

ISRAEL'S RESTORATION

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TIKKUN GLOBAL



A Cup of Reeling for the Nations

02 | Ariel Blumenthal

Just Down the Road from Armageddon

03 - 06 | Avi Tekle

Turbulence

04 | Leon Mazin

Commanded to Bring Comfort, but How?

05 | Guy Cohen

End Times or Not?

08 | Raphael Almeida

Miracles and Wonders? Israel at War

Page 07 | By Tamar Afriat



A Cup of Reeling for the Nations



By Ariel Blumenthal

“I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling...” (Zechariah 12:2)

A major shift has happened in Israel. This shift is significant in relationship to Zechariah 8-14 and the fulfillment of prophecies leading up to the Second Coming.

Two laws have been passed that never had enough votes before October 7th, 2023. Since the Hamas invasion of Southern Israel, events have forced many Israelis to (again!) face the difficult reality that the world system is not friendly to us, and that we are increasingly isolated. All this is serving to unite the Jewish people.

1. *Anti-UNRWA Law* – The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine started out as an important humanitarian initiative to care for half a million Arabs made refugees in Israel’s War for Independence in 1948-49. But what was supposed to be a short term “band-aid” has turned into a long term, festering wound.

With the support of the nations of the world, UNRWA has become its own welfare mini-state to 6 million (!) Arab/Palestinians in “refugee camps” around the Middle East – the children and grandchildren of the original refugees. UNRWA and the Arab nations around Israel, have perpetuated a whole caste of non-citizens who are taught the “hopeless hope” that one day there will be a glorious Palestinian state for them.

UNRWA’s budget for 2024 is \$16 billion, greater than the budgets of 39 of the poorest nations of the world! After discovering hard evidence that many UNRWA employees were Hamas members, the Israeli government finally said ENOUGH! UNRWA is now illegal in Israel. A few years ago, this kind of legislation was considered “extreme” and “far-right.” On October 28, 2024 it passed by a huge majority – 92 out of 120 members of the Israeli Knesset.



2. *The amendment to the “Jerusalem Our Capital” Basic Law*. One of our “basic” laws declares an undivided Jerusalem as Israel’s eternal, sovereign capital (East and West). Yet, for decades, the nations of the world have kept their embassies in Tel Aviv. In many cases, this has been part of the world agenda to force a Palestinian state, with a future capital in East Jerusalem, down Israeli throats, no matter how full of terrorist explosives it may be. From now on, any nation with hopes of a diplomatic or bureaucratic presence in Jerusalem must establish a regular embassy to the State of Israel...and nothing else. In other words, if your nation wants to be in Jerusalem, you can do so by recognizing our capital.

All of this would go without saying in any other nation’s capital, but Israel is not any other nation, and Jerusalem is not any other city.

Both of these new laws are strong expressions of Jewish/Israeli sovereignty over the Land. The world does not like it! For the last 100 or so years, we have seen the same formula: “Israeli sovereignty leads to Israeli isolation.”

There is something deeply troubling to the nations when the Jews are sovereign in the Land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Why? Because Jewish/Israeli sovereignty over the land hints at the sovereignty of God over this world, and the biblical promises of the Jewish Messiah, Yeshua, ruling and reigning over the entire earth from Jerusalem.

None of this should be too surprising. It’s all been prophesied in scriptures like Psalm 2, and Zechariah 12:2-3; 14:2-3. As events unfold, it is all too easy to imagine how a world coalition could come up against Jerusalem to put an end to this “problem” once and for all. However... **“Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle” (Zechariah 14:3 NIV).**





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Just Down the Road from Armageddon

In the “wrong” place at the right time



By Avi Tekle

I recently gave my soldier daughter a ride to the bus stop so she could get back to her IDF base after a short leave. Finding myself near a boutique hot dog shop that I like, I decided to make the drive to *Megiddo* to visit it. Both the drive and the area are gorgeous. Each house is more beautiful than the next, with landscaped yards and pergolas overlooking the scenic Jezreel Valley.

On the way back I admired the houses again and allowed myself to briefly fantasize about moving to the area. Turning on the radio, I was jolted into our present reality of war and remembered with a start that this beautiful area, Megiddo, that I was appreciating, is *in fact the Biblical area of Armageddon* – the site of intense last days’ upheaval, conflict, war and violence. Well, so much for my fantasy, I will stick with the very unromantic, somewhat unpicturesque Krayot area where I live, thank you very much.

The obvious connection between this tangibly real suburban area *not even 40 minutes away* from us; and the *apocalyptic*, Biblically-foretold future; along with our present war – is entirely sobering! And the truth is that all of us, no matter where we live, are on borrowed time. The end of days for each one of us will come, whether we have endured war and hardship in our lifetime or not.

Where do we want to be when the “rubber hits the road?” Where do we want to be when all hell breaks loose? We want to be where God wants us to be. Doing what God wants us to be doing.

In John 2 we are told the story of Yeshua’s first miracle. He was invited to a wedding in the town of Cana, which is just 35 km away from our own community in Kiryat Yam. John doesn’t give us all the juicy details; he just writes that the wine ran out.

At a Middle Eastern wedding there are two important things that are crucial to the celebration – and that’s not even the bride and groom, haha – it’s food and wine. Wine running out while the celebration is still going on is a disaster, a shame, a mark on the reputation of the whole family – certainly on the name of the master of the banquet.

So, Yeshua and His disciples are at this wedding and the wine runs out. Yeshua’s mother intervenes, “Come on – help them!” The family could have been cousins, neighbors or lifelong friends. Miriam begs Yeshua to smooth over this shameful situation. From there, so many questions arise: Did everyone know? How did she know He could do something about it? And perhaps the most basic question, why is a beverage running out at a wedding a big enough deal to be the scenario where God chooses to show His power?

The situation is looking very bleak; the wine, which is a symbol of joy, has run out. It appears there is no solution. Miriam, full of faith and revelation, implores the servants to obey all of Yeshua’s instructions. Yeshua tells the servants to draw 120 liters of water (30 gallons) from the well for *each* of the six containers – large clay vessels that were meant to hold water for ritual purity bathing. The scriptures tell us that they filled these jugs to the very top. This was a heavy task, but John does not report that the servants complained or resisted. Yeshua could have made the wine appear from “thin air,” yet He asked the servants to take part in the miracle He was about to perform in a very physical, earthly way.

Continued on page 6



Turbulence



By Leon Mazin

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Geopolitical events in the Middle East, Ukraine and the Far East are turbulent and frightening. We see forces arise and group together - reminiscent of the book of Revelation when Satan seduces nations with lies, and the wars of Gog and Magog take place.

Those older than 50 remember the turbulent days of the “Iron Curtain,” NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Everything was on the verge of conflagration. Those living in the USSR were fueled by propaganda, lies, and hatred toward the West and atheism.

Today we are again witnessing the escalating quest for power and dominance causing turmoil around the world. It's not just a geographical “war” between the East and West, with Russia and China. There is also a strong religious component to the conflict. It was assumed Liberalism would rule the 21st century, but now we see how radical religious movements are gaining ground. It creates the impression that people everywhere are motivated by violent power. The darkness in people's hearts is deepening and the “deception of nations” is at work.

Many believers are reading the Bible and trying to understand “where we are” in God's grand timeline. They are watching the attacks from Hezbollah and Iran and Israel's response to Iran and wondering whether this squabble and “rocket ping pong” will continue to intensify or perhaps everything will calm down. There are no definitive answers, but we do know that in all these matters we are told to continue interceding for the restoration of God's peace in Israel.

There is a lot of talk about the “one new man,” and reconciliation between Jews and Arabs. Reconciliation is God's will, but the phrase “one new man” means that people of any nation, any origin and background may come to God through Yeshua; there is no “privileged group.”

The same applies to the verse, “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.” This is not a political statement, but a prophecy about “Tikkun Olam - Restoration of the World,” when heavenly Jerusalem comes down to earth. None of this is truly about human politics at all (Revelation 21). It's about the approaching divine restoration under the reign of the Messiah. Continue to pray and wait expectantly for His coming!

Update on Congregational Network:

This is not an easy time for any of us. *Several times a day we run to bomb shelters* and afterwards call our families and friends to make sure they are OK. Many people work at home or work shorter hours. Depending on the updated threats analysis, schools are doing a combination of in person and online learning.

It's a nerve-wracking time for all! Congregational leaders face serious challenges. How do we encourage people? How do we manage? Only by hoping and trusting in His mercy.

Our humanitarian projects for new immigrants and needy families outreach go on. We have continued to serve all of our usual recipients, and everyone responds with such gratitude. Many are surprised that during such precarious times we are able to open our doors and help them in their need. We are very grateful to all of you, our brothers and sisters, for standing with us in this time of need, in prayer and financial support!

As for our music school, the war has caused some students to stop attending out of fear. But with God's help, when this crisis has passed, we hope to renew our strength, as Isaiah 40:31 says: **“they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”**



Return to Zion Congregation

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Dec'24
04

Commanded to Bring Comfort, but How?



By Guy Cohen

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Through Isaiah God commands us, "Comfort my people." How can we do this effectively if we are overwhelmed by fear, confusion or lack of faith? This is the enemy's strategy – to paralyze the believers so they cannot stand firm. That's why we must look beyond the earthly battle and look instead into the spiritual realm where the real battle is taking place.

When I read both Isaiah 61:1-9 and Isaiah 40:1-11, I see that the Spirit of God longs to bring comfort to Israel. These days many are mentally and spiritually exhausted. Since October 7, 2023, we are continually experiencing emotional ups and downs as a result of national/personal trauma and war.

Recently, in the span of a single week, we lost thirteen soldiers, two from a community near our home. One was an acquaintance of my son and the other of my daughter.

Would you pray with me that the body of believers in Israel will put on the armor of the Spirit of God – and walk into battle knowing we belong to Him. In this way we can bring comfort to those around us who hurt and mourn – not by focusing on the pain but on God's Glory here on earth. So, please declare these promises with us:

Isaiah 40

**Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.**

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ...

You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.
He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young (NIV)

Isaiah 61

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord
for the display of his splendor.





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Then Yeshua instructs them to bring a cup to the master of the banquet. Whichever of the servants brought that cup must have been nervous to present it before their boss. The situation was already bad, but to serve a cup of water where wine was expected would certainly get them in trouble. Yet - they bring him the cup - and what happens next was definitely not what they were expecting! The master of the banquet is surprised and upset, but not at the servant – rather with the family for choosing to serve the “good wine” last. What a plot twist! What a memorable wedding that was that we still talk about it thousands of years later!

Yeshua sees the crisis. He cares about the people experiencing it. He takes the time to intervene. He miraculously turned water into wine – but did it intentionally in collaboration with the obedience, servanthood and humility of the behind-the-scenes people. The hard work that the servants did was not seen by the bride and groom nor by the guests, and possibly not even by the master of the banquet. But Yeshua Himself saw it. Not only that, but because they were there, serving behind the scenes, they got to see Yeshua perform the miracle with their very own eyes.

Globally and locally, we live in times fraught with crisis. Like the family at that wedding party, for many, joy has run out. The situation seems bleak with no human solution at hand. *Yet God is asking us if we are willing to be like those servants who filled the water.*

Are we willing to be caught in the “wrong” place at the right time? *To be caught in the place that feels uncomfortable to our flesh: the place of hardship, the place of challenge, the place of pain, the place of suffering, the place of crisis...*

But caught there at the right time: the time to serve, the time to obey, the time to be humble, the time to have faith in what God is doing - so that we can take part in His miraculous plan of a hope and a future as He promised in Jeremiah 29:11.

Thank you for standing with us in 2024!

We invite you to continue partnering with us in prayer and finances as 2025 begins.



Miracles and Wonders? Israel at War



By Tamar Afriat

The Prophetic Word

This past summer there was an overwhelming feeling of heaviness and dread as we waited for the inevitable war with Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Israeli experts warned it would be incredibly difficult. Then in August, Oren, a teacher from Tiferet Yeshua, shared a prophetic word with the congregation's leadership. Our elders prayed and felt it was from the Lord.

"Do not fear war in the north. A great miracle is at hand that will strike the world with amazement... Do not be impressed by the balance of military might. Cease counting cannons, rocket launchers and armed fighters... My name will be on everyone's lips when the overwhelming victory against all odds comes."

The Miraculous Turnaround

August continued with mounting apprehension that Hezbollah and Iran were preparing a massive attack. Then in mid-September, a series of events brought about an unexpected and dramatic turn. On September 17th, the pagers of thousands of Hezbollah operatives exploded, killing 42 and wounding over 3,000. The following day, the walkie talkies of Hezbollah operatives across Lebanon and Syria exploded, killing 12 and wounding 2,750. In one fell swoop, the entire Hezbollah communication infrastructure was crippled. Across the Middle East, there was shock and amazement at this sophisticated attack against the strongest terrorist army in the Middle East.

The Decisive Blow

As fear and confusion engulfed Hezbollah's ranks, Israel began aggressively attacking their stored rockets. But the surprises weren't over: 10 days after the pager attack, Israel struck and killed Hezbollah's supreme leader, Hassan Nasrallah, as he met with top commanders in a Beirut bunker. The fall of this terror kingpin stunned the entire Middle East yet again. In a matter of days Israel succeeded in killing Nasrallah's replacement and then his successor. Not surprisingly, the next man in line announced his plan to take some time off for religious studies in Iran.

Tiferet Yeshua Congregation in Tel Aviv

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Exactly one month after Israel's surprise pager attack came another strategic victory: Yahyah Sinwar the Hamas terrorist leader and architect of the October 7th massacre, was killed by young IDF soldiers. His death is a major stepping stone in the dismantling of Hamas fighting power and control in Gaza. It also renewed hopes for the release of our hostages.

The Dreaded Ground Invasion

When Israel's ground forces entered southern Lebanon, they were surprised to find many Hezbollah command centers unmanned. A captured terrorist told the IDF that after Nasrallah's death most of them fled.

The IDF continues to engage the remnants of Hezbollah terrorists in battle. There are still rocket attacks, and IDF casualties. Yet, it is nothing compared to what was expected.

God's Name on Everyone's Lips

On one of Israel's most viewed primetime news programs, a retired IDF colonel said this:

"As an expert on Hezbollah and Lebanon, I say if you were to put all the heads of Israel's security agencies here and ask them, 'Is there a chance that this might happen to Hezbollah in under a month?' ...There would not be one who would honestly say that they would have imagined even half of what has happened is possible... [It is] not the result of man's actions but the hand of God."

God is performing miracles for all to see. As believers, we must give Him praise, glory and honor.

The War is Not Over!

Despite these victories, the war is far from over. The IDF is fighting the remnants of Hezbollah and Hamas. Join us in faith that God will triumph and bring spiritual revival to Israel and the Middle East.



Dec'24
07



End Times or Not?



By Raphael Almeida

Are we living in the end times? This is a question that gets asked repeatedly.

Each generation has questioned whether they are living in the end times, especially when they saw the sins of the world manifest in plagues, wars, earthquakes, and other disasters.

Even Yeshua's disciples asked Him a similar question. In the New Testament, they inquired, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). Yeshua gave them a clear answer: "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority" (Acts 1:7). Their role was not to know when these things would happen but rather to spread the Gospel and make disciples. The end may be near, but our task is still to act and live fully in the present power of the Kingdom.

Yeshua also prepared His disciples for what was to come in the end times.

"When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next."
(Matthew 10:23)

As we read in the book of Acts, the disciples proclaimed the Gospel, enduring many persecutions and fleeing from city to city. They also lived as a shared community, "continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart..." (Acts 2:26). Their communal life, their caring investment in one another, was central to their mission. Through their unity and togetherness they shared the Gospel – not only in words but also through their way of life.

"And this Gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14)

How end time global events will play out politically and "theologically" is beyond our control. What we can control is our actions and our hearts. We don't know exactly when these events will happen, nor will we know all the details. What's important is how we live today. Are our hearts in the right place? Are we focused on the Kingdom? Are we ready to act with courage?

Up until now, we may have tended to focus on ourselves – on personal growth, theological debates etc. Yeshua calls us to be radical. We are to live each day with the understanding that it might be our last.

So, are we in the end times? In my opinion, yes – ever since Jesus ascended to heaven. The first disciples seem to have seen it that way. They didn't hold back just because certain prophecies hadn't yet come to pass. Quite the opposite, they urgently proclaimed the Gospel as if He would return tomorrow.

"Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed." (Romans 13:11)

Now is the time to act. There is no time to waste. We are called to move forward together as one body under our King. Let's invest in our unity and transformation as a community, and work for God's purposes. **Our lives are not just preparation for some future time; every moment here and now is an opportunity to live out the Kingdom!**

