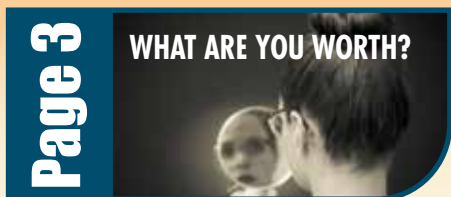




ISRAEL'S RESTORATION®



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VICTORY OVER THE ENEMY

One of the amazing graces we receive from God through Yeshua, along with forgiveness of sins, eternal life and the Shekhina presence of the Holy Spirit, is the power and the authority to heal the sick and cast out demons. Although casting out demons is portrayed in the entertainment world as some kind of weird and insidious dark ritual, it is actually a common place event in the lives of true followers of Yeshua, to be accompanied by true repentance and a commitment to a pure and honorable life afterwards.

While it is exciting to think of the ability to cast out demons, there is also spiritual warfare against the works of the devil on a wider corporate level. Individual demons cause sin and sickness, but *greater powers of evil are assigned to destroy the community of faith as a whole*. That corporate attack on the Ecclesia comes on three levels:

- Accusing the brethren
- Dividing the church
- Scattering the sheep

Ironically, those most enthusiastic about healing and casting out demons are sometimes used of the devil to do much greater damage to the community of faith as a whole.

Israel and the Church are described as a glorified bride who is under attack by the evil dragon-serpent Satan (Revelation 12). The central part of that attack is described as, **“accusing our brethren...”** (Revelation 12:10).

Friendly Fire

The “brethren” here, of course, are fellow believers in Yeshua. Accusation usually comes in the form of *gossip and complaining in the guise of seemingly sincere “correction.”* And while “brethren” can be anyone, the demonic attack is most often directed toward leaders. When we find ourselves gossiping and

complaining about pastors and other leaders, there is a possibility that we might actually have become a demonically-energized accuser of the brethren without realizing it.

Unified House Stands

The second attack is even worse: not only to accuse leaders but to cause a split in the Body. Speaking of spiritual warfare, Yeshua said, **“any kingdom divided against itself will fall...”** (Luke 11:17).

Sometimes people are so sure that they are right, they are willing to cause a split in the Body in order to correct what they perceive as error. The damage done by “dividing the church” is often worse than the damage due to that error. Of course, there should be essential moral discipline and accountability for congregations and leaders. In the case of sin, a split can in certain very specific circumstances be justified. However, that is not the same as causing a split because of *differences of opinion*.

Better Together

The worst level of division is called by Yeshua the work of the thief, the destroyer or the wolf. Yeshua is the Good Shepherd, but the enemy comes to, **“steal and scatter the sheep...”** (John 10:12).

There is a significant deception, promulgated by some of the most zealous believers, that there is no reason to belong to a church or congregation. All kinds of spiritual reasons are given for this campaign of lies, but ultimately it leaves weak believers exposed and unprotected before the **“gates of hell”** (Matthew 16:18), and scatters the sheep away from the fold and the shepherds.

Just as we should be zealous to heal the sick and cast out demons, let us also be zealous to oppose demonic attacks on the community of faith as a whole.

ASHER INTRATER *Revive Israel, Tikkun International*





THE PRIMARY ERROR IN WORD OF FAITH TEACHING

Many but not all of our readers are familiar with a movement called *The Word of Faith Movement*. Teachers in this movement have become famous for their presentations on material prosperity and physical healing. Some have gone too far and teach that believers have the right to opulent living (See my book, *Prosperity, what the Bible Really Teaches*). The basic idea is that if we meditate and confess the Word of God and especially its promises, we will build faith and will walk in God's abundant material provision, physical healing and family wholeness. Indeed, there should also be no tragic accidents for any family members since Psalm 91 says that no evil or plague will come near us. Mark 11:24 says that the person with a grain of mustard seed faith will, "Have whatever they say."

There is much truth in this. It is the Word of God enlivened by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, who brings us into faith to believe and walk in all God's promises. As I note in my Prosperity book, meditating on, confessing and standing on the promises of the Bible is the way to strong faith.

So when does it become problematic? A couple from upstate New York met us in their congregation. They lost three children in a tragic car accident when they were carpooling with others going to a Christian school. They were asked to leave their Word of Faith congregation where they were elders. The pastor explained that their tragedy was undercutting the faith of the congregation. Wow!

The problem in this teaching is that these promise statements in the Bible are said to be absolute. According to that interpretation, "... **heals all your diseases,**" in Psalm 103 allows *no exceptions*. God is seen as always giving fully according to these promises. So if promises are not attained, then it is asked, "Is the problem with the giver or the receiver?" The answer we hear is, "It is always a problem on the receiving end." So there is no way out of their conclusion. If you have financial loss, if you are sick or die prematurely, or have tragedy in the family, they say *it is your fault*. Any other view is seen as diminishing the absolute nature of the promises and undercutting the maximum potential for faith.

The weakness in this view is that it does not recognize that faith is something that has to be given by God. The faith that moves mountains in Mark 11:24 cannot be worked up or drummed up no matter what we do. The Word of Faith view on this is a rugged individualism where it is all up to me. I don't think that is what Yeshua meant. It is God who gives faith, and a mustard seed level of it can do anything. It is what the faith people call the "God kind of faith." Our part is to worship God, confess his promises, and meditate on the Word, but ultimately these promises for human prosperity and healing are under the sovereignty of God. *His promises are real. We are healed in the course of our lives thousands of times from all kinds of things. But if we die of some disease, it does not mean that we were at fault.* We would like the promises and our ability to receive them to be air tight, but the promises are generalizations, and they are the usual reality. After having done all – and *we should* do everything that we can, including meditation/speaking on the Word and listening to the Spirit on the matter – it is still up to the sovereignty of God. Too many are now in a situation of depression and have abandoned walking with God because, after tragedy, they were told *it was their fault*. This is the primary error of the Word of Faith teaching.

The three heroes who disobeyed King Nebuchadnezzar's decree to worship the golden image, had a slightly less rigid "take" on the outcome of their "rubber meets the road" faith situation:

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us...But even if He does not... we will not serve your gods ..." (Daniel 3:16-18 NIV).

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From the **Tents of Mercy Network**
of Congregations and Humanitarian Aid

WHAT ARE YOU WORTH?

Biting into a chocolate chip cookie from a fresh package, my wife, Connie, discovered too late that some tiny, voracious red ants had begun enjoying the cookie before her. In horror, she spat out the cookie AND the ants—but not in time to avoid the undeserved bites that caused her lips to swell up painfully and grotesquely.

After several uncomfortable days the swelling subsided—to our considerable gratitude, but in the meanwhile, every look in the mirror reminded her of the embarrassingly bulging lips. Connie felt strange about her (temporarily) disfigured face. She was now self-conscious about how people would look at her. This realization led to further reflections on what it's like for people with permanent deformities. We are all sensitive about our appearance. In numerous interviews with people whose appearance is "irregular," their response is *"I just want to be like everyone else, and to be accepted for the person I really am on the inside."*

Universal Need for Affirmation

Deep down every one of us needs affirmation of who we are on the inside. If we are honest, there is an essential longing to be valued, esteemed, accepted, appreciated and loved. In fact, the search for love is, foundationally, a longing for another to say to us: *"You are worth it! I honor you. You are of such value to me that I am ready to give you my whole heart, my whole life!"*

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Life is full of times of testing. Toward the end of his life, I see King Hezekiah in the midst of a test (2 Chronicles 32:31). Throughout his reign, in spite of great adversity he had accomplished much. Then, when the Babylonians came and “lusted” after the fruit of his labors, the condition of King Hezekiah’s heart was once again tried and revealed, in this case through his desire to flaunt his wealth before the Babylonians. His riches were the evidence of his *accomplishments*. Most of us can relate to this temptation to “show off” our accomplishments.

1 Corinthians 10:13 declares that hardships and trials come into our lives, not to break us, but to build and strengthen us that we might persevere and ultimately overcome. Our time here on earth is temporary, a “security deposit” for the life to come. The challenges we face help us “graduate.”

What is it that we have to look forward to? **“Blessed is the man who endures temptation, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him”** (James 1:12).

In 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 we are commissioned to be God’s servants here on earth. As His stewards, we should be found faithful, persevering and therefore representing God’s Kingdom on earth. We are to look at ourselves as visitors on this earth, *not allowing the things of this world to possess our hearts. God will test our hearts as he did with King Hezekiah to see if what we have built here on earth, even those things He asked us to do, have replaced God Himself. Have our accomplishments in this world become replacements in our lives for the things of the eternal kingdom?* Have they distracted us from our duty to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth?

We are expected to be loyal to His call. Remember you are only a visitor in this world – God’s deposit on this earth. May we hear these words from the Lord, **“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord”** (Matthew 25:23).

GUY COHEN

THE TEST & TEMPTATION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS



THE VISIONARY & envisioning unfilled niches

When we talk about a “VISIONARY,” we most likely picture someone such as Ezekiel the prophet, or John the disciple of Yeshua. Ezekiel painted prophetic images of heavenly chariots and heavenly creatures, and he prophesied about the future. John also saw visions and the glory of the Son of God, Yeshua, and prophesied about the future. However, this is not what I mean when I use the word “visionary” with a small “v.” Rather, I’m referring to something more modest, being “pioneers,” that which has become our calling today.

Every year I am privileged to visit different countries and see different Christian denominations, organizations and structures. And I say, “Great job! You are well advanced in creating visible expressions of the Kingdom. You have programs and institutions. You assist the elderly and the poor, and you work with young people and children.” To be honest, I am sometimes envious, but in a good way. Then when I return to Israel, though I know that the Lord renews and restores, I see so many niches—places not yet filled with the Kingdom. There is an overwhelming desire to *fill these niches*. I call this pioneering desire being “visionary.” However, I think kingdom *initiatives* are much more important than *titles*. Even more important is the ability to turn initiatives into realities. We want to see the Kingdom of Yeshua gradually and consistently *filling* unfilled niches, despite difficulties and great opposition—even in Israel!

We praise the Lord for all the existing programs—for soldiers, youth and children, and the home for elderly believers in progress, and music schools and art schools. However, from my point of view, we need more of them and better.

Zechariah 12:5 says:

Then the leaders of Judah will say in their heart, “The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength through Adonai-Tzva’ot (the Lord of Hosts) their God.” (TLV)

It seems to me that this speaks of our times. When I read “the leaders of Judah,” I see Israeli government officials. When I read “inhabitants of Jerusalem,” I see Israeli believers. And indeed some Israeli government officials on different levels are beginning to view Israeli believers in Yeshua as an asset, a *strength* for the country, *through* their faith in the Lord.



What are messianic believers doing today? They are setting up many programs to fill empty kingdom niches. Among these, helping our neighbors has a high priority, and we do it with great desire and motivation. This is just



the beginning, and already the “leaders of Judah” know about it. More importantly God knows about it. He knows our hearts and motives.

Praise the Lord! These are your prayers, *your* gifts and your vision, together with *our* vision, work and efforts.

Please continue to pray for our team here at Return to Zion, for the Music & Art School, our humanitarian projects and the soldiers’ project. Our people are visionaries, with a small “v.” We are taking small steps to implement the great Vision, about which Yeshua said, **“Pray that God’s will would become on earth a physical reality just as it is in heaven.”** And please consider connecting your faith to physical “niche filling” through donations.

Blessings to you and a joyful summer for you and your families!

LEON & NINA MAZIN

If it's not what people view on the outside, then what IS the basis of our worth? Am I to be ever dependent on the feedback of others to feel I'm valuable? Or, in the other trap—can I ever escape the inner critic, the perfectionism that would leave me persistently and agonizingly dissatisfied with ME?

Discovering my True Worth through the Cross and Creation

I did not know my true worth until I saw Yeshua on the cross. This happened in an absolutely supernatural encounter, which led directly to my receiving Him as Savior and Lord in October, 1972. In a waking vision I saw His eyes transmitting to my heart what my mind could not grasp. *"I know you, your deepest longings and your failures. All your efforts to be good have fallen short. But my love for you is not conditioned on those efforts."* In a moment I understood that He was hanging there as an everlasting statement: *"You, Eitan, are worth the agony I'm going through."* The undeserved death of the perfect Man on my behalf, revealed my true value.

We are informed back in Genesis 1 that mankind—male and female—are made in God's own image and likeness. **"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.'**" Even this fact alone imparts an unfathomably great level of worth to each and every person. In fact, the cataclysmic struggle over this "bearing of God's image in the world" began in the same Garden and has continued throughout the horrors of history. The enemy is out to curse, mangle, and accuse us until we are hopeless, dreamless, lifeless. Yet the very effort to subvert the Divine design of God's nature imparted to humans (2 Peter 1:4) *confirms* the centrality of that design. If there is such promise in our innate value that we are hated for it, then it is worth fighting for. If the Author of the Universe has planted in us His own likeness, then no one can rob you of supreme value!



Yeshua intentionally reached out to lepers and prostitutes, the "off-scouring" of society, publicly demonstrating their worth. How then will He not also touch us and impart His authoritative affirmation? For it is His act of total sacrifice that permanently defines your worth and mine. That is what I saw in a vision of His face. This reality destroys the lie that I am a worthless failure. **"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us"** (Romans 8:37).

*"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Yeshua our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, **that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in this world through lust" (2 Peter 1:2-4).*

EITAN SHISHKOFF *Pastor Emeritus*



GAZA RIOTS EXPOSED

It's been an amazing time here in Israel: the 70th anniversary of the birth of the nation, the official opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem, our Tikkun Roundtable conference, and the annual Shavuot (Pentecost) prayer meeting. Sadly, at the same time, there was much bloodshed on our border with Gaza, as Hamas led a suicidal effort to try and breach the border with Israel. As always, the world media brushes aside history, forgets the reasons why we are in this mess, and makes Israel out to be the bad guy.

Thankfully, the truth has come out about the Gaza riots and bloodshed. Hamas official, Salah Bardawil finally admitted that 50 of the 60 killed on the worst day were Hamas activists. In addition, 3 Islamic Jihad activists were killed. Israel had said that at least 24 of the fatalities belonged to militant groups, but international media did not believe them. Does anyone still think these 53 militants were peaceful protesters just out for a stroll along the border fence?

Here are a few facts pointing towards Hamas' responsibility for all the deaths, sending scores of young men on what is essentially a suicide mission for media purposes.

Hamas is lying to its "human shields." The Washington Post (May 14, 2018) reported, "At a gathering point east of Gaza City, organizers urged demonstrators to burst through the fence, telling them Israeli soldiers were fleeing their positions."

These protests weren't peaceful. The New York Times cited "the Molotov cocktails thrown at Israeli soldiers and firebombs attached to kites that are routinely sailed over the fence, setting fires to Israeli farmland."

The Israeli Defense Forces reported that some "peaceful demonstrators" fired on its soldiers and attempted to place explosive devices along the border.

For the third time in two weeks the Kerem Shalom border crossing, through which Israel sends medicine, fuel and other humanitarian essentials, was set on fire by Hamas activists—just another way of causing suffering to the populace it is supposed to be serving.

Prime Minister Netanyahu stated that Hamas is "pushing civilians, women and children into the line of fire with the view of getting casualties..., in order to pressure Israel."

In an interview with Al Jazeera on Sunday, Hamas co-founder Mahmoud al-Zahar said that "Recent Palestinian riots on the border were backed by the Islamist group's fighters and weapons" and "When we talk about 'peaceful resistance,' it is to deceive the public." Could it be any clearer?

So how should Believers respond? We must constantly expose the lies of militant Islam, in its satanic hatred of Israel, the West and Christians. We don't want to demonize anyone—but want to pray for all those under the deception of Islam to be set free, and come into the revelation of the Son of God, Yeshua. At our Shavuot prayer event, we experienced a powerful time of this kind of intercession, led by local Arab Christians and Messianic believers. We believe unity in Christ along the "Isaiah 19" highway (Egypt/Israel/Assyria) releases an anointing for the kind of prayer that can break the hold of this wicked principality (Islam) over the minds of millions. Please keep praying with us!!

ASHER INTRATER



TRUTHS FOR OVERCOMING FEAR OF THE END TIMES

Do the words: anti-Christ, mark of the beast, bowls of wrath, wars, famines...stir up fearful emotions in you? If so, you are not alone. Wrong beliefs and inadequate information on these subjects can produce anxiety and confusion about the future. When this happens, our tendency is to avoid the subject entirely.

From Genesis to Revelation there are 150 chapters whose primary focus is prophecy concerning events that will happen in the end time. God purposely gave us an ample amount of information about the last days so that we would be assured both of His ultimate victory (John 16:33) and of His commitment to helping us be overcomers (Revelation 12:11).

These 7 truths will help you stand with inner peace concerning the coming days of difficulty.

1) Repent for Lack of Trust

The root of fear is usually connected to our lack of trust in God. When we recognize this in our lives, we must repent, choose to believe and ask God to increase our faith (Luke 17:5). He is a good, trustworthy Father who loves to look after us. He will do the impossible with our mustard seed of faith.

2) You Are Chosen

God chose you and loved you before you knew Him (John 15:16; 1 John 4:18-19)! By faith we receive His free gift of grace and mercy (Ephesians 2:4-9). No amount of human work or striving can save us. **“...neither death nor life... nor things present nor things to come... shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (Romans 8:38-39). You are secure in His embrace. HIS GRACE ALONE empowers us to overcome Satan, our flesh, the world and the difficulties of the end times.

3) Yeshua's Leadership is Perfect

Words like “granted” or “was given authority” repeatedly appear throughout the book of Revelation (22 times). God allows Satan and the anti-Christ to do their evil will (Revelation

6:4; 13:5,14). God is never surprised or caught off guard. He is all knowing, all powerful and will use the schemes of Satan for His own purposes. Yeshua will never make a mistake in His leadership. He is our good Shepherd and can be fully trusted (Luke 12:7). Even the amount of testing He allows us to experience will not be more that we can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13) and will ultimately prepare us and purify us (Daniel 11:35; Revelation 19:7) to rule with Him in the age to come (Revelation 20:6).

4) The Church is Yeshua's Highest Priority

In the beginning of Revelation, John saw Yeshua in the midst of seven lampstands symbolizing seven churches in Asia. In His right hand were seven stars, symbolizing congregational leaders of these churches (Revelation 1:12-13, 20; 2:1). Before God revealed the end time judgments to come, He first revealed Yeshua's nearness to His church (Ekklesia). Not only is He in their midst but He holds them in His hand! By knowing this we can be prepared for the rest of the events in the book of Revelation. Yeshua's highest priority is His church (Matthew 16:18), and He will never leave or forsake us (Hebrew 13:5).

5) Supernatural Protection and Provision

We see the Jewish people's Exodus out of Egypt as a prophetic pattern for the end times (Micah 7:15). While the Egyptians were being struck with flies, boils, darkness...the Jewish people were set apart and protected in Goshen (Exodus 8:22-23; 9:4; 8:11; 10:21-23). God's end time judgements are for removing evil from the planet, not wiping out the saints.

6) Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

When difficulty increases so does supernatural anointing and guidance. **“It shall come to pass in the Last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh...”** (Acts 2:17-21).

7) Beauty of Yeshua

Along with increased pressures and the Holy Spirit being poured out, there will be an ever-increasing revealing of the beauty of Yeshua. Concerning the end times, Isaiah 4:2 says, **“...the Branch of the Lord [Yeshua] shall be beautiful and glorious.”** Haggai 2:7 calls Yeshua the **“Desire of all nations.”** As we continue to seek and behold Yeshua, the Holy Spirit will progressively reveal His beauty and glory to our hearts in unprecedented ways. This will lead to profound fascination, awe, longing and unshakable dedication to Him. The love and affection for Him in the heart of His bride will be stronger than death (Song of Songs 8:6). We will not be afraid to die because we know that immediately after death we will be without pain and sorrow in His glorious presence forever!

Lord, help us to not ignore the seriousness of the days ahead. Help us to be sober, humble and diligent as we search your word and heart concerning the future. Amen.

CODY ARCHER