difficulty implementing their evil schemes amidst plagues, earthquakes and droughts, whereas believers will enjoy protection from much of it, like the Israelites during the Passover plagues. It is going to be a harrowing time on planet earth.

“There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences (plagues) in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven. But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you ... all on account of my name. And so you will bear testimony to me” (Luke 21:10-13).

“I pledge my head to heaven”

My concern is not for those who may be conspiring, but **for those who are not preparing for difficult times; for persecution.** Even now, many are prophesying, hoping and praying that we can all go back to normal—meaning 30,000 points on the stock market, strong economies and full megachurches.

But is that what God wants? Maybe for a season, **until the next “birth pang.”** Yet, certainly, if we are in the last days, the old normal is not what is going to happen.

I talked to a megachurch pastor the other day who gets it, but he told me that many megachurch pastors are saying, “Don’t worry, everything will be back to normal soon.” Or maybe God is doing what he said in His Word? Hebrews 12:26-27 tells us that He will shake everything that can be shaken, so that only that which is unshakable will remain.

I see a time soon when God is going to bring some of our ministry structures crumbling down. **I do not exempt myself—for God alone knows my heart and motives, my fears and jealousies.** Let it all come down!

I imagine that some ministers are panicking over losing their platforms. Beware of those who tell you the key to stopping the plague, is a gift to their ministry. Giving is super important, especially in a time of famine or plague, but not out of manipulation. I keep seeing in my spirit, man-made scaffolding and structures being brought down. Then I see something more beautiful arising—the ecclesia, the people of God—in its place. Could it be that God is not only draining the swamp in politics, but also in ministry? Does not judgment begin with the house of God (1 Peter 4:17)?

I absolutely believe in leadership. But leaders are called to **“equip the saints for works of ministry”** (Ephesians 4:11-14). My guess is that more non-leadership believers are doing more ministry now than before, because of COVID-19.

I would love for things to go back to the way they were. But as Keith Green sang, “I pledge my head to heaven for the Gospel.”

Whom have I but Jesus? **He is stripping everything else away. And yes, it is scary, but I am longing for His glory.** He does not return to a distracted bride, but one who yearns for Him.

(I wrote those last few paragraphs in tears, holy fear and trembling.)

What to do?

Instead of focusing on conspiracy theories (even if true) we should:

01.

Prepare for what is coming, emotionally and spiritually. Pray and seek God. Find your security in Him.

02.

Rejoice. **“When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near”** (Luke 21:28).

Let’s go after God like never before!

Tikkun (tee-koon) n. [Hebrew]

1. Restoration: bringing back to health, strength; rebuilding
2. Setting in order; making straight
3. World redemption [Jewish tradition] - the final restoration of the world in harmony with God.

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