

AMI - JERUSALEM CENTER

for Biblical Studies & Research

A Letter from Jerusalem

February - March 2024

Jerusalem, March 2024

Dear Friends,

The culture of the secular world is hostile to Israel and its faith. Those who are grafted into the Olive Tree of Israel, need our spiritual message. Their faith is built upon the foundation of the prophecies concerning Israel.

"For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee." (Romans 11:16-18)

We are celebrating the month of Adar, when we commemorate the events recorded in the Book of Esther, celebrating the holiday of Purim. This was when Haman, Grand Vizier of the Persian Empire, sought to destroy all the Jews in the Empire.

"And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus. There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries;" (Esther 3:8-9)

Haman was a descendant of Agag, the King of the Amalekites. The Amalekites were ancient enemies of Israel. During the time of the Exodus, they would attack without warning, seeking to destroy the weakest elements of the camp.

Does any of this sound familiar? There is a saying that, "what goes around comes around." We experience this today with Hamas and the ring of fire of the Iranian proxies, and, of course, the spread of global anti-Semitism. Some people seem to think God is not present and He isn't protecting His people. There is no mention of God in the Book of Esther, but God is the true King who is in control.

The Prophet Micah is associated with the month of Adar. He tells us what God expects of us:

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8)

The hope that we Jews and Christians have at this time of spiritual and political upheaval, is rooted in His Word, which is eternal.

"Who is a God like unto thee that pardoneth iniquity and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he deligtheth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. Thou wilt perform the truth of Jacob, the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from days of old. (Micah 7:18-20)









We find the same idea in the Gospel of Luke.

"That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember unto his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life." (Luke 1:71-75)

This is the spiritual heritage we must pass on to those who come after us. It is not an inheritance which we passively acquire. It is not a gift. We must labor in the Word for the Word is our Spiritual Compass.

You can help us to share this spiritual heritage to those near and far. If you will give us your email address and encourage others to do this as well. Postal costs have increased and via e-mail we can send out our newsletter to you in a faster and cheaper way and thus bless a larger audience worldwide.

Wishing you many blessings, Daniel and the AMI staff

Jerusalem, March 2024

Dear Friends,

This year we are blessed with two months of Adar, when Purim is celebrated. The holiday of Purim is celebrated on Saturday evening, March 23rd and Sunday March 24th. For walled cites like Jerusalem, we celebrate what is called Shushan Purim on Sunday night March 24th and Monday March 25th. The reason we sometimes celebrate a second month of Adar is because of the Jewish calendar, which is both solar and lunar. Passover must always be celebrated in the spring. Since the months on the Jewish calendar are determined by the phases of the moon, whenever there is a variance on the calendar an extra month of Adar must be added to the calendar to compensate, so that Passover will fall in the spring. Also, when one lives in a walled city dating to the time of Joshua, one must celebrate Purim a day later.

It is very important in the Jewish tradition to know where you come from, where you are going, and that God is in charge and hears your prayers. Purim represented a time of great danger for the Jews, but God turned it into a time of redemption, renewal, and blessing.

"The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous." (Proverbs 15:29)

There is a rabbinic saying: "Whoever wants his possessions to last will plant them in the month of Adar." We humans must acquire an appreciation for the place where we grew up. The past is instructional for our future. If we don't know our past, there is no future. The Sages say that the means for acquiring the Torah is, "the ability to know one's place". In short, our roots are in the Word. Without it, we cannot navigate the world. Technology is not a source of hope, it is a means to accomplish a task. Artificial Intelligence will not guarantee your future, if there is no spiritual anchor or compass.

The problem with the world is there are people from somewhere, and there are people from anywhere. People from anywhere are the global elites who are not rooted in any particular place or tradition. They feel they know better and want to control the world. In the Bible, we see this in the generation that built the Tower of Babel.







"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven: and let us make us a name, least we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:4)

According to the Sages, this building project was a rebellion against God. After the Flood, they were meant to repopulate the earth, dwell in different lands, and speak different languages. Instead, they spoke one language, settled in one place, and developed a new technology and building project. According to the Rabbis, if one person fell off the tower and died, they did not mourn, but if a brick was lost they mourned. According to the Bible: "... and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. (Genesis 11:6) Therefore, he "scattered them abroad upon the face of all the earth." (Genesis 11:9)

Is this not what we are seeing before our own eyes? Instead of bricks they have A.I. They are not only making war on God, but on His People all over the world, through anti-Semitism and Terrorism. This is a global conflict. We need your support and prayers as we approach Passover, and the Season of Our Liberation. The freedom we need is to serve the Lord and follow His Word.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.' (Isaiah 40:31)

Wishing you many blessings for the approaching Holiday Season, Daniel and the AMI staff

A Word about a Word

By Patty Mariano

There is a specific WORD that has become very prevalent in present day society. It is REAL and GROWING. That WORD has become part of our vocabulary in ancient times, and with the rise of Christianity, it has spread even more, not only in the Middle East, but across the globe.

The Jewish population has been the target of this WORD for centuries.

Physical attacks, verbal attacks, hostility, persecution, concentration camps, genocide resulting in over 6 million men, women and children facing death.

Yes, the WORD has been around for years and it seems there is not way to conquer it. Like a chameleon, it takes many forms-

- ... hateful words
- ... jokes against culture or appearance
- ...defacing personal property
- ... media posts -

whatever the need and wherever the location, the WORD shows it's face.

The more society is subject to these hateful acts, the more our minds become imbedded with dangerous images and beliefs ... all leaving indelible marks.

That WORD ... Anti-Semitism ... adapts to any "flavor" the world may be expressing. It has no agenda: it just continues to appear whenever and wherever it can get it's "nose under the tent". It's dangerous; it's deadly, it's unstoppable. It spreads like a disease with no antibiotic



to tame its inflammation. It leaves oozing sores and deep scars.

I observe something "deeper" happening over the last year ... this WORD, Anti-Semitism, has risen to an even stronger and more vile presence within the United States and the European Nations. There is much unrest and instability among them and this is "deep soil" for the complex enemy of Anti-Semitism.

As Brian Horowitz PhD, Seizeler Family Chair of Jewish Studies at Tulane University says, "... she THRIVEs on public opinion". Look at the reaction over the October 7 attack ... Hamas attacks and then look at who cries to the media, to the public, "Look what Israel is doing to us!" Their cry for sympathy rises; hatred runs ramped, and trauma faces the Jewish society once again ... not only in Israel, but the affects of the attack reach all over the globe.

Have the words of the Prophet Zechariah been forgotten?

"For this saith the Lord of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for they that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye." Zechariah 2:8

Or the words of Jeremiah?

"Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of themoon and the stars for a



light by night, which divideth the sea, when the waves thereof roar: The Lord of hosts is his Name.

If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever." Jeremiah 31:35-36

The Torah, Psalms, Prophets ALL agree...

There is an UNBREKABLE Tie between Israel and God.

In the New Testament, Jesus was also in perfect alignment with the Father regarding His people. He told us, you and me, to take care of each other...

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40

The nations, ALL of them, will be judged ... WE will be judged ... on how we treated Israel. This WORD ... Anti-Semitism ... is equal to Hatred ... which is against the very image of the Lord who created us.

We have a responsibility to combat this WORD ...

- ... to open our eyes and enlarge our vision
- ... to open our mouth and help stop this monster
- ...to open our heats to the victims and let them know we see them

Let them know we acknowledge them Let them know we have not forgotten them Yes, it starts with us ... with You ... with Me

The only way to STOP this enemy is through knowledge of the way it attacks, and through genuine LOVE for those who are, and who become it's target. We CAN win ... if we join together.

May the Lord Bless You as You seek Him for Answers

Touring in the Land during the War

By Ingrid W.

"For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. O Lord, how great are thy works!..." (Psalm 92:4-5)

There are groups coming to Israel at this time. Those who come, are Christians and Jews, who want to show solidarity with the Land of Israel. They are determined to come, even though their travels are more restricted. There are also local groups, one of which I joined on February 22, 2024. This one was postponed due to the war and security reasons. Finally, we had a new date and instead of the coastal plain near Haifa, we were heading towards the Dead Sea area.

Early in the morning, the bus departed from Jerusalem with a small group of birdwatchers. Along the way, we could see green covering the hills. The road along the lowest part of the earth heading south, has many caves

and mountains. The Dead Sea is in the middle and on the other side is the Jordanian mountains. The color of the water varies depending on the weather.

We passed through the check point at Ma'aleh Adumim, where many cars were waiting to pass through and continue to their workplaces in Jerusalem. However, our bus took us without delay in the opposite direction, to our first stop at the northern part of the Dead Sea area. There, the guide met with us and explained about local birds and the migration of birds of prey. We admired many little green bee-eaters, which are so colorful, as well as other species. It was very quiet. One could hardly hear any cars, only the birds singing.

While our guide was talking, he received a message. He had to leave us immediately as he was called up by the army. There had been an attack. Our tour leader and







guide from Jerusalem continued guiding us at Ein Gedi Nature Reserve. It was amazing to see so many people, including schoolchildren who were there, all taking advantage of the nice weather. After some rainy days, they set out to explore nature and go hiking. They really seemed to enjoy themselves.

We walked around at Ein Gedi. There is a date palm grove, where they choose to keep the undergrowth instead of cutting it off. This, we learned, is much better for the date palm trees, as the insects keep the palm trees healthier. Other animals also take advantage of the green bushes and grass.

It was arranged to visit the remains of the Ancient Synagogue. However, we had to go back to Jerusalem on time. Until this point, we had not seen one ibex, but as we began to travel back, we could see the ibexes walking on the other side of the road, closer to the Dead Sea. All members of the group were thankful that we could return safely, after a day of relaxation. Life goes on in Israel. We do the best of the situation we are going through, and look forward to a brighter future.







Shalom

It has been a while since I have reached out to you, but extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures.

As you know, Israel is in the middle of a war now. Over 1200 Israelis have been murdered, and over 200 kidnapped. Thankfully, some fifty hostages have been returned as of this writing, but at a very high price. We Israelis are resilient and optimistic, but we are in need of help from our friends all over the world.

Since the beginning of the Hamas War on Simchat Torah, October 7, many people have shared their hearts and strong desire to help.

Between my close connections in Israel and my capability to accept and distribute humanitarian charitable donations in Israel through Root Source, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, I am uniquely positioned to run a humanitarian needs campaign for the current war in Israel that was thrust upon us.

100% of the money raised in this campaign (after fees) will be used expressly the causes listed here: https://givebutter.com/israel-war-needs

Please give generously, and feel free to reach out to me with questions or comments.

Thank you and God Bless, Gidon Ariel



Passover: God's Power to Deliver Us

By Bruce Larson

The book of Exodus describes the power of God manifesting, to both save the people of Israel from death, and to deliver them from the cruel bondage of Egypt. According to Exodus 12:11-13, by applying the blood of a lamb they were personally saved from death. Exodus 3:2-8, describes how God heard their cries to Him, and came down to deliver them from Egypt. The sons of Israel had spent many years under the cruel hand of taskmasters and the horrible treatment of Egypt. Acts 7:6-7, also describes God delivering His people so that they would be free to serve Him in the land of Israel.

What is special about Passover for us Christians? In I Cor 5:7, Paul refers to Christ as our Passover lamb (ESV). We also have been saved by the blood of the lamb (I Peter 1:19). As with the original Passover, Christ came to provide us with both salvation and deliverance from the things in this life that can be very difficult for us. I am burdened that many people who have experienced salvation in Christ, still suffer under a bondage to fears, regrets, anger, or depression. Bondage can also include addictions or bad habits such as alcohol, drugs, or even social media. Christians can also be oppressed by pain or other bodily conditions. Finally, troubled relationships and spiritual influence or battle can also limit who we can be in Christ. Eph 6:10-17.

Christ came not only to deliver us, but He said in John 10:10, that He came so that we could live an abundant life in Him. We should be able to personally experience the fruits of the Holy Spirit such as love, joy, and peace. Christ came to set us free from all the influences, suffering, and bondages of this age, that can prevent us from experiencing His abundance right now. John 8:36 says, "if the Son makes you free you shall be free indeed". Christ himself said in Luke 4:16-21, that he came to release the captives and to set free those who are oppressed. He was the fulfillment of Isa 61:1-3, which is God's love and power expressed toward us to be completely free from all that influences and oppresses us. Eph 3:19-20, describes the love of God and states that God is able to do beyond all we can ask or think, by His power that works within us.

At times, difficulties in our lives can seem impossible to overcome, but our Lord came to set us completely free from anything that limits us. Like with Israel, God sees our affliction and suffering, and hears our cries of faith to Him. We can experience miracles of deliverance from all that limits us, and from all the influences of this age. We can pray in faith for God to intervene in our lives by His power, as He did with Israel.

In the same way, God set Israel free to live in the land of Israel and to serve Him there, He wants to set us free so we can worship and serve Him, free from all suffering and influences of this age. It's His will and desire that we freely experience His love, joy, peace, and kindness of the abundant life He came to give us.

This Passover deliverance is very personal to God. He called Israel His firstborn son (Ex 4:22), and their deliverance was important to Him. However, they had to choose to be saved and delivered by each family choosing to put the blood of a lamb on their door. For us, our deliverance is so important to God that He sent His only begotten Son, that we should have life. I believe this promise of our Passover deliverance should be very personal to us. We can pray in faith and appropriate in Christ not only our salvation, but also our personal deliverance, and to truly experience an abundant life in Him.



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