

**ISRAEL'S  
RESTORATION**

Published Monthly Since 1991 / Based in Israel

*May '24*

**TIKKUN  
GLOBAL**

**A Big Question**

03 - 06 | Hannah Tekle

**Update from Haifa**

04 | Leon Mazin

**Whose Slave?**

05 | Guy Cohen

**Dream Prompt**

06 | Asher Intrater

**The Last of Pharaoh's Slaves**

07 | Jonathan Moore

**The Divine Transaction:**

08 | Neveen Bader

# Let Not Your *Heart* Be Troubled

Page 02 | By Ariel Blumenthal

# Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled



By Ariel Blumenthal



© depositphotos

With all the tension building in Israel and the world today, how is it even possible that our hearts not be troubled?

Recently I woke up one morning disoriented from all that is happening. When I feel like that, I always go to the amazing words of Yeshua in the passage stretching from John chapters 13 to 17. They were spoken during the hours of the Last Supper in the upper room through the time in Gethsemane. He was giving His “last will and Testament,” and apparently John was the only one who was listening carefully.

Yeshua instructs us in John 14:1, **“Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me...”**

First, this means we can decide whether we allow our hearts to be troubled or not. Where I live there is tension from the external enemies Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas; and also within Israel between right and left, secular and religious. So I need and want to obey Yeshua’s instruction. Here are three tips I see in this passage and in general, that will keep our hearts from being troubled:

1. **DEVOTION** – Develop a devotional relationship with the Word of God; allow His Word to come alive inside of you on a daily basis. We must constantly turn to God’s Word, allowing the Holy Spirit to minister its truth to us in our specific situations.

“... if anyone loves me he will keep **my word**; and my father will love him and we will come to him and make our abode with him.” (John 14:23)

I came to faith in Japan in 1992, when I was a *JuBu* (a Jewish Buddhist) and had a radical encounter with the resurrected Yeshua. Early on I was disciplined in how to how to read the Bible, pray, keep a journal and things like that.

Just a few months after I met the Lord I decided I was going to fast, pray and read the whole Bible for one week. I was so hungry for the Word. Reading and praying I came to Isaiah 58:12 and had a supernatural experience. The words “jumped” off the page, went 3D and eventually became the theme of my life. That’s just one example of what can happen while devotionally reading the Word.

2. **STUDY** God’s Word. Read the Torah, prophets, and writings; read the gospels and epistles. Ask for revelation how the whole Word of God fits together. Read the Bible in context, accessing tools to help deepen understanding.

“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me...” (John 14:21)

What are His “commands?” Just the red-letter words of Jesus? All of the New Testament? The whole Bible, including all Torah commands? Believers have different views on this subject, and we need to study how the Word of God fits together.

3. **ASK** and pray for the will of God, according to the Word of God, in the Name of Yeshua. Allow the Holy Spirit to work through you to accomplish His will and purposes. Join with His Spirit to change the world.

“Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. **Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.**” (John 16:23-24)

Yeshua repeated the same instruction to you and me, for your heart and mine. As we enter into the End Times, it is of critical importance that we practice walking this out today and every day:

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**” (John 14:27)







© depositphotos

# A Big Question



By Hannah Tekle

Belly large, she looked at me with fearful eyes. After two pregnancies and two deliveries, she was no stranger to the difficulty of giving birth. Her apprehension was real, founded in experience. Doing my very best to walk the line between empathy and encouragement I reminded her of the main points in the pep talk I love to give, whenever I have the chance, about working with the pain and not resisting it. She smiled a tearful smile: *“The pain is what scares me – I don’t know if I have what it takes to do it again.”*

The fresh young soldier’s army course was shortened unexpectedly, and the soldiers were sent to fill emergency roles. Feeling ill-equipped to do the job for real, her nervousness was understandable. It was one thing to study hard and be devoted to the preparation process, but it was another thing altogether to jump headfirst into the role when the stakes are life and death. I was about to encourage her to trust the system and then realized that “the system” was precisely the thing that had just let everyone down on October 7th. *“We’ve been studying and practicing, but now is the real deal; how do I know if I have what it takes?”*

Watching through the river reeds, she saw the beautiful princess lift her brother out of the basket. Her heart pounded in her chest and her thoughts raced. “What now?” She had kept a careful eye on the tiny straw boat’s journey down the Nile, delighted and awed that God’s outstretched Hand had guided it away from peril and to the edge of the protected royal river beach. But now she faced a new danger. She had trespassed on the princess’s private property, and had to reveal her crime. She also had to figure out what to say to ensure her brother’s safety and connection with the family. Hesitating for just a moment, she thought: *“Do I have what it takes?”*

Barefoot and standing on the hot desert floor, he stared at the burning bush in front of him. God had just asked him to go back to the country he had fled from, to advocate to his brother and king for the lives of his enslaved people. Trained and taught and tutored all his life to be a leader, he nevertheless pleaded: *“But, but, but, I stutter, and I don’t know if I have what it takes.”*

The first two snapshots above are situations that are happening now in the lives of two people in our community. One has been resolved, sort of. The soldier arrived at her temporary post and reported that it was going well and that she and her fellow soldiers were acclimating and fulfilling the duty they were trained for in real-time. The mom has yet to give birth; please pray for her and her young family.

As for the other two stories – we know how they end. Miriam advocates to the princess and successfully fulfills the role she was called to fill, setting things in motion for Moses to be nursed and nurtured by his very own mother, yet adopted into the palace family to play his destined role as Deliverer. Moses himself becomes one of the classic Bible stories of human hesitation and feeling of internal inadequacy vs. God’s call and promise to do what He intends to do through human vessels as they surrender to His plan.

When faced with difficulty and impossible situations, whether on the micro level or the macro level – how do we function? ***How do we answer this Big Question:*** “Do I have what it takes?”

In the chaos and desperation of these days, with wars and political unrest proliferating as never before, we need to know the answer.

Continued on page 6



# Update from Haifa



By **Leon Mazin**

Shalom to you in Messiah Yeshua! May mercy, peace, and love from God our Father be multiplied to you.

Thank you for your prayers, for your donations and for standing with us in these difficult days! We are strengthened by the Lord to walk with Him and fulfill His commission.

Recently our music school held a series of concerts. All were a testimony of God's blessing. There are now more than 140 students in our school.



Many people in the congregation are exhausted by the war and rumors of war, as well as by worries about their loved ones in the IDF. To counter this stress and provide spiritual and emotional restoration, we organized a getaway for the married couples of our congregation. The time together was spent hiking Mount Tabor, listening to excellent teaching, playing games and eating delicious food. Our hearts were lighter and our minds refreshed upon our return.



In preparation for the Passover holiday, the humanitarian side of Shavai Tzion assembled many Passover gift sets to be shared with new immigrants, elderly, Holocaust survivors, for the project "Women in Problematic Situations," and others in need. Altogether we prepared 500 gift sets. Each set costs about \$35.00 (US). We greatly appreciate your prayers and participation in these gifts.

## Return to Zion Congregation

11 Tel Aviv St. Haifa, Israel | Tel: +972 4-851-0876 | Email: [info@shaveitzion.org](mailto:info@shaveitzion.org) | [shaveitzion.org](http://shaveitzion.org)



## Youth Lead Purim

A few words about Purim. This year the retelling of God's miracle from the book of Esther was arranged and presented by our youth group. They even wrote the songs themselves. About 200 people came to celebrate, and the performance was marvelous.

Please continue to intercede for our youth. They are reaching the age when they will soon be drafted into the IDF. These days we are even more aware of the need to pray protection over each one — spirit, soul and body!

Shirley and Ilya, our daughter and her husband, lead the youth group which has more than 20 members. It's a mini-community with specific needs. That's why the leaders need special wisdom!

## Passover and Yom Kippur Sacrifices

The Messiah is a fulfillment of the Passover and Yom Kippur sacrifices. Those sacrifices are described in Leviticus, and they tell us about "unauthorized fire" and the fear of God. This shows us that the Messiah's sacrifice is sufficient for everyone who comes to God the Father in the power of the new covenant sacrifice. And it also shows us how important it is to have the fear of God.

God's eternal calling still rests on Israel through the covenant inheritance of our forefather, Abraham. Yet we know that the formal sacrifices ceased after the destruction of the Second Temple almost 2000 years ago. Therefore, there is no other way to come, purified and justified before God, **except through Yeshua's sacrifice**. Both His Jewish and Gentile followers have this privilege today.

In Ephesians Paul said: "*those who once were far off became fellow citizens with the saints.*" In Galatians Paul states that in Messiah Gentiles become Abraham's children. This is an important status because God chose Abraham and his descendants to be instruments in the Creator's hands to "repair" the world now shattered by sin.

*"For we are the temple of the living God — as God said, I will house myself in them, and I will walk among you. I will be their God, and they will be my people."* (2 Corinthians 6:16)

*"Therefore, my dear friends, since we have these promises, let us purify ourselves from everything that can defile either body or spirit, and strive to be completely holy, out of reverence for God."* (2 Corinthians 7:1)

I wish everyone blessings and health and full joy in Messiah Yeshua as we celebrate His feasts and live each day dedicated to His service.



May'24  
04



# Whose Slave?



By Guy Cohen

*“Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.”* (Romans 6:16 NLT)

Our people spent 400 years as slaves in Egypt – certainly not by choice! Slavery connotes shame and helplessness, the very opposite of freedom. Yet numerous heroes of the faith in the Old and New Testaments are referred to as servants of the Lord. (In Hebrew, slave and servant is the same word, *eved*.) Israel is called the Servant of the LORD. Most notably, the prophesied Messiah is called the Servant of the LORD.

So what does Paul mean when he says we will be a slave to whatever/whomever we obey? The heart of his question is **what or whom are we worshipping?** The choice is idolatry, serving that which is not real, or serving the true, Living God with all our heart, soul, and strength.

## Enslavement to Idols or a Bondslave to Messiah?

Idolatry is not limited to ancient cultures. As we rapidly approach Yeshua's return, we see the same idols which were worshipped in the past rising up. We see this both locally in Israel and globally in the abortion pandemic of sacrificing the lives of the preborn. We also see it among spiritually starved Israelis who are drawn to New Age and Eastern religions. These can even include homage to physical statues!

What master will we serve?

*“Paul, a bondservant of Yeshua HaMashiach,”* is the way the apostle referred to himself (Romans 1:1; Galatians 1:10; Titus 1:1). In the Torah, a bondservant was a freed slave who voluntarily chose to serve his master, being identified by a pierced ear *“and he shall serve him forever”* (Exodus 21:6). What a vivid image of our choice to serve Yeshua, after being freed from our slavery to sin.

The Scriptures present an open-eyed look at life and its physical necessities. 1 Corinthians 6 tackles the power of both food and sex **to enslave us**. These basic aspects of life are not labeled as “evil” or “not to be enjoyed.” Our physical body is part of how God made us, and is meant to glorify Him and help us connect with God. Our flesh is not meant to separate us from the Lord.



Replica of 5th Century BCE Athena Parthenos idol at original size - by LeQuire

However, when we are enticed to focus on our flesh, we stray from the spirit of God. As believers in Yeshua, we need to remember the price He paid for us and to join ourselves to the Lord. *“The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever”* (1 John 2:17).

Our prayer is that the eyes of men will turn away from those slaveries which lead to death, and instead be obedient servants/slaves to the Lord of Life.



# Dream Prompt



By Asher Intrater



Recently I had a disturbing dream that repeated itself several times:

In the dream I was walking through one of the *dark underground tunnels of Hamas in Gaza*. At one point I saw a small lighted room with a hostage tied to a chair and gagged. The perspective I had was of an Israeli soldier searching for hostages, as if seeing from a GoPro helmet camera barely showing the tip of the soldier's rifle in the front. Then I realized that this was a trap, that a bomb was set to go off when someone entered the room – to kill both the soldier and the hostage.

As I woke I felt we need to pray strongly so the terrorists can be pushed back and the Israeli soldiers can get to the hostages. The terrorists know that enough intelligence has already been gathered by Israel so that many of their locations have been identified. They will begin to retreat, but they will set booby traps. Let's pray for these traps to be revealed.

The dream could be a warning against disaster or a hope for a “cleaner” victory. Please pray for the IDF special operations to succeed, which could bring the conflict to an end and save many lives on both Israeli and Palestinian sides. Thank you!

## Tikkun Global

Connect with us at [tikkunglobal.org](http://tikkunglobal.org)

TIKKUN  
GLOBAL



## Continued from page 3

The best and only way forward is to go back to the original design. **God has what it takes, and He designed us to seek Him, walk with Him, and submit to HIS system. That's how we thrive. That's how we will “have what it takes.”**

*“For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah Yeshua for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* (Ephesians 2:10)

*“For to everyone I send you, you will go, and all I command you, you will speak. Do not be afraid of them! For I am with you to deliver you.”* (Jeremiah 1:7-8)

Amidst the clouds of war and reserve soldiers returning to active duty in light of the escalation on the front lines, we are carrying out our annual Passover Food Basket Project. By the time we are all sitting down to celebrate and tell the ancient Passover story, even as an unresolved modern exodus-type confrontation rages on, **we will have given out 900 packages of food to needy families all over the Krayot.**

Please pray with us that each bag will be a blessing and a seed to the families they reach, that hearts will be drawn to God the Divine Designer of Life, the One who knows the Plan and “the System” backward and forward.

## 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](mailto:admin@tentsofmercy.org) | [tentsofmercy.org](http://tentsofmercy.org)



May'24  
06



# The Last of Pharaoh's Slaves



By Jonathan Moore



© depositphotos

In Joshua 1 the Israelites are preparing to enter the Promised Land under their new leader Joshua. God tells Joshua to, “Be Strong and Courageous!” Then He tells him again, “*Be Strong and Courageous!*” And then he repeats this phrase a third and fourth time!

Why is God saying this over and over? To understand the reason, we need to go back..

We know from Numbers 27:18 that Joshua was ordained by Moses at God's instruction to lead the people after Moses' death. But we need to go further back.. We know Joshua was among 12 Israelites spying out the Land (Numbers 13). But, are these the only reasons? In the very first mention of Joshua in Exodus 17, Moses asked Joshua to choose men to go out and fight the Amalekites.

So, we have quite a bit of information about Joshua by the time he begins leading the children of Israel into the Promised Land. But none of this explains the repetitious exhortation from God to “*Be Strong and Courageous!*”

Why does Joshua, who was already a young adult soldier when we first meet him in Exodus 17, require so much encouragement?

We need to see Joshua as not just a warrior, spy and special assistant to Moses. Unlike Moses, *Joshua grew up as a slave to genocidal Pharaohs and cruel task masters.*

By the time Joshua enters the Promised Land, he (along with Caleb) is the very last of the generation of slaves from Egypt. After 40 years a new generation has arisen and *Joshua is the last “old-timer” who remembers the torture and the namelessness of the slave identity.*

Joshua, the last slave, is stepping out of his inherited slave identity and being encouraged in his new identity as the leader of a free people preparing to enter their land of promise. **God is calling Joshua into his true identity as a free man leading a free people into their inheritance** – no longer a slave, and free to step into God's full destiny.

We all have hearts wounded by slavery to sin, by the trials of life, and by interactions with other fallen humans – parents, teachers, peers, etc. Every one of us is fed demonic lies about our identity. In elementary school my mother was told she wasn't smart, and the other kids laughed at her. How do I know? Because she still remembers and told me about the experience 40 years after it happened.

We all need the inner healing and emancipation that comes with seeing ourselves through God's eyes.

So, I want each person reading this to do two things:

1. Ask the Lord, “God, how do YOU see me?”
2. Take one step in the confidence of that identity. Then after that first step, take another.

Joshua was told four times to be strong and courageous *before he took his first step* into the Promised Land. He couldn't remain a slave in his identity and at the same time move forward against a highly fortified giant-filled land with a bunch of “children of slaves.”

Maybe YOU need to hear the Lord strongly confirm your identity before you feel you can take your next step. Strengthen your identity in Yeshua. You aren't ugly; you're beautiful. You aren't a failure; you have a destiny set by the Creator before the foundations of the Earth. You aren't dumb; you are wonderfully and fearfully made! You aren't a failure; as a person fulfilling Psalm 1:3, you meditate on the Word of the Lord day and night; you are blessed, and all that you do will be successful!

You have been set free. Your promised land is right before you. Step into it.





# The Divine Transaction:

## *From Brokenness to Wholeness*



By Neveen Bader

I still remember the story I heard in Sunday School of a child who invested much time and effort in planning and building a miniature toy boat. When he finished, he wanted to try it in the river near his home, but the little boat drifted into the current and out of reach. Sometime later the child saw it for sale in the window of a vintage store. He went in, told the owner that he had made the boat and asked for it back. The owner said that he would have to pay for it. So, the boy went to work and earned what he needed to buy his boat back.

**This is what God did for us. He bought us twice. First, when He created us, and second when He redeemed us.**

From Genesis to Revelation the Bible proclaims the love of God and His plan of redemption. To redeem is “to pay a price.” This expression is **especially used in relation to the emancipation of slaves**. It is written that we were *bought at a price and the price was the blood of Jesus shed on the cross* (1 Corinthians 6:20, 7:23).

Recently we commemorated the crucifixion and resurrection of Yeshua – the divine exchange He made to redeem us. The cross is where we offer our sins and receive forgiveness. We bring our brokenness, and depart with healing.

Man was created to live in direct communion with God, but when sin entered the world, he was condemned to death, spiritually, morally, and physically. His nature became sinful and mortal. From the beginning, God’s plan for humanity was redemption and deliverance from sin and death, as well as the restoration of all aspects of life. Through the cross, God restored everything to us.

Restoration is not fixing something, but **recreating** something in its original status as if it was never broken. We were doomed to die because of our corrupted and sinful nature, but when we were saved, God the Creator, created a new destiny for each one of us.

God is not afraid of our brokenness. He is drawn to touch our damaged hearts, disappointments, failures, and morally depraved society. When you feel defeated by sin, watch God’s love restore what was lost and recreate your destiny.

No one is ever too far from God’s redemptive power. The cross is the way to move from curse to blessing, from death to life, just as the people of Israel passed from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

*“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.”* (Leviticus 26:13)

God wanted every generation of Israelites to remember what He had done for them by breaking the yoke of slavery. He made it possible for them to walk in dignity with their heads lifted high. In this verse, the word “upright” (in both Arabic and Hebrew), comes from the same root letters as “resurrection from the dead.” God not only brought them out of slavery, he called them to rise to new life.

Through the cross, Yeshua also freed all who are enslaved to sin and made a way for new life – bridging heaven and earth. This “bridge” is open to us because He paid the price.

He is Risen, and we bear witness!

