

**ISRAEL'S
RESTORATION**

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Hurricane



By Asher Intrater

The week of May 7th was the Eurovision Song Contest. For most people in the Americas or Asia, this contest is not that well known. However, in Europe, and in Israel, it is the largest entertainment and arts event of the year, with each country sending a musical group or singer to represent them in the competition.

Eurovision was held this year in Malmo, a port city in southern Sweden, which because of its location has received large numbers of Muslim refugees from the Middle East and has become a hotbed of Jihadist protests. This was a potentially dangerous situation for the Israeli singing contestant, Eden Golan, who was surrounded by a heavy security detail throughout the competition.

The first song Israel submitted was rejected by the Eurovision committee as being too related to the war in Gaza, and thus too political. A new song was written, called "Hurricane," and was accepted. It also relates to the war but more from people's sense of emotional turmoil; thus, the title, "Hurricane."

The theme of the song is a person dancing in a hurricane, helpless yet filled with hope. Everything that is happening was meant to be, even if we don't understand it. We are exposed, nothing to hide, nowhere to go. There is a storm, a turmoil of emotions, swirling in and around Israel... like a... hurricane.

In spite of the challenges, protests and negativity that accompanied Israel's participation, Eden's performance was a success and she placed 5th out of the 37 contestant countries. For additional insight into the spiritual and emotional situation in Israel, we are including a link to the "Hurricane" music video with AI enhanced graphics (www.tikkunglobal.org/post/hurricane). Many of the images have deep psychological associations for Israelis that might not be immediately obvious to viewers. Here are a few examples, noted according to the minute/seconds on the video:



0:30 – "Boys don't cry;" the scene switches to IDF soldiers, who are fighting while their wives and babies are at home; feeling their heartbreak.

1:10 – "Promise me you'll hold me again," says a young widow to her husband in the grave.

2:10 – IDF officers come to the home of a pregnant mother to report that her husband has been killed in the war. Her son is watching a TV program about the war while sitting on a rug decorated with pictures of army vehicles. The woman cradles her belly in response as she hears the news.

2:40 – Shows secular, mostly left wing, nice-looking, Israeli youths, wearing blue and white reflecting the colors of the flag, calling for a deal to return the hostages.

2:47 – Scene shifts to ultra-religious, mostly right wing, assembled at the Western Wall for the traditional Aaronic blessing during Passover week. Words switch to Hebrew - if a deal won't work, maybe a prayer will.

2:50 – Shows a hostage bound and held underground, with closing words, just leave me a flickering candle, a little light of hope.

"The Lord will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit... O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted! I will rebuild your city ... your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace."

(Isaiah 54:6-11)





Dry Bones and Dry Wineskins



By Hannah Tekle

Israelis are taught from a young age to acknowledge and remember the great tragedy our people suffered over 80 years ago. As a result, Holocaust Remembrance Day is a big deal in Israel. It's not a half-hearted, nod your hat to it, kind of holiday. On the evening before, shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues close early. Television shows on all the major stations run pieces on Holocaust survivors and personal interest stories from the time of the Holocaust. Schools and military bases hold solemn ceremonies, often attended by Holocaust survivors. Then at 10:00 in the morning a siren goes off for 2 minutes while the whole country stops and stands at attention in remembrance.

Each year, there are fewer living survivors. It is painfully obvious that soon there will be no eyewitnesses among us to testify of those long-ago atrocities. This year, for the first time, Holocaust remembrance is overshadowed by (or at least joined with) the new and devastating stories of those whose lives *were brutally taken on October 7th* and those who survived.

Even more poignant are the stories of the Holocaust survivors themselves, founding members of many Southern kibbutzim and towns, who experienced the devastation of being hunted as Jews yet again. Approximately 2,500 Holocaust survivors were impacted directly by the attack on October 7th. Some were in their homes and neighborhoods as they were invaded by terrorists and others were evacuated from towns in the danger zone.

The feeling on the street as people go about their regular lives is one of being tired, overwhelmed, and burned-out. Passover and Israeli Independence Day celebrations were understated. Memorial Day for the fallen soldiers and terror victims was heartbreaking. At all times our hearts and minds were weighed down by the constant reality of war, the tragic loss of life and the hostages yet to be released. There is some comfort in going back to the consistency of daily routine after the holidays, but that is tempered by the sudden realization that there is only a month left before summer vacation! Among other things, the war has literally swallowed up the school year.

One Holocaust survivor who also survived the attack on October 7th, pointed out that during the Holocaust there was no State of Israel. When she came with her mother as a young child to a land that was not yet an independent state, her mother told her they were coming "to build up and to be built up." The tired and traumatized survivors who arrived, came to *build up*, literally transformed from being prisoners in concentration camps to serving as soldiers in military camps, defending their infant country, and making up half of the fighting force. A quick search into the numbers and facts reveals their many contributions to the building up of communities, settlements, social, political, and educational systems in young Israel.

The idea that the survivors also came to *be built up* is a harder thing to explain. In the years immediately following WWII and the Holocaust, the need to study and treat emotional and psychological trauma was not understood and accepted like it is today. From what we know now, the ramifications of the trauma sustained by those who lived through these horrible experiences, were deep and wide, impacting even generations to come.



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Who are you, Prince of Persia, that you think you can defeat us!

Today we see the principality behind Iran, clearly labeled as Persia in Scripture, attacking Israel from multiple directions, together with its proxies Hamas and Hezbollah. But this is not the first time! The Book of Daniel refers to a battle of spiritual powers in the heavenlies involving this same principality. *“But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me...”* (Daniel 10:13).

God’s angelic powers responsible for Israel are still on duty, and the words from the Torah are still valid: *“For the Lord’s PORTION is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance”* (Deuteronomy 32:9, my emphasis).

Not All Were Free This Passover חג חירות שמתחיל

This year leading up to Passover, there were posters in Israel wishing a “Happy Festival of Freedom.” But the words “Happy” and “Freedom” were crossed out. This was an attempt to communicate the pain people feel for the hostages still kept in Hamas dungeons-tunnels, for the soldiers fighting in Gaza’s complex urban warfare, and the tens of thousands of Israeli families evacuated from their homes in the north because of heavy rocket fire from Hezbollah.

For me, this current situation feels similar to the time when I was hospitalized with Covid-19. Even though I knew the virus could kill me, I felt sheltered from fear. I prayed and expected a breakthrough, for God to deliver me from the sickness. So too are the people of Israel today. They are constantly aware of the war forced upon us. Most Israelis are tense, but coping. They are longing for a BREAKTHROUGH. **They do not expect American intervention.** In their hearts, even if they are not aware of it, they are waiting for Divine intervention. This is part of Israel’s heritage. When things get tough, *“I will lift my eyes to the Mountains. From where does my help come? My help is from the LORD...”* (Psalm 121:1).

Today Israel Needs to Experience “The Mountain”

“Mountaintop” describes the extraordinary, awe-inspiring, state of experiencing the presence of God. *“On this mountain... He will swallow up death forever”* (Isaiah 25:7-8). Our people have climbed mountains to meet God before. When we came out of Egypt the mountain was called Sinai. Here, the Lord gave the Israelite tribes His instructions for life. The hearts of **all** who were standing at the foot of the mountain were gripped. God spoke that day from the flame of fire, burning our identity as His people into all the generations to come.

In this generation, we again declare that we are placing our trust in You, our Lord, and are waiting for You to intervene, to fulfill Isaiah 49:3. *“You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.”* This is the promise of the Messiah. This is the promise given to Israel. This is the promise for everyone who believes in the God of our forefathers through the Messiah. **May God break through with signs and wonders in our lives, our families, our cities and throughout the world – for His glory!**

Return to Zion Congregation

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“Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.” (Psalm 121:4)

In the night-time Iranian missile attack on April 14th, the Lord performed a big, modern miracle for Israel which we witnessed with our own eyes. We experienced the faithfulness of our God who neither slumbers nor sleeps, and we give thanks for His protection.

It must also be said that we appreciate the modern technology involved in our aerospace defense systems, in addition to the well-trained military forces of Israel, and the help of the nations standing with us. However, we understand that the Grace of God tipped the scales in our favor. Warplanes and Iron Dome were only part of the defense against more than 300 Iranian guided missiles and drones.

Despite the fact that the nation of Israel as a whole, is not yet walking in God's ways, they remain the apple of His eye. He continues to watch over them as He has throughout history. Israel, as a people, is called by God's name. *“If My people called by my name...”* (2 Chronicles 7:14).

We are living in challenging, difficult days and the Lord is revealing to us that we are moving into the end time prophecies. This period of time before the Messiah returns will be filled with painful events – the birth pangs (Matthew 24:8). *“Oy! For that day is monumental. There will be none like it - a time of trouble for Jacob! Yet out of it he will be saved”* (Jeremiah 30:7 TLV).

Dear friend of Israel, our spiritual condition and yours, is being tested as never before. Strikingly, the Book of Lamentations speaks to the aftermath of October 7. *“They raped the women in Zion, young women in the towns of Judah...our dance has turned into mourning... Because of this our heart is faint...Turn us back to you, O Lord, and we will be restored; renew our days as of old”* (Lamentations 5:11,15,17,21).

Yeshua said that hearts would grow cold in the end times. The antidote for a cold heart is a heart that is continually warmed with the love of God. How else can we bring the light of His great salvation to these dark days?

I want you to be encouraged. As Mordechai said in the Book of Esther, we have come to the kingdom for such a time as this! Let us be steadfast together, continuing in prayer. Israel needs your faith to come alongside us for miracles, like what we saw in the Iranian attack. *“If God is for us, who can be against us”* (Romans 8:31). Please intercede with us for the wisdom and guidance of the Spirit of God.

***I will sing unto the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously.
The horse and rider thrown into the sea.
I will sing unto the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously.
Intercepted Iranian missiles and UAVs.
(Exodus 15:1, 2024 rendition)***





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A parable that Yeshua taught comes to mind – the new and old **wineskins**. Our lives can be compared to wineskins. We carry in ourselves, body, soul and spirit, the things we experience in life. As we process and respond to the “cup” we have been poured, it is our challenge to flex and accommodate the contents so that we don’t crack and break.

Newer generations respond differently than older generations, and thankfully many resources are available today that weren’t available in the past. Yet, the Holocaust survivors and others who escaped to Israel from Europe and the Middle East, were amazingly resilient. Somehow they managed to piece together new lives and a new country, even without the counseling and emotional support that is helping this current generation process the ongoing tragedy of October 7th.

And with the end of the war not yet in sight, Israelis are desperately asking questions: “*What will happen now? Where do we go from here?*” Even God asked a similar question: “*Son of Man, can these bones [Israel] live?*”

One thing remains clear. The same Breath that breathed life into the **Dry Bones** in Ezekiel 37, the same Yeshua Who coached His listeners to broaden and flex their understanding like a new wineskin, the same Everlasting Father who orchestrated the establishment of Modern Israel 76 years ago – that same Sovereign One is keeping watch over this impossible situation. He will not rest “*till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the Earth*” (Isaiah 62:7).

***“Comfort, O comfort My people,”
says your God.
“Speak kindly to Jerusalem;
And call out to her,
that her warfare has ended,
That her iniquity has been removed,
That she has received of the Lord’s hand
Double for all her sins.”***

***A voice is calling,
“Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness;
Make smooth in the desert
a highway for our God.
Let every valley be lifted up,
And every mountain and hill be made low;
And let the rough ground become a plain,
And the rugged terrain a broad valley;
Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
And all flesh will see it together;
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”***

(Isaiah 40:1-5 NASB)



Torn Cloth & Cost of Access



By Katy Sorsher



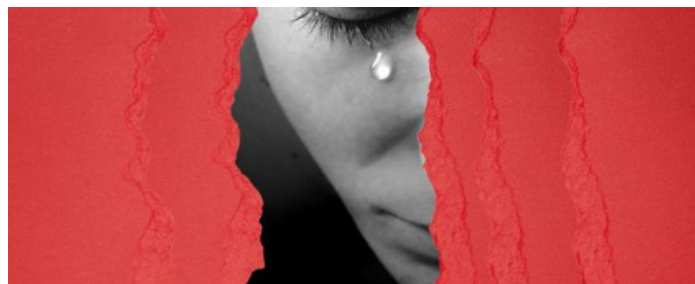
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The Gospels tell us that, immediately after Yeshua's last breath, the veil in the Temple separating the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place was torn from top to bottom. Even though the Gospels do not explain the significance of this event, we view it as a declaration by God that **every** believer is now allowed into His holy presence, whereas beforehand only the High Priest was allowed in once a year on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. The Apostle Paul describes it in this way:

*"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way opened for us **through the curtain of His body**...let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith..."*
(Hebrews 10:19-20, 22)

Since I first became a believer, I saw the rending of the veil as an expression of God's mercy towards us, the outcome of Yeshua's last words, "It is finished."

Just recently, however, God gave me a glimpse into **His side of the story**.



As I was pondering the outline of a teaching for Tiferet Yeshua Congregation, I came to the part of the torn veil, and God gave me a vision of a cemetery. I saw a family burying a loved one (something which is tragically frequent these days due to the many soldiers and civilians that have lost their lives in the war). In the vision I also saw one of the cemetery rabbis make a short cut on the shirts of the immediate family, from top to bottom, according to the customary Jewish symbol of mourning in cemeteries to this very day.

"*Kriah*," the tearing of one's clothes as a sign of mourning is more than just a tradition. **This unusual practice is mentioned numerous times in the Bible.** When Jacob, the patriarch, thought his son Joseph was dead, he tore his garments (Genesis 37:34). David and his men rent their clothing upon hearing about the deaths of King Saul and Jonathan (II Samuel 1:11). Job, grieving the death of his children, stood up and tore his robe (Job 1:20).

I realized that the rending of the veil in the Temple which we see as a sign of God's mercy towards us for access into the Holy of Holies, was also God tearing His "clothes" as a sign of mourning for His only Son. In that moment, God lost a part of Himself; and, though He knew it would not be for long it was His time to grieve. As the prophet Daniel prophesied, God the Father experienced having His own Son cut off from Him (Daniel 9:26).

We remember Yeshua's death as the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world. Let us also remember the unbelievable cost God had to pay to grant us forgiveness and access into His presence.





Nothing but the Blood



By Tal Haroni & Valerie Yanay

Darkness descended as the day was about to end. Rumors circulated. It would happen tonight... People rushed to make sure they had last-minute necessities and hurried to secure themselves in their homes. Children didn't play outside. It seemed as though even dogs and cats hid out of sight, awaiting what was about to happen. Then came the announcement that the "plague" was on its way. Everyone was tense.

*"I sat there with my two youngest daughters, holding them tight. I couldn't do much more than hug them and pray. In the darkness of the bomb shelter room with my two little girls in my arms, **I felt the peace of God wash over me.** I began to think about the Children of Israel sitting at home after putting the blood of a spotless lamb on their doorposts in faith, waiting for the angel of death to pass through Egypt. In each other's arms, holding on in faith and with hope that the angel would see the blood smeared across their doorposts, and have mercy on their households. They must have heard the cries of the Egyptians as their firstborns died."* (Valerie Yanay)

"Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt." (Exodus 12:13)

What happened that Saturday night in Israel during the Iranian missile attack, was a miracle. Yes, God used the army; but our security was in God, not in the systems of this world.

Yeshua never said our lives would be free from trouble; quite the contrary, but he also promised there would be troubles in this world, but He also promised that He had overcome the world (John 16:33). Today, more than ever, we feel the pressure and trouble of the world. Just like what happened the evening it was

announced that Iran had sent its weapons against us; we need to hold on and believe. To believe that God sees and hears our prayers. To know that even though we are still in the world and facing the same troubles as everyone else, we have something to hold onto.

*"Whom God set forth as an atoning sacrifice by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His merciful restraint God had **passed over** the sins that were previously committed."* (Romans 3:25)

Because of Yeshua and what He did for us on the cross, and because of our faith in His atoning blood, we can overcome the troubles of this world. No power or thing can take our faith from us. Our faith is internal, and that's where it's tested. God invites us in this time to stand in faith. The blood cleanses and saves us from sin, but also serves as a weapon. It's a sign of our faith.

I try to imagine that moment when an entire family sat in their home after applying the blood to their doorposts, something that from a human perspective and without faith seems absurd. One might ask how such a thing could save someone from death. The fact is, it did help, because of faith.

Every day we face choices: to believe or not, to remain steadfast in the truth of Yeshua, or to look at the vanities of this world. Now, more than ever, it's time to hold onto faith; to apply the blood of Yeshua the Messiah to the doorposts of our hearts and stand on the truth. The systems of this world have no solution to the troubles that afflict us; but He does! He invites you and me to stand in faith, to dedicate time to know Him, to understand His power, and to invite others into His kingdom.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

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