

1ST QUARTER 2019



# JVVT

JEWISH VOICE TODAY MAGAZINE

# A NEW LOOK AT THE MIDDLE EAST

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Bound by a common  
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- An introduction to the **SAVING GRACE OF YESHUA** (Jesus) the Messiah



# SHALOM



Dear Partner in Ministry,  
Shalom!

Happy New Year and welcome to this first quarter 2019 edition of *Jewish Voice Today* – the magazine of Jewish Voice Ministries International.

In this issue, we look at the history and context of a very difficult issue – the continuing conflict in the Middle East.

Sometimes it seems the struggle between Israel and her Arab neighbors will never end – that no efforts at peace will ever be effective.

As Believers, we are committed to being both hopeful and faithful as we “pray for the peace of Jerusalem” (Psalm 122:6), and all of us can pray more effectively if we better understand the biblical roots of this historic conflict.

That’s the purpose for the articles in this issue of *Jewish Voice Today*. It is my hope that after reading

them, you will understand more about the perpetual threat against Israel, and about how both sides have suffered throughout the conflict and how you can pray.

And as you read, please pray for the Jewish people, for Jewish and Arab people in Israel, and for God’s plan for peace to come to the Middle East.

As you pray, also remember the ministry of Jewish Voice, as we seek to care for the physical and spiritual needs of the Jewish people in Israel and around the world.

May God richly bless you!

To the Jew first and also to the Nations,

Jonathan Bernis  
President and CEO  
Jewish Voice Ministries International

See page 14 for a special report on how your support has opened doors of opportunity for us to care for the physical and spiritual needs of the Jewish people in Mudanda, Zimbabwe.



When you use your credit/debit card to give automatically each month, we have an additional thank you gift for you!



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# A LASTING PEACE

BY RABBI JONATHAN BERNIS

The following is an excerpt from Rabbi Jonathan Bernis' newest book, *A Lasting Peace*.

## Israel is Constantly on High Alert

People who live in Israel never know when an attack is going to come. They have to be ready all the time. Since 2001, more than 26,000 rockets have been fired into Israel from Palestinian territory – 26,035 of them to be exact. That works out to just a little over four rockets every day for 17 1/2 years.

**People who live in Israel never know when an attack is going to come. They have to be ready all the time.**

Many Israelis keep well-stocked first aid kits on hand, full of essential supplies like bandages and even gas masks. They also know where the nearest bomb shelter is.

Bomb shelters may be a thing of the past for most Americans – a relic from the Cold War with the Soviet Union. But many Israeli neighborhoods have them now – and use them on a regular basis.

Bear in mind that the rockets fired into Israel are not aimed at any specific targets. The Palestinians who fire them don't care what they destroy or whom they kill. If a rocket smashes into an Israeli military base, they are delighted. But a school or a hospital would make them just as happy. Their desire is to kill Jews. Any Jew will do.

According to the Israeli government, "More than half a million Israelis have less than 60 seconds to find shelter after a rocket is launched from Gaza into Israel. Many have only 15 seconds."

As I write these words, I am in Tiberius, Israel, where a rocket attack was just launched from Syria by Iran. My hotel shook from the blasts as Israel's DOME system intercepted and destroyed several of the missiles. Some missiles did make it through and exploded in the Golan Heights just a few miles from here.

Fortunately, there were no casualties and no significant damage. Tensions on Israel's border with Syria have been intensifying and will continue to do so as long as Iran is free to operate there. Of course, Israeli jets were in the air within minutes and attacked a number of Iranian military bases in response.

But missile attacks are not the only threat Israel faces.

## From Rockets to Knives

According to a December 2015 article in *The Washington Post*, near-daily Palestinian attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers cause fear and anger in Israeli society.

The killings have continued nonstop since Israel officially became a country in 1948, and the carnage has increased as human beings have developed more efficient ways to kill one another.

## Palestinians Are Victims Too

I want to make it clear that my intent is not to point a finger at the Palestinian people or try to make them sound inherently evil. They are human beings created in the image of God, as are the Jews who live in Israel.

But for many of them, every ounce of human compassion and conscience has been swept away by a river of unreasoning hatred. And so, bloodshed and war go on and on with no end in sight, despite the dozens of attempts and countless millions of dollars that have been invested in the effort to bring a lasting peace to the Middle East.

And while I do not support everything Israel does (Israelis have made plenty of mistakes over the years), I do believe that her leaders have done everything possible to live in peace with her neighbors. Israel has made dozens of concessions in response to their demands. Israel has returned land it won – not through acts of aggression, but because it was attacked and fought back.





## The Elusive Search for Peace

The history of the Middle East is filled with the remnants of many shattered peace treaties. Over the past 100 years there have been at least ten attempts to bring peace between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East.

### What Does the Bible Say?

The ancient Hebrew prophets foresaw many bloody battles in the Middle East, which they described in detail. The New Testament Book of Revelation also contains a powerful description of a cataclysmic battle that takes place at the end of the age. Yeshua (Jesus) Himself said that we could expect “wars and rumors of wars” (Matthew 24:6) until His return.

Does this mean that Believers should sit on the sidelines and watch the violence continue? Are we supposed to throw up our hands and say, “Oh well, it’s all preordained, so there’s nothing we can do about it”?

I don’t see it that way, largely because of something else Yeshua said: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). I believe that God wants and expects His people to work for peace, even when war seems inevitable. And

He wouldn’t expect us to work for peace if it were unachievable.

In other words, what we do can make a difference in Israel and the rest of the Middle East. Our actions can save lives and spare innocent children and families from unnecessary pain and suffering. We can put peace in the hearts of people whose lives have been filled with anxiety and fear.

### Jews Around the World Are Suffering

As President and CEO of Jewish Voice Ministries, I often travel to Israel and other countries where Jews are waiting for a chance to move to Israel and start



Jewish women from Ethiopia pray during Sigd, an annual holiday celebrated by the Beta Israel who have made *Aliyah* to Israel.  
Editorial credit: RnDmS / Shutterstock.com

new lives there, which they call *making Aliyah*.

In Ethiopia, for example, there are thousands of desperately poor Jews called the Beta Israel. Many are suffering and dying due to a lack of basic medicines and access to health care. As a direct result, we at Jewish Voice Ministries go there to provide the treatments they desperately need. Thousands of people, many of them children, are suffering terribly.

Some of these precious people have been beaten or burned out of their homes. They have been blocked from finding decent jobs. They are despised and desperately want to start new lives in Israel.

But I have discovered that this type of treatment of Jews is not unique to Ethiopia, nor is it unique to the Beta Israel. Jews all over the world have been treated in similar ways, especially in predominantly Arab countries of the Middle East.

I have listened to them tell their stories. Jewish children have told me about attending public primary schools where they were taught that Jews were monsters who killed children and drank their blood as part of their religious rituals. Others told of how they felt at recess, when Muslim children pretended to be mowing down Jews with automatic weapons, while teachers looked on approvingly.

I could go on and on about what Jewish people have suffered at the hands of their Arab cousins. I don’t want to pretend that no Arabs have suffered at the hands of Jews. But if Arabic children are taught to hate Jews from a very early age and are taught that

Jews are monsters who deserve to be killed, then what hope is there for a lasting, just peace?

### In Search of Context

One of the most important ways we can work to build a lasting peace in the Middle East is to take the time to understand the history that has led to the present situation. We can stop blaming the Jews for situations that are not their fault and understand that the Jewish people have the right to defend themselves. We can learn about all of the concessions the nation of Israel has made in attempting to achieve a lasting peace with her neighbors and not expect her to continue giving, giving, giving, and getting nothing in return.

In order to know how we should respond to the conflict in the Middle East, we have to understand what is really happening there. What we do is vitally important not only for the future of the Middle East, but for the whole world.

That’s because the conflict that has its roots in the Middle East has spread around the world and is now claiming casualties in England, France, the United States, and many other countries. Recent, deadly and highly publicized attacks in these countries and many others illustrate this truth.

### To Make a Difference, We Must Understand

A basic history of the Jewish people is essential to fully understanding how this came to be. For the past 4,000 years, this land at the center of the conflict has belonged to the descendants of Abraham and Isaac, and Scripture tells us it always will.

Yet tragically, for most of their history, the people of Israel have not been able to live on the Land God gave them. Instead, they have been scattered throughout the earth by a series of wars and other calamities. Yet no matter where they have gone – America, Russia, Europe, Ethiopia, or any other country – the Jewish people have always carried within their hearts a yearning for their ancestral land.

For Jewish people around the world, Israel is the Promised Land to which they long to return and build their futures.

Some Jewish families have not seen the hills and valleys of Israel for hundreds of years. Yet although they have never seen it with their own eyes, they still think of this Promised Land as the home to which they long to return and build their futures.

Why is this? I believe there is only one reason: It is the fire of God burning in Jewish hearts. We Jews know that He gave us the Land and said He would call us back to it in the Last Days. This is what is supposed to be, and we cannot rest until it becomes a reality. 🇮🇱

In Jonathan Bernis’ eye-opening new book, ***A Lasting Peace***, Rabbi Jonathan clearly explains the conflicts and world events in the Middle East from a historical and biblical standpoint to help you fully understand what is happening and why – and, most importantly, to know how you should personally respond. You’ll find the answers to such questions as:

- Is Zionism wrong?
- Who really “owns” the Land of Israel?
- What caused the Holocaust and how many really died?
- How did ISIS come to be and is the threat over?
- Is there a modern-day war against Christians?
- Is the United Nations really fighting against Israel?
- And what are Russia’s true plans for the Middle East?

See pages 8 and 9 to learn more!





For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,  
but against the rulers, against the powers,  
against the worldly forces of this darkness, and against the  
spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

—EPHESIANS 6:12



## BONUS OFFER

*A Lasting Peace*, DVD by Jonathan Bernis includes **bonus content not found in the book**. Rabbi Bernis offers a comprehensive view of the history and key players in the Middle East conflict and shares how we can and should respond as Believers.

# A LASTING PEACE

BY JONATHAN BERNIS

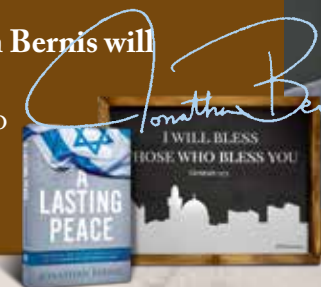
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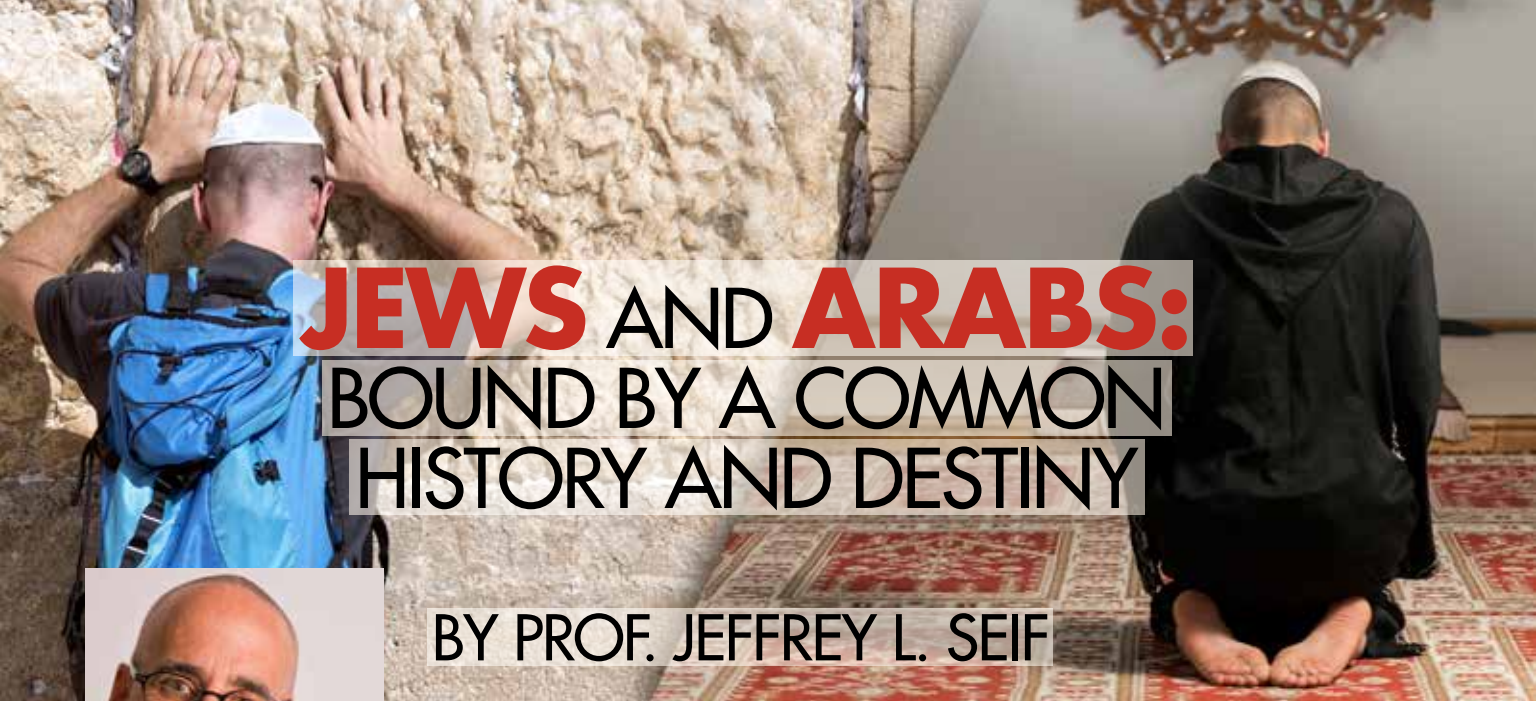
With a growing but uninformed animosity toward Israel spreading throughout the world, grasping the full picture of the Middle East conflict is more important than ever. *(Includes DVD and Study Guide)*

Receive *A Lasting Peace*, book by Jonathan Bernis, DVD, study guide, and an “I Stand With Israel” car magnet as a thank you for your gift of \$40 or more to support the international outreaches of Jewish Voice Ministries International. 2074

When you send a gift of \$120 or more, **Jonathan Bernis will PERSONALLY SIGN AND ENDORSE** your copy of the book, *A Lasting Peace*. We'll also send you a Jerusalem Chalkboard plaque. 2076







BY PROF. JEFFREY L. SEIF

**Introduction**

The Middle East conflict is the longest-running conflict in history.

Arab-Israeli tensions are observed in Genesis – with Sarah, Hagar and Ishmael – much as they are noted in Revelation, when the unleashing of frenzied hordes marshaled east of the Euphrates (i.e., modern Iran) facilitates the climactic battle of Armageddon.

Interestingly, beyond simply bookending the story with intractable Arab-Israeli conflict and conflagration, narration of the major stories lends itself to Arab-Israeli cohesion and resolution. Putting fresh eyes on old stories, and noting how Arabs and Jews are happily woven together throughout them, can help readers get a glimpse of how the biblical narrative can be the basis for spirited conversation, common bonding and eventual reconciliation.

Healing will come to these now-estranged cousins. As you will see, Scripture will help these parties rediscover each other in history and forge new alliances in a common destiny.

**Abraham’s Arabian Connections**

In Genesis 11:30, Moses matter-of-factly told his readers that Abram took a wife who was “barren.” In chapter 16:2, Moses says she came to terms with it, telling Abram: “...go into my maid [Hagar]; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.” Moses further reported that the young domestic worker was summarily “taken

and given to Abram,” in verse 3, and that she eventually conceived in verse 4.

There is no evidence that teen-aged Hagar had any interest in marrying Abraham – who was well advanced in age. A disempowered domestic worker, Hagar seems to have been “pawed off” on him. Sarah commandeered her in the service of her own interests and then, according to verse 6b, “dealt harshly” with her, with the result that much younger and less powerful Hagar “fled from her presence” (verses 6, 8).

Hagar was later told that she’d bear a son named “Ishmael,” that he’d be a strong and “wild man,” and that he’d be neither domesticated nor shackled by the confines of forced submission (verses 11–12).

While strong and “wild” may seem like a negative connotation, it would have been welcomed by the subservient Hagar. Learning that her son will never be shackled and pressed into the service of others, as she was, would have been good news indeed.

That the Lord visited Abraham and said: “I will make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he is your seed,” in Genesis 21, verses 12–13, and Ishmael will be a “great nation” in verse 18, would have contributed to an understanding of the grace being extended. *God is represented as loving Ishmael, promising a future for him and the Arab peoples generally and as only tolerating Sarah’s flagrant and unkind disregard.*

**Moses’ Arabian Connections**

While Abraham is credited with being the father of the

Hebrew race, Moses is credited as being the father of the Hebrew people’s religion. The name “Moses” is actually Egyptian in origin, akin to the famous kings Ramses and Thutmose (i.e., Ra-moses and Tut-moses). Moses really needs no introduction. His wife, on the other hand, needs to be reintroduced – particularly because *she was a non-Jewish Arab.*

Exodus explains that a young Moses hastily left Egypt and came upon girls watering their flocks at a well in Midian (Exodus 2:16). Though there first, and thus having “first rights” at the well, Exodus indicates that local shepherd boys figured they could get the better of the weaker girls. The boys drove them away from the well and tended to their (own) livestock (verse 17a).

Though Moses didn’t personally know the girls or the boys, he still knew that the weaker shouldn’t be molested by the stronger. Exodus says he “stood up and helped them, and watered their flock” for them, in verse 17b. After the girls told their father about the fortuitous event, in verses 18–19, he invited Moses to their home. Moses stopped by and eventually married into the family. He took a Midianite woman, Zipporah, to be his wife (verse 21). Where was Midian in Moses’ day? *Arabia.* Moses married an Arab.

**Ruth’s Arabian Connections**

The outbreak of famine in Judah precipitated a certain Jewish family’s decision to leave the ancestral Israelite homeland and reside in the East, in Moab (Ruth 1:1). Moab is located in modern Jordan. Hospitable Moabites not only welcomed the impoverished Jewish family, but they allowed them to inter-marry with their own.

The Hebrew Bible informs that two daughters-in-law married young men in the Jewish family: Ruth and Orpah (verse 4). Tragically, however, in the course of a decade, all the men died off – old and young alike – with the result that only the mother-in-law Naomi was left with her two Moabite daughters-in-law.

Ruth deeply loved Naomi and was not dissuaded by teary and forceful remonstrations beckoning her to go back to the family of her childhood. “Ruth said: ‘Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and

your God [shall be] my God...’” (Ruth 1: 16).

While Orpah turned back as Naomi suggested, Ruth walked into an uncertain future with her mother-in-law (Ruth 1:19–22). Providence is said to have shined upon both. Ruth followed the wise advice of her mother-in-law, and her own sterling character caught the attention of others in her new home – and one man in particular. Wealthy Boaz became her protector and subsequently married her. Ruth the Midianite became great-grandmother to King David – and, ultimately, direct ancestor of Jesus (Ruth 4:13–18).

**David’s Arabian Connections**

David is the actual progenitor of Israel’s royal lineage with his ancestry tracing directly to the Messiah Himself. King David, as we shall see, was very Arab-friendly.

One of King David’s sisters – Abigail (not the same Abigail as his wife) – was given in marriage to Jether the Ishmaelite – one of the descendants of Ishmael. He was an Arab.

“Abigail bore Amasa, and the father of Amasa was Jether the Ishmaelite,” according to 1 Chronicles 2:17. Pause and consider this: *an Arab was incorporated through marriage into the royal family of Israel in the zenith of its glory.* It was to the son of this interracial marriage – an

Arab named Amasa – that David uttered one of his most sincere statements: “You are my brother, my own flesh and blood,” in 2 Samuel 19:13.

In fact, it was to this son, to an Arab, that David swore he’d give command of Israel’s army. “And say

to Amasa, ‘Are you not my own flesh and blood? May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if from now on you are not the commander of my army in place of Joab’” (2 Samuel 19:13 NIV). That David would hand his and his nation’s security over to the son of an Arab is significant.

In 1 Chronicles 27:30, “Obil the Ishmaelite” was placed in charge of the camel herds, while “Jaziz the Hagrite” was placed in charge of the flocks (1 Chronicles 27:31). The Hebrew Bible does not insinuate any sense of exclusivity or racism, with Arabs placed high in David’s army. *David, the great warrior king, himself gave charge*

*...your people shall be my people, and your God [shall be] my God...  
—Ruth 1:16–17*



of his Jewish army to an Arab. He also gave Arabs lead positions in commerce and industry. The implications are striking.

### Jesus' Arabian Connections

Jesus is referred to as the Son of David in the New Testament (cf., Matthew 1:1). Matthew notes that Jesus descended from Ruth, in Matthew 1:5. Not only was the Messiah descended from an Arab, but He was greeted by Arabs early in his life.

“When Herod the king” heard about the birth of an alleged “Messiah,” Matthew says he was “troubled,” in Matthew 2:3, and was given to finding the child, ostensibly to “worship” Him. Herod’s stealthy consternation was stimulated by “wise men from the East [who] came to Jerusalem” (Matthew 2:1), guided by “His [bright] star in the East” (Matthew 2:2). Herod inquired about the timing of the great light’s appearance (Matthew 2:7 and 9), and it was written: “The star which they had seen in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.”

The text continues: “When they saw the [bright] star they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy” (Matthew 2:10), and wise men entered the house and “presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11).

*That Arabs were the first to acknowledge Jesus is striking.* How and why a “star” guided them from the East has been the object of considerable speculation. Among Jews, there is a long-standing tradition connecting a “star” with deliverance and salvation. In the second century AD, when some of Judaism’s rabbis thought the “Messiah” had come, they named a pretender “Bar Kochba” as the promised one. His name means “son of the star.” So serious were they that they even minted coins with his name and this image.

Similarly, when modern Jews were looking for a symbol of deliverance and national hope, they chose a “star” and placed the “Star of David” on the national flag of Israel.

The employment of a star to denote political salvation is rooted in the Hebrew Bible. In Numbers 24:17–19, a very significant prophecy says: “A Star shall come out of Jacob; a scepter shall arise out of Israel... Out of Jacob One shall have dominion.” Taken together, “Star” out of Jacob, “scepter” and having consequential “dominion” all conjure an image of a strong and

triumphant warrior-king.

The prophesied and immortalized “star” that has left its indelible mark on ancient Jewish faith and practice, the Jewish religious psyche, and is even emblazoned on modern Israel’s national flag, was not a prophecy that came from a Jewish person. Though Moses reports it in Numbers 24:17–19, he is crystal clear about its not having come from him or any Jew, but rather from the mouth of a non-Jewish sage – a wise man from the East (Numbers 22:1–24:25).

Balaam came from Pethor, an ancient city in Mesopotamia. The land is known today as Iraq and what would have essentially been the northernmost rim of the Arabian Peninsula.

Though the story of these first worshippers is well attested in the Scripture and in the Church, buried beneath the story-telling and religious traditions is the truth that these men were Arabs.

### Paul's Arabian Connections

In his Acts of the Apostle, Luke tells his readers that a then-infamous pharisaic-rabbi named Paul was en-route to Damascus, Syria, when he had a very radical and life-changing encounter with the Lord (Acts 9:2–6).

Luke says Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. During those first days in Syria, continues Luke, “He preached the [Messiah] in the synagogues” (Acts 9:20) and then, in verse 22, that “He confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that Jesus is the [Messiah].”

After word of a consequential plot to kill Paul was made known, he was taken out of the Syrian city by night (Acts 9:23–25) and made his way south to the Nabateans.

The Arab Nabataeans who gave him quarter were not hostile to Hebrews. During the Maccabean revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes, Judas and Jonathan Maccabeus fled Judea, crossed the Jordan River, journeyed for three days in the desert until “they encountered the Nabataeans who met them peaceably,” and helped them throughout their revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes (cf. 1 Maccabees 5:24–28; and 2 Maccabees 12:10–12).

1 Maccabees 9:35 (NRSV) continues: “Jonathan sent his brother as leader of the multitude and begged the

Nabataeans, *who were his friends*, for permission to store with them the great amount of baggage which they had.”

Paul took refuge with his Nabataean cousins. He recalled his plight and flight from Damascus in 2 Corinthians 11:32–33, much as he reflected upon it when waxing autobiographical in his Galatians correspondence.

It was in the latter document that he said “When it pleased God... to reveal His Son to me... *I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus*” (Galatians 1:15–17).

In Acts, Luke noted that a previous scattering of Jewish Believers similarly sent emissaries into southern Phoenicia and coastal cities, as with other places bordering Israel. Since the earlier Maccabean period, distant blood-related Judeans and Nabataean Arabs engaged in a variety of political and economic exchanges.

Arabs were the first so-called Gentiles to whom the Apostle to the Gentiles ministered. The fact that both enjoyed common bonds through associations and traditions with Abraham and Moses afforded the intrepid “Apostle to the Gentiles” (Paul) a good social and theological opportunity to speak to his first class of Jewish-friendly “Gentiles.”

### Conclusion

Reflect on this for a moment: Rabbi Paul was from Tarsus (in modern Turkey). He was on his way to Damascus (in modern Syria) when he encountered the Lord. He then resided in Damascus, Syria, and spent considerable time in Arabia.

It’s worthy of note that the greatest apostolic evangelist in the New Testament “cut his teeth” in Arabia – prior to going to Jerusalem to meet the other Apostles. Paul was a cosmopolitan, Arabian-loving, Messianic Jewish rabbi. This – coupled with the rest noted above – should prompt Believers to reconsider what the nature of our relationship to the Arab world should be and realize that there are seeds of an ultimate reunion between Jews and Arabs sown into the tapestry of our family diary, Sacred Scripture. 🇺🇸

*Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version.*

### Professor Jeffrey L. Seif

Jeffrey L. Seif has served as a theology ministry professor for 27 years and is the project manager of a new joint-venture, Messianic Jewish Bible translation. Experienced in television, radio and more, Jeff has appeared in over 120 TV programs, shot mostly in Israel, and has written many books and articles, most recently *To the Ends of the Earth* and *TLV Psalms: Hope and Healing from the Hebrew Scriptures*.

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JVMI STAFF WRITER

# OPENING DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY

A REPORT FROM MUDANDA, ZIMBABWE

## THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CHARGED WITH A PALPABLE EAGERNESS JUST BEFORE THE DOORS OPENED AT OUR RECENT CLINIC IN MUDANDA, ZIMBABWE.

It was the first day of the nearly week-long Jewish Voice Ministries International Medical Clinic, and thousands of men, women and children were waiting in long lines for their chance to be seen.

The seriousness of the event was underscored by the sight of stretchers and make-shift carts

used to bring in many of those seeking help.

For more than 90 minutes, Outreach Partners calmed the people waiting in the lines, organized according to need – medical, dental, vision, prayer. Each was assured that he or she would receive one-on-one personal care from the health providers, Clinic staff members, Outreach Partners and prayer ministers who were waiting to help just inside the tents.

Then the doors opened, and as the result of an amazing feat of organization, nearly 1,000 patients were seen in just those few opening hours of the Clinic!

### Sharing God's Healing Word

But not only physical healing took place in Mudanda at that Clinic.

When asked what stood out the most to him, a Jewish Voice Ministries Prayer Partner named Jonathon recalled a specific salvation event.

A woman he met had originally come to the Clinic for treatment of a persistent cold. She seemed also to be spiritually troubled.

So Jonathan asked how he could pray for her.

The woman explained that she needed help with wisdom in her family situation.

Jonathon shared the Word of God with her, reading to her from Proverbs 31.

Now realizing that God's Word would guide her, this once-lost woman was then immersed, and dedicated her life to her Lord and Savior.



"That was just so wonderful," remembers Jonathon.

Afterward, Jonathon says, *"She walked away with a new perspective that the Word of God is not just for men and not just for any particular person, but it's for all of us to learn it, understand it and live it."*

### The Power of Prayer

A Jewish Voice Ministries staff member named Ellen was there to help in a Trip Chaplain capacity for Outreach Partners. She remembers going into the Prayer Tent where she witnessed a veteran Outreach Partner lead a mother and son – aged 86 and 60, respectively – to receive Yeshua (Jesus).



Ellen observed as the Outreach Partner talked to the Mudanda mother and son about what it meant to be a sinner and how it was possible to surrender to Jesus.

They then prayed together to receive Yeshua as their Lord and Savior, and Ellen remembers, "It was really sweet to see these two people in that moment because that's what it's really about for us. As much as we want to provide medical care, dental care and eye care, salvation is the ultimate thing we can offer!" You are never too old to receive Yeshua!

### Delivering Clean Water

While in Mudanda, Outreach Partners also visited local rural schools to deliver Family LifeStraw® units that would, in turn, provide safe drinking water for 3-5 years.

Water can refresh, soothe, wash, quench thirst and even heal ... when it's clean.

But dirty water brings illness.

That's why it was so important to deliver clean drinking water to the students and teachers at these schools.

Not only did the Outreach Partners teach students and family members how to use the LifeStraw® units, they also provided education on



A local volunteer prays with a patient to receive Yeshua as his Lord and Savior.

how dirty water can spread disease and the importance of proper hand- and face-washing practices to prevent illnesses.

### Our Outreach Partners are a Gift from God

At the end of the Clinic, Ellen reflected that she "was so impressed with our Outreach Partners that go with us ... they're all about giving. The Outreach Partners we have are really a gift from God!"

There are thousands of people waiting to receive life-saving medicines and spiritual encouragement during the Jewish Voice Ministries Medical Outreaches scheduled for 2019. Many have never before seen a doctor or heard the Good News of the Messiah.



# YOU CAN DELIVER HOPE AND HEALING IN 2019!



Each Jewish Voice Ministries Clinic is made possible by the prayers and gifts of God's people. Please consider becoming a part of this important work.

Our first Medical Clinic was 20 years ago in Gondar, Ethiopia. At that inaugural event in 1999, we treated nearly 7,000 patients.

**JVMI'S SHORT-TERM MEDICAL CLINIC OUTREACHES NOW SERVE AN AVERAGE OF 10,000 PATIENTS EACH, AND THOSE NUMBERS ARE GROWING.**

It requires huge investments of time and money from JVMI and our Partners – both those who give and those who go – to make each Medical Outreach Clinic possible. We have planned six of these Clinics for 2019 in order to help our Jewish brothers and sisters in Africa and their neighbors.

Not everyone is able to commit their time to attend an Outreach, but everyone can help by contributing the funds to reach these people with life-saving medicines, care, clean water and spiritual encouragement.

At each Clinic, we serve thousands

**PLEASE GIVE TODAY!**



who desperately need help, and we care for them one soul at a time.

Your support is needed today to take essential care and the Good News of Yeshua to our Jewish brethren around the world.

We don't know how long these doors may be open to us, but **YOUR GENEROUS DONATION CAN DELIVER the healing power of Yeshua now!**



## OUR THANK YOU GIFTS TO YOU

**For your gift of \$40 or more:**



2074

**A Lasting Peace, Book by Jonathan Bernis, Study Guide and DVD**  
*A Lasting Peace* is an up-to-date look at Israel and the conflict in the Middle East. Rabbi Jonathan Bernis sorts out the complexities to offer a clear understanding of the history and players involved in the unrest surrounding Israel today.

**"I Stand with Israel" JVMI Car Magnet**  
 Show your support for Israel and Jewish Voice on the go with this special blue and white "I Stand with Israel" car magnet.

**For your gift of \$80 or more:**



2075

**A Lasting Peace, Book by Jonathan Bernis, Study Guide and DVD by Jonathan Bernis**

**"I Stand with Israel" JVMI Car Magnet**

**Jerusalem Chalkboard Plaque**  
 This wooden plaque bears a reverse silhouette of Jerusalem and the words of Genesis 12:3 against an actual chalkboard background. God told Abraham, "I will bless those who bless you," and these words remain true today. The Jerusalem Plaque measures 15" H x 11.5" W and has a saw-tooth hanger for mounting.

**For your gift of \$120 or more:**



2076

**A Lasting Peace, Book PERSONALLY SIGNED AND ENDORSED by Jonathan Bernis, Study Guide and DVD**

**"I Stand with Israel" JVMI Car Magnet**

**Jerusalem Chalkboard Plaque**

**For your gift of \$400 or more:**



2079

**A Lasting Peace, Book PERSONALLY SIGNED AND ENDORSED by Jonathan Bernis, Study Guide and DVD by Jonathan Bernis**

**"I Stand with Israel" JVMI Car Magnet**

**Jerusalem Chalkboard Plaque**

**Small Kudu Shofar**  
 This beautiful Yemenite shofar is made of a Kudu horn. The shofar is the trumpet of the Bible and was blown in Bible times to announce the beginnings of religious holidays, ceremonies, and even battle. Today, the shofar is sounded at Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur. Let this special shofar serve as a conversation starter and reminder of God calling our hearts to worship Him, the God of Israel who is ever faithful. Colors, textures and finish vary in these natural horns, but all are beautiful and fully functional. Sizes of the small Kudu Shofar range between 24–32 linear inches length including curvature.



# A NEW LEVEL OF PROPHECY

BY ASHER INTRATER



The concept of prophecy developed in stages throughout the Scriptures. The early patriarchs had many direct prophetic encounters with God. Then Moses brought the prophetic experience to a higher level and became the “father” of the prophets. Moses prayed for all the people of God to be able to prophesy and receive the Holy Spirit (Numbers 11:29), but this prayer was only answered at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost/Shavuot.

Moses’ prophecies reached a height at the end of his life in the last chapters of Deuteronomy – hinting at almost everything that we have in the rest of the Bible, even to the end of the book of Revelation. In fact, the idea that the people of Israel would be saved in the End Times and that this would come about by the “fullness” of the Gentile nations “provoking them to jealousy,” finds its first mention here, calling Israel “a people saved” (Deuteronomy 32:20–21; 33:29; Romans 10:19; 11:11; 11:25–26).

When the children of Israel came into the Promised Land, the early prophets (Samuel through Elisha) spoke primarily concerning David’s kingdom. They believed that the kingdom of God was the kingdom of David. After several hundred years, the prophets realized there was something fundamentally wrong because David’s sons kept falling into sin and idolatry. A turning point occurred when King Uzziah died and Isaiah had a vision of the glorious divine King (Isaiah 6:1–6; John 12:40–41). From that time forward, the prophets began to speak of the “Messiah” on a higher level.

Yeshua is revealed as that King-Messiah in the Gospels. After Yeshua was crucified, resurrected and ascended, God began pouring out the Holy Spirit on all who would believe (Acts 2:1–4, 17), both Jew and Gentile. Thus the prophetic gifts and revelations were made available to all in the New Covenant Church or “Ecclesia” (I Corinthians 14:26, 31).

## Last Stage

Now we are coming into the last stage of Biblical prophecy, the prophecy of the End Times.

“... you must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues and kings” (Revelation 10:11).

This new stage of prophecy is a consummation of both Israelite and Church prophecy. If the prophecies of

restoration for the nation of Israel are one “eye,” and the prophecies of the “fullness” of the worldwide Ecclesia are the other “eye,” then it is time to open both eyes! This could only happen after a 2,000-year history in which now the Messianic remnant in Israel and the international Ecclesia both are coming into their “fullness” (Romans 11:12, 15, 25).

The prophet Isaiah said:

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor ...*

—Isaiah 61:1 NKJV

Yeshua quoted this verse in the Gospel of Luke. The second verse in Isaiah 61 states “to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” In the Gospels, the quote ends here. In Isaiah, the verse goes on to say, “(to proclaim) the day of vengeance of our God.”

The first part of the prophecy had to do with Yeshua’s message of grace and salvation, which began at that time, but the “day of vengeance” was to come much later in the End Times. It will occur at the second coming of Yeshua during a time of judgment and war. Yeshua will lead an army from heaven to destroy the wicked, drive demons off the planet, raise the dead, and set up His kingdom.

Biblical “prophecy” today includes sharing the Gospel, encouraging the Church, the restoration of Israel, and also confronting the nations with the soon-coming kingdom: “The king is returning to take back the kingdoms of this world.” This type of prophecy was not fully possible until our generation. I believe God is offering a “double” prophetic anointing to enable us to speak of God’s destiny for Israel, the Church and the Nations in these End Times. 🇮🇱

## Asher Intrater

Asher Intrater is the founder and apostolic leader of Revive Israel Ministries and oversees congregations in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Asher was one of the founders of Tikkun International with Dan Juster and Eitan Shishkoff and serves on the board of the Messianic Alliance of Israel and Aglow International.



# Israel: The Miracle Before Us

BY EITAN SHISHKOFF



In Israel, holidays and anniversaries are customarily celebrated according to the Hebrew calendar, not the Julian calendar. Last May, by international dating, Israel's 70th anniversary was observed throughout the Land with much ceremony and excitement. But can you imagine the rejoicing that filled heaven? What an unlikely script God writes.

## Supernatural Survival

Early in the narrative, God called a Chaldean named Abram to go to a land where he had never been. Abram obeyed, and God told him his seed would eventually be a blessing to the entire world.

Soon after, God required Abram to sacrifice the very son who carried that seed, but then, at the last minute, God provided a substitute, as Abram believed He would. And all of this took place on an extremely obscure mountain.

Fast forward a thousand years. The mountain had become the City of David – capital of an empire ruled by Abraham's descendant. Over the next half a millennium, through the treachery of idolatry, the kingdom was divided. Each portion of the kingdom was taken captive, first by Assyria, then by Babylon.

Jerusalem was destroyed in 586 BCE and, 70 years later, returning exiles rebuilt her. The holy city was again razed in 70 CE by the Romans. Then, improbably and violating every natural law of the rise and fall of nations, Israel was reinhabited 1,800 years later, and the Hebrew language was resurrected. The words of the ancient prophets had been fulfilled. The nation was officially restored, true to God's covenant promises to Abraham 4,000 years earlier.

**This country is a MIRACLE.  
And its rebirth has happened, and IS  
happening, during our lifetimes.  
What's more, God brought my family and  
millions more back to this sacred land.  
What will He do next?**

We know that Israel's Messiah, our Yeshua (Jesus), will return in person to rule and reign over all the earth from Jerusalem. Meanwhile, there's a lot of struggle.

**Enemy nations want to wipe  
us off the map.**

Within Israel, there are huge divides: secular vs.

orthodox, native-born vs. immigrant, economically challenged vs. wealthy financiers. And, sadly, within the community of Messianic Believers, rifts also exist. "How shall we then live?" Peter asks (paraphrase of 2 Peter 3:11).

The answer, my friend, is blowing in the Wind – the Wind of the Spirit. *Ruach*, as you know, is the Hebrew word that means both wind and spirit. How apt. We must now return to the seeking mode of the disciples as the Day of Shavuot (or Pentecost) approached.

And, as Yeshua told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father, I feel that we are also to enter a time of waiting before Him, humbling ourselves, seeking His face (2 Chronicles 7:14), and expecting a new season of power for witness and for life.

## Unlikely Rains

As Israel's 70th anniversary celebration was marked on May 14, 2018, there was a serious downpour in the early morning hours in the Galilee. The rains were entirely unseasonal. Could this be a sign from heaven?

Perhaps. The rain certainly contradicted the weather patterns observed for the past 25 years. I believe God wants to encourage us. While the nations are raging (see Psalm 2) and beating their war drums, the Lord is reminding us that He is in charge, and He even finds this an occasion for laughter (Psalm 2:4).

Since I was born less than four months before Israel's rebirth, I can't escape the parallel. As my small human life has unfolded, the revitalized life of Am Y'israel (the people of Israel) has also unfolded. I can't help but feel that for both of us ... and for you ... the best is yet to come. It may not be easy, but it will surpass anything we can imagine of the manifestation of God's glory. 🇮🇱

### Eitan Shishkoff

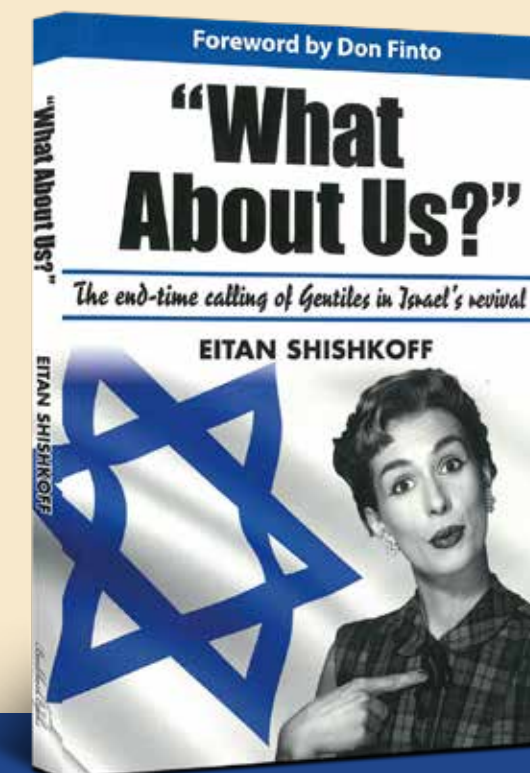
Eitan Shishkoff is the founder and director of Ohalei Rachamim (Tents of Mercy), a network of Messianic congregations and humanitarian aid works in the Galilee region of Israel. The humanitarian services of the network congregations include pro-life counseling, food and clothing distribution, soup kitchens, Holocaust survivor ministries and immigrant absorption.

## Discover YOUR Role in Israel's Restoration

As Christians awaken to the place of Israel in God's End-Times plan, they have questions.

- What's the role of Gentile Believers?
- Where do Messianic Jews fit in?
- Is the Torah for Gentiles?

"What About Us?" is the question many sincere Christians are asking when it comes to Israel. They see God's ancient promises coming true in this small miracle nation. Do the Scriptures touch on the relationship of Jesus and Gentiles at the end of the age? Eitan Shishkoff approaches these questions as a Messianic Jew who has lived in Israel for 20 years.



Receive *What About Us?* when you send a gift of support of **\$20 or more**. Use the enclosed response form to request your copy today. 9249



# CREATIVE WAYS TO MAXIMIZE YOUR GIVING

BY JVMI STAFF WRITER

**B**ill Zalewski, Managing Director at Merrill Lynch, supports the work of Jewish Voice Ministries International in transforming lives and seeing all Israel saved. As a Wealth Management Advisor, he designs tailored strategies for philanthropic families. Bill holds the special designations of Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) and Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP®).

**Jewish Voice:** Bill, what got you interested in Jewish Voice, and how are you invested today?

**Bill Zalewski:** What got me interested was learning about the work Jewish Voice is doing with its phenomenal Medical Outreaches, giving both physical and spiritual hope to Jewish people and their neighbors in struggling countries across Africa as well as in Israel. I'm involved in two ways. One is through my private foundation, and the other is helping clients who are partners be able to make a larger impact with their giving.

**JVMI:** As a wealth manager, would you advise your clients to give cash or non-cash assets, and why?

**BZ:** Every client's situation is different, but in general, if a client is considering a gift, the most impactful benefit would be to use appreciated non-cash assets. For example, if you give a non-cash asset defined as a stock or mutual fund, business interest, real estate, oil and gas interest, timber, farm or ranch land, with a cost or purchase price of \$1, and it's worth \$10, you are able to avoid the \$9 gain you would have otherwise had to pay taxes on, and the organization is able to avoid taxes on that full \$10 gift as well. However, partners should always verify with their CPA what's most appropriate for their situation.

**JVMI:** What are other benefits of giving non-cash gifts?

**BZ:** Sixty-two percent of the net worth of our country is in the form of non-cash assets, yet less than 2 percent of gifts received by non-profit organizations are these types of assets. Often, those are the largest and best types of gifts to give. If you have a small investment in a successful business, you're able to give away shares at a much-appreciated value and receive a sizable deduction.

**JVMI:** How can our partners work with their financial advisors to get the most out of their charitable giving?

**BZ:** I'd suggest partners work with their advisors to clarify and prioritize their goals. They can start by securing an income stream in retirement they can't outlive, then make sure they understand the distribution strategy and are comfortable that it's secure. Second, they can develop a plan to leave monies for children and family. Then they can discuss what sort of impact they hope to make on organizations they're passionate about, both now and when they're gone. I'd be happy to help any JVMI partners interested in learning how to make a larger impact for this great organization.

*Here are two examples of how Bill has helped partners negotiate offers to maximize the potential of their non-cash holdings:*

## EXAMPLE #1

### Background

A national charity was bequeathed an 8/8 mineral interest in 80 acres in southwestern North Dakota. An offer to purchase it was received for \$250 per net mineral acre. This offer came to \$20,000. After the team spoke with the potential buyer, he was willing to raise the offer to \$1,000 an acre, for a total of \$80,000. In the meantime, a second offer was received to lease the acreage for \$1,000 per acre, a 3/16th royalty, and a 3-year term. The lease bonus matched the purchase offer (\$80,000), and the charity would receive royalty payments if the oil company drilled successful wells.

## Opportunity

Sell the interest for \$3,000 an acre, for a total of \$240,000, or lease the interest with an initial lease bonus of \$1,000 per acre, for a total of \$80,000, with a revenue interest of .0058593 in the wells drilled. In order to make up the difference in upfront cash, the operator would have to be successful in drilling multiple wells over many years generating approximately \$28 million in gross revenue. This was highly speculative.

## Solution

US Trust evaluated the property and determined that \$3,000 per acre was a fair price. The team returned to the potential buyer with that information, and a price of \$3,000/acre (\$240,000) was negotiated. The client received 12 times the initial offer.

## EXAMPLE #2

### Background

The client's trust owned a concentrated stock position in a company that owned timberland, residential development property and commercial buildings. An outside party made an offer to purchase all of the holdings.

## Opportunity

The family needed assistance understanding and analyzing the offer and negotiating the purchase price.

## Solution

The Specialty Asset Management Private Business Group (PBG) obtained appraisals of all the diverse holdings and negotiated with the purchaser to obtain a price that was favorable to the trust. As a result, the company making the offer increased its original bid price by more than \$350,000.

## Bill Zalewski

Bill Zalewski, Managing Director at Merrill Lynch, is a Wealth Management Advisor with special designations of Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) and Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP®). For more information about making a difference with your non-cash gifts, please contact your personal Jewish Voice Representative or call us at 1-855-550-1455.

*Note: Financial Planning Ministries is only available in the U.S.*

# Farewell to a Beloved Friend



**T**his past September, we lost a beloved friend. Madeline "Maddy" Lindvall was a dedicated employee of Jewish Voice back when it was called

Jewish Voice Broadcasts (JVB). She was also a personal friend of founder Louis Kaplan and his wife, Chira, as well as JVMI CEO Jonathan Bernis.

"Without Maddy, this ministry might not be here today," Jonathan said. "She and her late husband, Bill, labored tirelessly to grow this ministry. A great prayer warrior, she prayed us through many a crisis and on to victory."

Maddy served on the JVB Board of Directors for several years in the 1970s. She joined the board again in 1988, and her tenure spanned well beyond the transition when JVB merged with Hear O' Israel Ministries to become Jewish Voice Ministries International. Upon her retirement from the Board of Directors in 2014, Maddy was awarded the title of Board Member Emeritus for her decades of dedication and contributions to the ministry.

"Maddy was an amazing woman of faith," reflected Jonathan, "and she so loved the Jewish people." Maddy remained an On-site Prayer Partner until 2012, regularly coming to the Jewish Voice offices to pray for the ministry and Jewish people everywhere.

Maddy Lindvall leaves a legacy of faith-filled prayer, fervent love for the Jewish people, and a life spent in dedicated service to see all Israel saved. "Though Maddy will be missed," said Jonathan, "we are so grateful for her life. She lived it well. She fulfilled her calling."

**For more information** about making a difference with your non-cash gifts, please contact your personal Jewish Voice Representative or **call us at 800-299-9374.**



# GOD'S HEART for ISRAEL

BY SCOTT VOLK



The story of the Lord and Israel is a love story. It is often marked by sin and tragedy, broken covenant and judgment – but it is still a love story. As told by Ezekiel, the narrative begins when a great King finds a poor, orphaned girl. He rescues her, cares for her, and clothes her in royal garments. Adorned with glory, her true beauty shines, and the King falls in love with her. He marries her and makes her His queen.

But when the orphan-turned-monarch gains worldwide fame, she prostitutes herself to the nations. The defiled queen suffers immeasurably for her adulteries. But the King declares that His covenant with her is eternal, and His love will one day eclipse His anger. On that day, their marriage will be restored.

Unfortunately, many are not looking toward that day of restoration, but rather are saying that God's promises are no longer for Israel because of Israel's rejection of her Messiah. They say God is looking for a people who will carry His heart for Israel.

## God Calls Israel "My People"

Throughout Scripture, God affectionately refers to Israel as His people, emphasizing to all that He possesses His people – they are His. Here are just a few examples:

"And I will provide a place for *my people Israel* and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed" (2 Samuel 7:10 NIV).

"And I will bring *my people Israel* back from exile" (Amos 9:14 NIV).

"Since the day I brought *my people* out of Egypt ... nor have I chosen anyone to be ruler over *my people Israel* ... I have chosen David to rule *my people Israel*" (2 Chronicles 6:5–6 NIV).

God possesses Israel as His own, and He is looking for men and women who will carry His heart for His people. In my role as a father, nothing brings me more joy than to see my children loved and accepted by others. If I, as an earthly father, can receive such pleasure in seeing my children loved and accepted, how much more does it bless our Heavenly Father's heart to see His children loved and embraced?

On the flip side, I can't imagine the ache in the Father's heart as He's watched His firstborn son, Israel, being bullied through the centuries. Unfortunately, history has been replete with story after story of those who have wanted to see Israel annihilated. Whether it was Haman, Herod, Hitler or Hamas, there's been a continuing diabolical plot to wipe the people of Israel off the face of the earth.

## The Prophets Shared God's Heart for Israel

"I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul" (Jeremiah 32:41 ESV).

"I will take you for my wife forever. I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. I will take you for my wife in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord" (Hosea 2:19–20 NRSV).

The prophets, including those quoted above, knew this love story well. As the Lord's close friends, they shared His Spirit and therefore understood His emotions. Even as they heard God's words of judgment, they also felt His broken heart for His wayward people. Israel's prophets grasped God's faithful love to restore His nation again. That is why their prophecies always came back to Israel's promised, glorious future. Thus the prophets did more than share God's messages with Israel – they also shared God's heart for Israel.

In a day and age when Israel is being increasingly more delegitimized in the press, in politics, and even behind some pulpits, God is looking for people who will carry His heart for His people.

## Our Messiah Shared God's Heart for Israel

Throughout my years of pastoring, I don't think that anything has been more excruciating for me than to see the agony on a mother's face as she painstakingly explains how she and her child are alienated from each other. The pain and agony is almost palpable, and I can't help but feel compassion for her in her time of deep sorrow. Amazingly, the one place in Scripture where Yeshua likens Himself to a mother is when He addresses Jerusalem, the city over which He wept. He says:

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem ... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing" (Matthew 23:37 NIV).

Our Messiah King was a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief (Isaiah 53:3), and I believe much of that grief was because the very ones He came to gather and save rejected Him, therefore rejecting His Father. And though there must have been great joy and satisfaction in seeing the sick healed and the dead raised, there remained in His heart a constant ache that could never be fully healed until Israel welcomes Him as their King. As a matter of fact, that's exactly what He meant when He said:

"For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!'" (Matthew 23:39 NASB).

## The Apostle Paul Shared God's Heart for Israel

It's remarkable to me that Romans 8 ends in what seems like an incredible crescendo of joy ("... nothing can separate us from the love of the Messiah ...") only to be immediately followed by Romans 9 which starts in what seems like utter agony and despair. Paul, who is expressing a truly apostolic heart, talks about his unceasing sorrow because of Israel's rejection of their Messiah.

"... I have *great sorrow* and *unceasing grief* in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites..." (Romans 9:2–4 NASB).

Paul's ache and grief were so strong that he was willing to give up his own salvation and suffer eternal separation from God simply to see the eyes of the Jewish people opened to their Messiah. That's ultimate intercession, friends, and I wonder how much more effective we would be as the Church if we carried this type of apostolic heart for Israel.

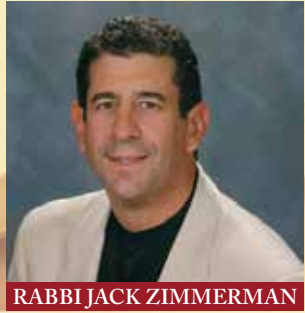
## Will You Share God's Heart for Israel?

The love story of the King and his wayward queen that this article began with will come to a glorious conclusion when Israel welcomes back their Messiah and King. God's heart for Israel is something that was essential to the prophets, to Jesus, and to the apostles and ought to be ultimate to us. Messiah can't return until Israel welcomes Him back, and the Lord desires to entrust His burden and heart for Israel to anyone who will receive it. Will you? 🇮🇱

### Scott Volk

Scott Volk is a Messianic Jew who came to faith in 1975. After graduating from North Central University in Minneapolis in 1988, Scott has served in various pastoral capacities in Arizona, Florida and North Carolina. After more than 20 years in pastoral ministry, Scott founded Together For Israel, a non-profit ministry that exists to partner with the Church for the salvation of Israel (Romans 11:26).





# Hebrew School

WITH RABBI JACK

Since this issue of our magazine is on the topic of peace, it's no stretch at all to focus on one of the most familiar Hebrew terms on this subject – the word "Shalom."

Appearing in many Bible verses and used as a common greeting around the world, most everyone knows that Shalom, in its most basic usage, simply means "peace." But when you study Hebrew, you find out very quickly that this is a very rich language, and so, consequently, while you may understand some of the basic meaning of Shalom (such as hello and goodbye), truly comprehending this fascinating and important word goes much deeper.

For example, Jeremiah 13:19 says, "The towns of the South will be shut up, with no one to open them. All Judah is taken into exile – completely carried away into exile."

You'd probably think that a verse dealing with conflict and forced exile would be the last place you'd find the word, "shalom," but surprisingly, it's in there! The exile was total, complete. Not even one soul got out unscathed.

And that's where "Shalom" comes in. Its meaning in this verse is "complete" or "in total." How ironic that a word we automatically associate with peace can also be used in the context of war – exactly the opposite!

Let's look at another example of Shalom. In Psalm 38:3 (or 38:4 if you're using a Jewish Bible), we read, "There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation; There is no health in my bones because of my sin."

Any idea which word in there is actually "Shalom" in the Hebrew? It's the word "health." So in this usage, "shalom" speaks of someone who is physically healthy. Just got a good report from

the doctor? That means your condition is Shalom! In fact, in Genesis 43:27, Joseph is visited by his brothers (who don't recognize him at this point) and he asks them, "Is your Father well?" He actually just asked them, "Is Dad Shalom?"

Let's do just one more. And again, see if you can guess which word in this verse is "Shalom" in the Hebrew. We're going now to Psalm 41:9 in your English Bible, or verse 10 in a Jewish Bible. The verse says, "Even my own close friend, whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me."

Any ideas? Aside from this being another situation where a word we typically identify with peace is found in a verse dealing with conflict, the word "Shalom" here refers to that "close" or "familiar" or "trustworthy" friend.

With this more complete understanding of Shalom (did you catch the pun?), we now can look at Psalm 122:6 with a new set of eyes. The Bible reminds us in that verse to pray for the peace of Jerusalem; that they who love her will prosper." I've often had folks ask me, "Exactly what does that mean?" When you pray for the peace of Jerusalem/Israel, what are you praying for?

Several things, really, since several different meanings of Shalom can – and do – apply here. Most certainly, you're praying for the absence of conflict and war. You're also praying that Israel would be "well," that she has not fallen to rampant sickness, illness and disease.

And what about her being in a place of Shalom, where she is "total" and "complete"? That's the best part of all because that definition of Shalom will come when the "Sar Shalom," Yeshua, our Prince of Peace, returns. And He is the only one who can bring true Shalom to Israel and to us all. 🇮🇱

**Yeshua, our Prince of Peace, is the only one who can bring true Shalom to Israel and to us all.**

*change a life*

(it might be theirs, it might be yours)



We are looking for **medical and non-medical** professionals ... **like you** ... to join us on an upcoming Outreach!

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Proclaiming Jesus the Messiah to the World





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