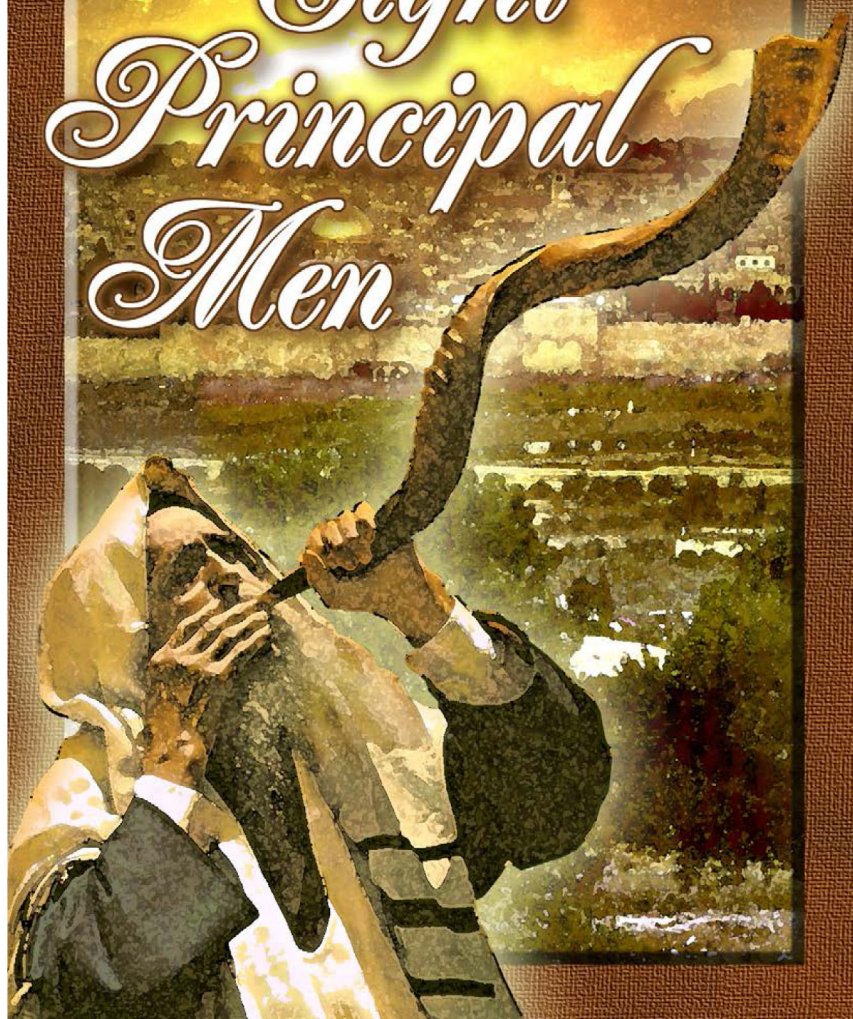


*Israel's
Eight
Principal
Men*



Israel's Eight Principal Men

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	i
I. End Times Press Releases	1
II. Elyahu's Cup	9
III. "As In the Days of Battle"	15
IV. Songs of Deliverance	21
V. Cave of Machpelah	29
VI. The Sword of the LORD	33
VII. The Silent Shout	41
VIII. The Last Katyusha	47
IX. "Why Is This Night Different?"	53
Epilogue	57
Index	59

Introduction

“And this man shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men.” Micah 5:5

ד והיה זה שלום אשור כִּי־יבוא בארצנו
וכי ידרך בארמנותינו והקמנו עליו
שבעה רעים ושמונה נסיכי אדם:

Eight Principal Men refers to the time when northern armies (the Assyrian) invade the land of Israel and take over their cities. The turning point of the battle comes when the Lord raises “seven shepherds” and “eight principal men.”

The “seven shepherds” refer to Israel’s Mashiach, who brings deliverance to them through “eight principal men.” Israel’s spiritual Mashiach brings back to life the faithful worthy men and women of ancient Israel who receive their instructions from Mashiach and lead the nation to a final victory.

This victory is achieved not by human might of military weaponry, but by faith in the power of the Almighty God. As God once won victories for Israel under the faithful leadership of righteous men and women of old against insurmountable odds, he will fight again as in the “day of battle.” There will be no question in anyone’s mind that the natural catastrophic events that turn the battles into victory for Israel could only have been accomplished by spiritual powers.

ii ♦ *Introduction*

I invite you to project your vision to the last days of the End Times.

Chapter One contains press releases during the End Times, followed by dramatic pen pictures of how Messiah will fight for Israel as in the “days of battle.”

Zechariah 14:3 — *Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fighteth in the day of battle.*

ג וַיֵּצֵא יְהוָה, וַיִּלָּחֶם בַּגּוֹיִם הָהֵם, כַּיּוֹם
הַלָּחֶמֶת, בַּיּוֹם קָרָב.

The remaining chapters are dramatic pen pictures of how Messiah will use “*eight principal* [princes of] *men*” to deliver Israel from their enemies.

We know at the peak of disaster, the nations (not people) of the world will be brought to a full end...but Israel will be saved.

Jeremiah 30:11 — *For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: for I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee....*

יָא כִּי-אַתָּה אֲנִי נָא-יְהוָה, לְהוֹשִׁיעַךְ: כִּי
אֲעֲשֶׂה כָלָה בְּכָל-הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר הִפְצֹתִיךָ שָׁם,
אֲךְ אַתָּה לֹא-אֲעֲשֶׂה כָלָה, וַיִּסְרֹתִיךָ לַמִּשְׁפָּט,
וְנָקָה לֹא אֶנְקֶה. {פ}

I invite you to step into the scenes of the end of the last days just preceding God’s Kingdom on earth. If it is not like this, we know it will be much better!

Yoana Arella

2009

Chapter 1

End Times Press Releases

World crises on an international level have peaked so drastically that many heads of state are frantically grasping for help—even from the churches. Somehow society has to be stabilized.

POPE UNITES WITH ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

Pope and Archbishop of Canterbury unite with Protestant churches in ecumenical councils.

The thorny union is necessary for survival. The UN and the EU have invited the church union into their sessions. Their goal is world peace and economic stability.

They are desperate to steady not only the social and political catastrophes—but also to restrain the economic crashes that are devastating nations.

Thus far, there is no agreement on how to accomplish peace and stability—except on one issue: Israel. Israel, the obvious troublemaker, is responsible for terrorism and the increasing brushfires of anarchy around the world. “That headstrong nation lashes out at everyone who is against her” is the unanimous conclusion of the national councils.

ISRAEL DESTROYS NUCLEAR REACTORS IN IRAN, CLAIMING SELF-DEFENSE.

***UN peace-keeping troops have moved into
Israel and have imposed martial law.***

Pope states Israel must be kept in check to guarantee safety for the PLO and Hamas. All nations agree: Israel does not deserve the Palestinian's Land—it must be given back!

Only with the Pope in control of Jerusalem can there be any peace in the world. Pontiff claims Jerusalem must be international. Churches claim God does not recognize Israel because they killed Jesus (who is God, according to the Trinity). Vatican refuses to recognize Israel as a legitimate nation.

The decision is unanimous—Israel must surrender Jerusalem immediately!

Just who would support Israel's Zionist aggression and colonialism? Well, there are a few. The most irritating is a small group of independent Christian Zionists.

CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS CLAIM GOD HAS GIVEN THE LAND TO ISRAEL.

***They insist on the old cliché, Israel is "God's
chosen people."***

Christian Zionists also condemn the union of the churches and governments as being "Babylonian" systems and Papal leadership is unchristian. They claim that Papacy is the Antichrist.

Their leaders cannot be located...yet they are everywhere. They do not meet in church buildings—which makes it very difficult to pinpoint them. They refuse to participate in any church organizations and have no common name except "Christian" or "Bible Students."

These Christian Zionists are considered the most stubborn, independent, illusive so-called Christians ever known. They have invaded the worldwide web—spreading their doctrines across the globe! They have so many home-published books it would take a house-to-house search to find them all. No one knows how many there are. But their message keeps erupting everywhere. Newspapers, radio, television, fair booths, printed leaflets in every nook and cranny. Every once in awhile they have a public rally for Israel. They counter anti-Semitism on college campuses. They don't seem to fear anyone or anything.

The churches are frustrated and would like to silence these objecting voices. And the governments aren't too happy with them either because they refuse to fight in their armed forces. These head-strong independent Christians have taken a stand as religious conscientious objectors, even willing to be imprisoned or die for their beliefs.

LAWS AGAINST CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS.

Anyone reporting their activities or whereabouts will be rewarded with positions in government and secure financial standing.

It is now illegal for Christian Zionists to meet in homes or anywhere else. This has driven them underground and increased their determination.

They must be shut down even at the cost of eliminating them—for the sake of world peace. This is the only way of stopping them. Even now, when they are caught, these Zionist Christians keep up with their messages on behalf of Israel but against world peace!

Even so, these uncooperative Bible Students seem to be getting a lot of free public press. When the arrests are televised, reporters often specify what these Christians have actually said. The people who listen carefully to them recognize that much of what they say has validity! In this way, public sentiment is slowly turning against the churches and governments.

People are divided over the issues being raised...for they see the hypocrisy of the churches, claiming to be God's kingdom on earth. Indeed, how could God's kingdom approve of the "holy" slaughter of innocent people in the Inquisition, or stand in silence with Pius the XII, who was recently christened with sainthood even though he refused to lift a finger to save millions of lives in World War II?

How could God approve of the exorbitant Papal wealth and power when their own supporters are poverty-stricken in the most backward countries of the world? How could God approve of the support Papacy gave to the brutality of the Ustashe at Jasonovich in Croatia? And the myriad of pedophile priests? These sins of the Papal church would be enough in themselves, but the worst thing is its hypocritical claim. For centuries the Papal church has claimed it is God's kingdom on earth *reigning now!*

CHURCH LEADERS PERSUADE GOVERNMENTS TO SENTENCE "HERETICS" TO DEATH.

Every day, as the heretics are found, they are executed—even without due process of law.

The heretical Christians proclaim well-founded facts. The general public who are watching are being convinced that the heretics are, in fact, telling the truth. People are leaving their churches in droves.

As each heretic is put to death, to the great relief of the churches, the national news interviews people who knew them. A rare pattern is developing.

Instead of unbalanced fanatics, the heretics are known for their high moral standards and for their loving words and compassion towards their neighbors and fellowmen.

The "heretics" logically explain what is happening from God's panoramic perspective. If one listens carefully, they have the only reasonable explanation for the present world crisis.

How many of them are there? One would think, by their profound impact on society, there must be thousands of them. But by the most careful analysis, there appears to be approximately only 300 actively working and another thousand scattered among the nations.

As these dedicated martyrs are crushed out, and with the public knowledge of what they are advocating, there is a great reversal of public sentiment. The people are turning against the churches and governments, and the unions that were designed to bring peace and safety totally lose control. Because the global network is so interdependently bound, its collapse is affecting world economy as well. Country after country and city after city in every nation becomes embroiled in rioting. Anarchy is replacing the tight control of church-state governments.

The Seven Plagues—Revelation 16

Churches are plagued from every side. Every hidden lie is opened for public scrutiny, and officials are judged at the public bar of justice as being guilty. Those who support the churches are continually plagued as past sins of the church are publicly exposed. They cannot escape the grievous accusations attacking them from every side, eating at them like a cankerous sore.

Not only are plagues within the church, but masses of people outside their religious support are rising like a sea of waves crashing against them. What once brought life and energy into church coffers is now bringing a bloody plague of death to them.

There is nothing the church leaders can do to stay the onslaught of death. All their biblical claims are revealed to be a false bloody river of lies. They are seen for what they are—imitation Christians. In fact, instead of being the source of truth, they are responsible for sealing the testimony of true saints of Almighty God in death. The time has come for the false church to drink the blood of death in just retribution.

The sunlight of truth is scorching church leadership like fire. They cannot escape from the powerful truth that is plaguing them. They even curse God and refuse to admit they are wrong. The church claims, “Some of our people are the sinners...not the church...the church is holy and untouchable. No apologies or changes are needed.”

But these very claims of holiness show how dark and sinful their kingdom of hypocrisy is. Their tongues curse God and they refuse to

repent and give him glory. They still refuse to admit the church itself was responsible for the Dark Ages, the “Holy” Inquisition, and a myriad of wicked deeds. As truth after truth reveals her guilt, the churches keep making excuses. Yet the more they pontificate, the more their words contradict their claims. The contradictions become obviously painful to defend. They continually get entangled in their own claims. But they refuse to repent or change their course.

The public, seeing the hypocrisy of their church leaders, have stopped supporting them. As funding and attendance dry up, churches more urgently strive for union with nations for support. Based on lies that everyone can see, with big frog-like mouths, they make pompous boasts that here, at last, they are the kingdom of God established on earth. They aim to gather the world into one, under a church-state arrangement, governments controlled by the churches, with the churches under the auspice of Papacy. Their boastful croaking only accomplishes their union for destruction.

True saints of God soberly watch world developments through the eyes of faith. Although painfully seeing some of their brethren, family and friends compromising with the church-state monolith, they keep themselves separate and have spoken out.

Finally, after ridding all the holy saints from their lands, the church-state union loses control. Truth—as lightning flashes—is seen by the entire world and there is a great revolution. Never again will men be taken in by such false systems!

As if by an earthquake, the great church-state union explodes from within, divides and falls. Instead of drinking the wine of truth from a golden cup given by the LORD, because of their unfaithfulness, the great harlot church receives a cup of God’s fierce wrath. She is held accountable to God for every sin she has committed. The small island and large mountain-like nations of earth begin to disappear from the face of the earth. Billions of dazed, bewildered people are left.

With the collapse of the Babylonian church-state union, terrorism and anarchy spread like wild fire from city to city and country to country. The only peaceful prosperous place on earth now is Israel. In desperation, the anarchistic armies of the nations turn their focus toward the little nation. Why is Israel so peaceful while they are in such uproar? Why is Israel’s economy prospering while the rest of the world is collapsing in anarchy?

Gog and Magog—Ezekiel 38

As though pulled by a hook in their nose, the remaining armies of the nations gather to the north of Israel. With all their sophisticated weaponry, they plan to descend on Israel and take a spoil of Israel's prosperity. Not only envious of Israel's peaceful isolation, they are also eyeing the newly discovered oil reserves and scientific management of the mineral wealth from the Dead Sea.

Fences which once protected Israeli cities from Palestinian Arab enemies have been removed. Like unprotected, unwallled villages, the cities throughout Israel are at peace under the auspices of EU and UN troops, mostly made of US troops who love Israel. After all, it was the US that helped Israel finally subdue all her Muslim Arab enemies once and for all.

The northern army hordes are not concerned about the peace-keeping troops ensconced in Israel. They send messages ahead requesting them to join in their invasion. There will be ample reward, a share in the victor's "spoil." The temptation to oil and mineral wealth is too great. Israel's "lovers" leave her and join the invading forces.

As the army bands begin their invasion, the Israelis realize their friends have turned on them. They are alone to face their enemies. Having the most sophisticated weaponry in the world, the IDF plans its defense strategies. A call goes out requiring the support of every able-bodied man and woman.

This divides Israelis. Most, with great confidence in their military, eagerly heed the call to defend their Land. Others, with greater confidence in the Almighty, closet themselves in prayer with fasting. The two groups sorely divide even families as dangers increase.

As village after village is surrounded by enemy forces, Israeli troops begin to fall. For two weeks the invasion slowly moves in, capitulating one defensive ambush after another. Lightning victories of past Israeli wars are not repeated. With all their sophistication, the military of Israel loses ground. Many of the generals of the IDF begin to cry out to God Almighty for help. Large contingents of soldiers fall on their knees in prayer, pleading for deliverance from annihilation.

Those who had been opposed to going out in war from the start, remained cloistered at home in prayer. It is the evening of Pesach. The world stage is set for Israel's *Eight Principal Men* to appear...God's answer to Israel's prayers.



Chapter 2

Elyahu's Cup

Avraham Ben Yehuda, the 90 year old patriarch, bent down to his great grandson Matthieu.

“Why is tonight different from any other night, Matthieu?”

“Because this is the night Israel was freed from slavery in Egypt, Grandfather.”

A cold breeze chilled the room. The door of their humble home had been left open to invite Elyahu Ha-Navi [Elyahu the Prophet] who was to come “before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.”⁽¹⁾ Naomi wondered where Elyahu was—for indeed the great and terrible day of the Lord was upon them. Armies from the North had surrounded every Jewish village on the east and west banks of the Jordan, from Samaria the “heartland of Israel” down to Beersheva and the Negev.

By faith, the Ben Yehuda clan had left Russia and chosen to settle in the area of the ancient city of Tish, in the land of Gilead. Gilead had been part of the Promised Land—the Eastern half of the Tribe of Manasseh, even though recently possessed by the nation of Jordan. They knew Gilead had been the home of Elyahu the Tishbite, and it was known that Elyahu would return to announce the arrival of the Mashiach. Some of Avraham’s family had migrated to Jerusalem to wait for Mashiach.

But Avraham Ben Yehuda expressed his great faith in the return of Elyahu by living in Gilead. Even though the nations had partitioned the territory of Ancient Israel and given portions to the Arab people, Avraham knew it would be returned to Israel eventually as promised, according to the words of the Holy Prophets of the LORD.⁽²⁾

They prayed every Pesach for Elyahu's return and Grandmother Adalia carefully set the golden goblet on a white embroidered doily. Naomi glanced at the place setting nearest the open door as candles flickered in the breeze. Every Jewish home that night had its "Elyahu's cup" set in place and dreamed of the night he would return, perhaps to their home.

Naomi held her sister Bettina's hand tightly as Matthieu answered the questions. As they stood around the table, great grandfather Avraham prayed for deliverance.

The cold draft made Naomi shudder. Her best thin dress had been mended many times—it was threadbare. Her black sweater didn't keep her small bones from shaking. Like other orthodox women, Naomi's mother and grandmother, and great grandmother wore black scarves covering their heads. The children stood quietly listening.

Why would the great Prophet Elyahu ever come to their poor home? Naomi wondered. They had so little to offer him. There were holes in the walls and barely any furniture.

The hard-boiled eggs on the table were covered with ashes to symbolize mourning. And, indeed, Naomi thought they were certainly in mourning. Armies from the north had burnt and pillaged village after village. Her mind wandered—what were they after? There were no jewels or gold around here. Just poor Jews in a hostile land.

A loud cough from great grandfather Avraham brought her attention back to his long prayer. Each head was bowed. What was that sound in the distance? Someone was daring to greet the Shabbat with a shofar.

Great grandfather ended his prayer with an 'Amen' and as they each repeated 'Amen,' they heard a strange voice suddenly break the icy air.

"As the Lord liveth..."

Startled out of her skin, Naomi quickly glanced in the direction of the open door. There stood a man with a beard and long hair. He held up his hands, greeting their shocked faces and stunned silence. She noticed immediately he was dressed in a hairy cloak. Naomi gasped, Who was he? All eyes were frozen on the stranger. Great grandfather fell to his knees bowing, and the family followed suite.

"Fear not, holy remnant of Israel. As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall be deliverance in this land. Our Mashiah has heard your prayers and has sent counselors and

judges to guide you this night. For tonight our Mashiach will deliver you from the enemy who has invaded His Holy Land. I am Elyahu the Tishbite, returned from the land of death. Tonight I will be your guest at Pesach.”

Great Grandfather Avraham stood and lifted his hands to welcome Elyahu to their home.

“Because you have not trusted in the arm of flesh, Avraham Ben Yehudah, but have put your lives in the hands of the Almighty, He will keep you under the shadow of his wings. This night you shall see Him fight for you as He once fought in the days of battle. And you are not alone in your faith and trust. Over 7,000 have not bowed to the might of military powers.”

Elyahu sat down at the table and turned to Matthieu. “I will tell you, Matthieu, why tonight *will be* different from any other night any man or woman has ever lived. Listen carefully, Naomi, Bettina.”

Elyahu began telling the stories of deliverance in ancient times. The family felt they could almost see the awe-inspiring battles in the days of old as the evening unfolded. There was no hesitating doubt in any mind that the Mashiach would likewise deliver them this night. They were living in the great and dreadful day of the LORD. Mashiach had sent them Elyahu the Prophet, long awaited by generations of Israel.

(1) **Malachi 3:23** — *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.*

כג הנה אנכי שלח לכם, את אליה הנביא--
לפני, בוא יום יהנה, הגדול, והנוכח

(2)

Numbers 32:39 — *And the children of Machir the son of Manasseh went to Gilead, and took it, and dispossessed the Amorites that were therein.*

Numbers 32:40 — *And Moses gave Gilead unto Machir the son of Manasseh; and he dwelt therein.*

לט וַיֵּלְכוּ בְּנֵי מַכִּיר בֶּן-מְנַשֶּׁה, גִּלְעָדָה--
וַיִּלְכְּדוּהָ; וַיּוֹרֶשׁ, אֶת-הָאֲמֹרִי אֲשֶׁר-בָּהָ.
מ וַיִּתֵּן מֹשֶׁה אֶת-הַגִּלְעָד, לְמַכִּיר בֶּן-מְנַשֶּׁה;
וַיֵּשֶׁב, בָּהָ.

Joshua 13:29 — *And Moses gave inheritance unto the half-tribe of Manasseh; and it was for the half-tribe of the children of Manasseh according to their families.*

Joshua 13:30 — *And their border was from Mahanaim, all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the villages of Jair, which are in Bashan, threescore cities;*

Joshua 13:31 — *And half Gilead, and Ashtaroth, and Edrei, the cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan, were for the children of Machir the son of Manasseh, even for the half of the children of Machir according to their families.*

Joshua 13:32 — *These are the inheritances which Moses distributed in the plains of Moab, beyond the Jordan at Jericho, eastward.*

כט וַיִּתֵּן מֹשֶׁה, לַחֲצֵי שִׁבְט מְנַשֶּׁה; וַיְהִי, לַחֲצֵי
מִטָּה בְּנֵי-מְנַשֶּׁה--לְמִשְׁפְּחוֹתָם.
ל וַיְהִי גְבוּלָם, מִמַּחֲנֵים כָּל-הַבָּשָׁן כָּל-
מַמְלָכוֹת עֹוג מֶלֶךְ-הַבָּשָׁן וְכָל-חֵיוֹת יְאִיר אֲשֶׁר
בַּבָּשָׁן--שְׁשִׁים עִיר.
לא וַחֲצֵי הַגִּלְעָד וְעִשְׁתָּרוֹת וְאֶדְרֵי, עָרֵי
מַמְלָכוֹת עֹוג בַּבָּשָׁן, לְבְנֵי מַכִּיר בֶּן-מְנַשֶּׁה,
לַחֲצֵי בְנֵי-מַכִּיר לְמִשְׁפְּחוֹתָם.
לב אֵלֶּה, אֲשֶׁר-נָחַל מֹשֶׁה בְּעֶרְבוֹת מוֹאָב,
מֵעֵבֶר לַיַּרְדֵּן יְרִיחוֹ, מִזְרָחָה. {פ}

Jeremiah 50:19 — *And I will bring Israel back to his pasture, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon the hills of Ephraim and in Gilead.*

יֵט וְשִׁבְתִּי אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-עֵנָהּ, וְרָעָה
הַכְרֵמִל וְהַבָּשָׁן; וּבְהָרֵי אֶפְרַיִם וְהַגִּלְעָד, תִּשְׂבַּע
נַפְשׁוֹ.

Obadiah 1:19 — *And they of the South shall possess the mount of Esau, and they of the Lowland the Philistines; and they shall possess the field of Ephraim, and the field of Samaria; and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.*

יֵט וְיִרְשׁוּ הַנֶּגֶב אֶת-הָרַעְשׁ, וְהַשְּׂפֵלָה אֶת-
פְּלִשְׁתִּים, וְיִרְשׁוּ אֶת-שְׂדֵה אֶפְרַיִם, וְאֶת שְׂדֵה
שִׁמְרוֹן; וּבִנְיָמִן, אֶת-הַגִּלְעָד.

Micah 7:14 — *Tend Thy people with Thy staff, the flock of Thy heritage, that dwell solitarily, as a forest in the midst of the fruitful field; let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.*

יָד רָעָה עִמָּךְ בְּשִׁבְטֶךָ, צֹאן נִחְלֶתְךָ--שֹׁכְנֵי
לִבְדָּד, יֵעָר בְּתוֹךְ כְּרָמִים; יִרְעוּ בָשָׁן וְגִלְעָד, כִּימֵי
עוֹלָם.

Zechariah 10:10 — *I will bring them back also out of the land of Egypt, and gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; and place shall not suffice them.*

י וְהִשְׁבֹּתִים מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, וּמֵאֲשׁוּר
אֶקְבָּצֵם; וְאֶל-אֶרֶץ גִּלְעָד וּלְבָנוֹן אָבִיאֵם, וְלֹא
יִמָּצָא לָהֶם.



Chapter 3

“As In the Days of Battle”

Yeshiva Mt. Zion of Jerusalem had divided its students into 24 groups. Tonight was Eli Cohen's turn to lead them to the Wall. While others were endeavoring to defend Jerusalem against the invaders, the Yeshiva students had remained within the ancient walls, fasting and praying for Mashiach to deliver their Holy City.

Armies of all the nations had been surrounding Jerusalem for two days. IDF troops were unable to hold them back. The Holy City was once again under siege, as a bird caught in a net. One by one, buildings were being confiscated during hand-to-hand combat. Even churches were not spared. Those defending the city were taken captive as prisoners of war. The latest report was that half the inhabitants of Jerusalem had either been killed or taken captive.

And this was the eve of Nisan 14, Pesach. It was strangely quiet this evening as Eli began the chain dance from the Yeshiva. Each student followed his lead, putting their hands on the shoulders of the one in front of him. They greeted every Shabbat this way. Even the crisis surrounding the Old City would not stop Yeshiva Mt. Zion from welcoming the Shabbat.

Winding through the narrow streets of the Jewish Quarter, their chanting could be heard throughout the Old City, like a signal of courage cutting the air. Solemn faces and Shabbat candles watched from windows as they passed. At every turn another student joined the end of the chain until it seemed the whole city was following them.

Waiting at the Wall, one could hear the eerie sound in the distance. It gradually became louder until the first man appeared at the top of the courtyard stairs. Then one by one, a living chain, they came down the steps across the pavement toward the Western Wall.

Eli held the sacred Torah scrolls over his head as they circled before the holy Wall. Shadows danced on the ancient stones lit by courtyard lights. Eli led the singers under the archway into the underground passage toward their synagogue. But tonight he led them further down the tunnel to the ‘Holy Place’—an area adjacent to where it was believed the Most Holy of the Temple had been located. Eli stopped, holding the Torah high. The men began swaying and praying. Eli began...

Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one.

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. (Deut. 6:4-5)

ד שְׁמַע, יִשְׂרָאֵל: יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְהוָה אֶחָד.
ה וְאַהֲבַת, אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, בְּכָל-לִבְּךָ
וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ, וּבְכָל-מֹאדְךָ

Suddenly the ground beneath them felt like it was moving. Eli could barely keep his balance.

The students joined with faint voices...

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart ... (Deut. 6:6)

וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה, אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מִצְוֶה
הַיּוֹם—עַל-לִבְּךָ.

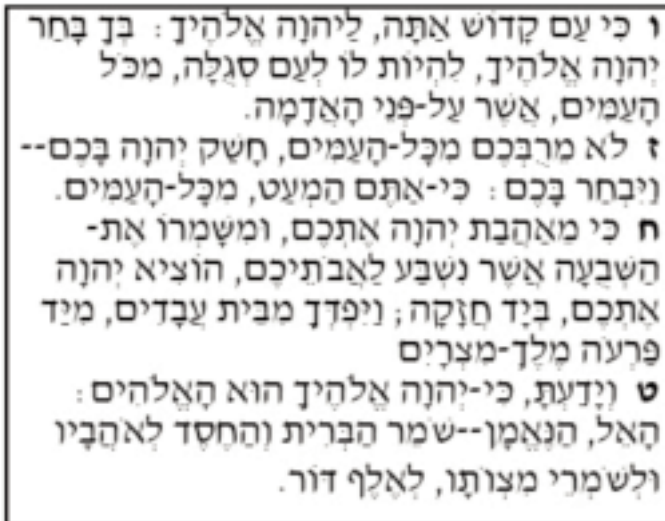
Suddenly, deafening thunder! With terror, eyes watched a crack in the stone wall begin to open. Trembling, the students dropped to their knees. A shofar was sounding in the distance. The crack widened into a dark cavern. They heard voices singing.

As the cavern widened, they saw a figure coming toward them. A man dressed in ancient priestly robes. He raised two hands as if giving a holy benediction. His jeweled breastplate glimmered through the torch-lit shadows. On his head was a golden crown, written in perfect Hebrew: *Holiness to the Lord*.

The priest, lifting his hands, spoke...

For thou art a holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be His own treasure, out of all peoples that are upon the face of the earth.

The LORD did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people—but because the LORD loved you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD thy God, He is God; the faithful God, who keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations. (Deut. 7:6-9)



Then another figure appeared, staff in one hand and stone tablets in the other. His face was glowing. Was this a vision? Eli glanced at the students who were like wide-eyed children. Was it fear or awe that held them frozen in time like statues?

The two figures were joined by others. The high priest motioned silence. The man holding the stone tablets spoke.

“Fear not, holy remnant of Jerusalem. Hear the words of your LORD.”

When thou goest forth to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, thou shalt not be afraid of them; for the LORD thy God is with thee, who brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.(Deut. 20:1)

א כי-תצא למלחמה על-איבך, ונראית סוס
נרכב עם רב ממך--לא תירא, מהם: כי-יהנה
אלהיך עמך, המעלך מארץ מצרים

“Tonight this scripture will be fulfilled. The LORD your God will fight against your enemies to save you. Our Mashiach has come to deliver you from the invasion encamped against Jerusalem. He has brought us back from the land of death to be with you this night.

“I am Moshe, lawgiver and leader of your Ancient Fathers. Before you stand priests of the Most High from the days of old. Aaron . . . Eleazar . . . Jeremiah . . . Ezechiel . . . Zadok . . . Ezra . . . Zechariah. . .”

As Moshe announced their names, each figure stepped forward into the light. He continued.

“We have received instructions from our Mashiach, for tonight He will bring you deliverance. Please listen carefully.”

One of the priests stepped forward.

“Shalom, faithful remnant.

Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be affrighted at them; for the LORD thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. (Deut. 31:6)

ו חזקו ואמצו, אל-תיראו ואל-תערכו
מפניהם: כי יהנה אלהיך, הוא ההלך עמך--
לא ירפך, ולא יעזבך. {ס}

“I am the Prophet Jeremiah. Hear my message for you. This day of trouble will be different from any other you have ever experienced. It is called ‘the time of Jacob’s trouble.’ But Israel will be saved out of it. Do not fear. Do not be dismayed. Our Mashiach will save you. He will be with you. Our Mashiach will make a full end of all other nations, but you will be kept safely through this night. Your lovers, the US, will not come to help you. She, too, will leave you. But the LORD will not leave you. Is there any thing too hard for the LORD? No...Nothing!”

Ezechiel held his hands out.

“Shalom! I am the Prophet Ezechiel. Remember the prophecies of Gog and Magog? Gog and Magog, and many armies will come out of the north. A great company of people will come against God’s people, Israel, like a cloud covering the land. But the LORD’s hand is in this and He will be sanctified before their eyes. For in this very day in which you are now living, the LORD will call for a sword to slay your enemies. And every man’s sword shall be turned against his brother. Your enemies will fight each other. In the end, all will know this victory is the LORD’s, without a question. You will witness the fulfillment of these words tonight.”

The third priest lifted his hands.

“Shabat Shalom! I am the Prophet Zechariah. I would remind you of the prophecy in the last chapter of my message from the LORD. In the day that the LORD gathers all nations against Jerusalem to battle, the city shall be taken. Buildings and churches will be destroyed and half of the inhabitants of Jerusalem will be taken captive because they will be defending the city with military arms.

“After the city is taken and half the people go into captivity ...it is then and only then, the LORD your God will fight for you ‘as when he fought in the day of [ancient] battle.’ Have faith...be still and know...He is your God and your Mashiach has come to deliver you. And it is your Mashiach that has sent us to be your guests at Pesach this evening. Let us hasten and go to your homes, for tonight you will be delivered from the hand of your enemies, as it has been written.”

Stricken silent with wonder and expectation, the students obediently followed the priests out of the tunnel passage back to the Western Wall. Each group departed with a guest to their several homes where they would be gathered with others for the Pesach evening services in the Old City that night.

Eli Cohen looked up at the full moon and saw the evening star. He knew this night would be like none before or after. He could hardly wait for the families gathered in his home to meet the Prophet Zechariah and hear his message this evening.



Chapter 4

Songs of Deliverance

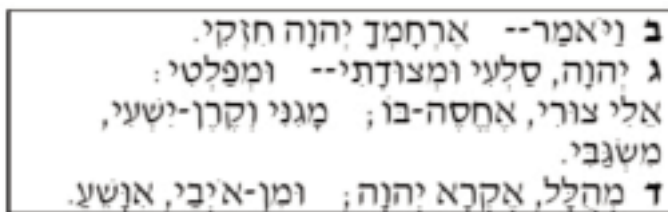
Ariel shivered. The water was to her knees and the draft was cold. They had been hiding in Hezekiah's Tunnel for one hour and she was chilled to the bone and thoroughly exhausted.

Even though the invading armies had surrounded the city and taken people captive, the small group had refused to join their peers in battle to save Jerusalem. Instead, they had chosen to fast and pray for deliverance from the LORD in their City of David synagogue. This evening they would be sharing the Pesach in small family groups. Rabbi Yaakov read to them from the Psalms.

And he said: I love thee, O LORD, my strength..

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; {N} my God, my rock, in Him I take refuge; my shield, and my horn of salvation, my high tower.

*Praised, I cry, is the LORD, and I am saved from mine enemies.
(Psalm 18:2-4)*



Just at that point, a rocket broke through the window and exploded. Miraculously, no one was injured. Only the glass shattered. As they huddled in a corner, Rabbi Yaakov said, "Let us go through our underground passage into the Tunnel."

They scurried to the northern end of Hezekiah's Tunnel below their synagogue. Rabbi Yaakov continued reading by flashlight.

The cords of Death compassed me, and the floods of Belial assailed me. The cords of Sheol surrounded me; the snares of Death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God; {N} out of His temple He heard my voice, and my cry came before Him unto His ears. ... (Psalm 18:5-7)

ה אֶפְפוּנִי חֲבִלֵי-מוֹת; וְנָחֲלִי בַלְיַעַל יִבְעֲתוּנִי.
ו חֲבִלֵי שָׂאוּל סָבְבוּנִי; קִדְמוּנִי, מוֹקְשֵׁי
מוֹת.
ז בָּצַר-לִי, אֶקְרָא יְהוָה-- (אֵל-אֱלֹהֵי אֲשׁוּעַ;
יִשְׁמַע מֵהִיכָלוֹ קוֹלִי; וְשׁוֹעֲתִי, לִפְנֵי תְבוּא
בְּאָזְנוֹ.

The cold waters were slowly rising, yet, somehow, they felt strangely safe. They had planned to leave their hiding place in the dark shadows of nightfall. Suddenly they heard thundering and the earth began to shake. A man of great faith, Rabbi Yaakov courageously continued...

Then the earth did shake and quake, the foundations also of the mountains did tremble; {N} He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and thick darkness was under His feet. And He rode upon a cherub, and did fly; yea, He did swoop down upon the wings of the wind. He made darkness His hiding-place, His pavilion round about Him; {N} darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies. (Psalm 18:8, 10-12)

ח נִתְגַּעַשׁ וְנִתְרַעַשׁ, הָאָרֶץ-- וּמוֹסְדֵי הָרִים
יִרְגְּזוּ;
וַיִּתְגַּעַשׁוּ, כִּי-חָרָה לוֹ.
י וַיֵּט שָׁמַיִם, וַיִּרְדּוּ; וַעֲרָפֶל, תַּחַת רַגְלָיו.
יֵא וַיִּרְכַּב עַל-כְּרוּב, וַיַּעֲף; וַיֵּדָא, עַל-כַּנְפֵי-רוּחַ.
יב וַיֵּשֶׁת חֹשֶׁךְ, סָתְרוּ-- סָבִיבוֹתָיו סָכְתוּ;
חֹשֶׁכֶת-מַיִם, עֲבִי שְׁחָקִים.
רְבִים.

Rabbi Yaakov hushed the huddled group. Voices in the tunnel. Was someone else using their hiding place? Was that singing? Who would be singing in the tunnel at this time? Rabbi Yaakov led the small group cautiously and quietly through the waters toward the singing. They soon heard words from the same Psalm they had been praying.

He sent from on high, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from mine enemy most strong, and from them that hated me, for they were too mighty for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity; but the LORD was a stay unto me. He brought me forth also into a large place; He delivered me, because He delighted in me. (Psalm 18:17-20)

יז יִשְׁלַח מִמָּרוֹם, יִקַּחנִי; וּמִשְׁנֵי, מַמִּים רַבִּים.
יח יִצִּילֵנִי, מֵאִיבֵי עָז; וּמִשָּׂנְאִי, כִּי-אֶמְצֹ
מִמֶּנִּי.
יט יִקְדְּמוּנִי בְיוֹם-אִיִּדִי; נִיהֵי-יִהְיֶה לְמִשְׁעָן לִי.
כ נִוְצִיאֵנִי לְמִרְחֵב; יִחְלֹצֵנִי, כִּי חָפֵץ בִּי.

At the opening of the tunnel around the Pool of Siloam stood a handsome man of ruddy complexion, wearing a crown and playing a harp with marvelous skill. The joy of praising God glowed from his handsome face.

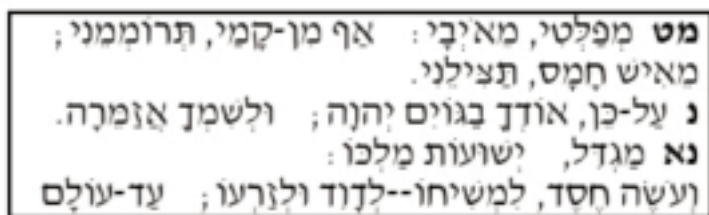
For Thou dost save the afflicted people; but the haughty eyes Thou dost humble. For Thou dost light my lamp; the LORD my God doth lighten my darkness. For by Thee I run upon a troop; and by my God do I scale a wall. As for God, His way is perfect; {N} the word of the LORD is tried; He is a shield unto all them that take refuge in Him. (Psalm 18:28-31)

כח כִּי-אַתָּה, עִם-עֲנֵי תוֹשִׁיעַ; וְעֵינַיִם רַמּוֹת
תִּשְׁפִּיל.
כט כִּי-אַתָּה, תֹּאדִיר נָרִי; יִהְיֶה אֱלֹהִי, נִגִּיהַ
לִּי כִּי-בִנְךָ, אֶרֶץ גְּדוּד; וּבִאֱלֹהִי, אֲדַלֵּג-שׁוֹר.
חֲשָׁכִי.
לא הָאֵל, תָּמִים דְּרָכּוֹ;
אִמְרַת-יִהְיֶה צְרוּפָה; מִגֵּן הוּא, לְכָל הַחֲסִידִים בּוֹ.

Next to the king sat the most beautiful queen ever. She had a clear soprano voice and was directing the singing with her jeweled scepter. Other singers sat around the pool.

“Who is that?” Ariel whispered a little too loudly to her mother. Michaelina gave her daughter a silencing glare, as she tightly grasped the hands of her two daughters. They listened carefully to the words...

He delivereth me from mine enemies; yea, Thou liftest me up above them that rise up against me; Thou deliverest me from the violent man. Therefore I will give thanks unto Thee, O LORD, among the nations, and will sing praises unto Thy name. Great salvation giveth He to His king; {N}and showeth mercy to His anointed, to David and to his seed, for evermore. {P} (Psalm 18:49-51)



David! Yes...Michaelina knew, this man was King David...but how could that be? What was happening? Was this a dream or a vision? Was King David their Mashiach?

King David beckoned the small audience to come closer.

“Welcome, holy seed of Israel. We’ve been waiting for you. We have been commissioned by our Mashiach to share this Pesach evening with you. For this is the night your Mashiach will deliver you from the hand of your enemies. I am King David of Ancient Israel and I would like you to meet your counselors this evening.”

Each stood and bowed as their name was called.

“Esther . . . Jonathan . . . Haggai . . . Micah . . . Boaz . . . Ruth . . . Nehemiah.”

King David continued. “Our Mashiach has brought us back from the land of death and has given us messages to give to you this evening.”

He motioned one of the men to stand.

“Shalom! I am the Prophet Micah. My message from the Mashiach to you is from a prophecy that will be fulfilled tonight.

And this ... shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men. (Micah 5:5)

ד והיה זה שלום אשור כִּי־יבוא בארצנו
וכי ידרך בארמנותינו והקמנו עליו
שבעה רעים ושמונה נסיכי אדם:

“The ‘Assyrian’ is the armies of the nations that have come in to spoil your land to take Jerusalem for themselves. But our Mashiach, our spiritual shepherd, has raised ‘eight principal men,’ for you. Our Mashiach has brought back from the land of death judges and counselors of Ancient Israel, to guide you through this night. Through our counsel, given to us by our Mashiach, you will be brought to deliverance this very night.”

The man next to Micah stood. “Listen to the message Mashiach has given me, the Prophet Haggai, for you. The LORD will shake the nations that have risen against you and bring you great deliverance. But this deliverance will not only be for your blessing alone. Eventually through you the Mashiach will bring the desires of all people — life, peace, health, and the LORD’s house will be filled with glory. God prophesied it in Haggai 2:7 and will bring it to pass.”

The Queen was next. “Shalom, beloved of the LORD. I am Queen Esther. I leave you with one sentence. ‘If I perish, I perish.’ Because you have been obedient and relied on the Arm of the Lord, at even the peril of life itself, you will not perish. Tonight our Mashiach will deliver you for you have trusted in Him. Remember, beauty of character is what the LORD desires.”

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined forth..

Our God cometh, and doth not keep silence; {N} a fire devoureth before Him, and round about Him it stormeth mightily.

And call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt honour Me.’ (Psa. 50:2-3,15)

ב מציון מכלל־יפי-- אלהים הופיע.
ג יבא אלהינו, ואל־יחרש;
אש־לפניו תאכל; וסביביו, נשערה מאד.
טו וקראני, ביום צרה; אחלצנך, ותכבדני.

“Shabbat Shalom! I am Nehemiah. I know what it is like to be surrounded by enemies. But the LORD has given us work to do. And we dare not allow ourselves to be distracted. That is the only way we were able to build the walls of Jerusalem, so long ago. And that is the only way you will win the victory over your enemies. Do nothing on your own, but obey and wait on the LORD.”

King David continued, “I will tell you about a victory. Once, in the ancient days of your Fathers in Israel, the Moabites and Ammonites and a great multitude came to fight against King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah. King Jehoshaphat did not know what to do. So he sought the Lord’s help and proclaimed a fast throughout the land of Judah. All of the men, their wives and children stood before the LORD, praying for help. And the LORD sent them a message, just as he is sending one to you tonight. This is what the message said:

And he said: 'Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat: thus saith the LORD unto you: Fear not ye, neither be dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. (2 Chron.. 20:15)

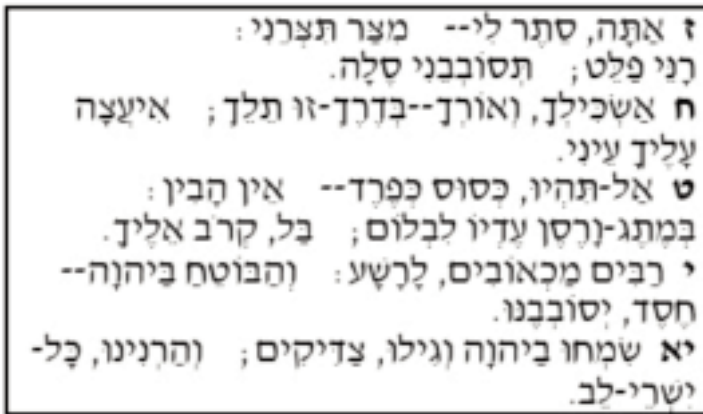
טו נִאמַר, הַקְשִׁיבוּ כָּל-יְהוּדָה וְיֹשְׁבֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם,
וְהַמֶּלֶךְ, יְהוֹשָׁפָט: כֹּה-אָמַר יְהוָה לָכֶם, אַתֶּם
אֶל-תִּירְאוּ וְאֶל-תִּחַתּוּ מִפְּנֵי הַקָּבָה הַזֶּה--כִּי
לֹא לָכֶם הַמִּלְחָמָה, כִּי לֵאלֹהִים.

“And so, King Jehoshaphat and all the people of Judah rose early the next morning. They were instructed to sing and praise the LORD as they were approaching the battlefield. As they came singing toward the enemy camps, they looked and saw dead bodies all over the ground. Not one escaped. The armies had fought between themselves and killed each other. The people were instructed to carry home the spoils of victory. There were so many, it took three days to gather the spoils.

“I relate this to you as a sign from the LORD. For he will fight for you as he did for the families of Judah. Your part is to sing praises to the LORD. In spite of the dangers surrounding you, you will be protected with safe passage to your homes this evening. As we leave to celebrate the Pesach Feast of deliverance, let us sing to the LORD.”

The remnant obediently departed to their several homes, each family with its guest, singing as they walked.

Thou art my hiding-place; Thou wilt preserve me from the adversary; {N} with songs of deliverance Thou wilt compass me about. Selah. 'I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will give counsel, Mine eye being upon thee.' ... Many are the sorrows of the wicked; but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy compasseth him about. Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous; and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart. {P}
(Psa. 32:7-11)



Ariel grasped the hand of her younger sister, Alyssa, singing as they walked behind Queen Esther to their home inside the Jewish Quarter of Old Jerusalem. They could hardly contain their excitement.

Ariel whispered, "If I perish, I perish, Alyssa. We will be just like Queen Esther."

Alyssa nodded in agreement and whispered back, "If I perish, I perish."

Not only was the Mashiach going to save their city tonight, but also Queen Esther was to be their guest at their Pesach Feast. This was awesome!



Chapter 5

Cave of Machpelah

Eliezer clutched his prayer shawl tightly around his thin body and ran up the stairs to their prayer room at Machpelah. It was Shabbat eve and the Jews of Hevron and Kiryat Arba had been fasting and praying for three days. Armies had surrounded their city and rumors of destruction filtered through the streets.

Dark ominous clouds loomed above the ancient Herodian building. Eliezer quickly wrapped his phylacteries on his arm and forehead. He heard the men praying as he entered the back of the room and quietly slipped into the space on the floor next to his best friend Reuven.

*As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me..
Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I complain, and moan;
and He hath heard my voice. (Psa 55:17,18)*

יְי אֱנִי, אֱלֹהִים אֶקְרָא ; נִיהַנָּה, יוֹשִׁיעֵנִי.
יַח עָרַב נִבְקֵר וְצַהֲרַיִם, אֲשִׁיחָה וְאֶהְמָה;
נִשְׁמָע קוֹלִי.

The men prayed out loud, rocking back and forth. Eliezer gazed at the dimly lit lamps hanging from the ceiling. They seemed to sway with him as he prayed. As though he was in a trance, the whole room was swaying.

He listened to the prayers of the holy men of Hebron. They had taken a stand refusing to defend Hebron with weapons of destruction.

They had chosen, instead, to rely on the Creator of the Universe who owned this land— “*My Land.*” If they perished, so be it. They refused to rely on the arms of flesh.

The room was moving, was it his imagination?

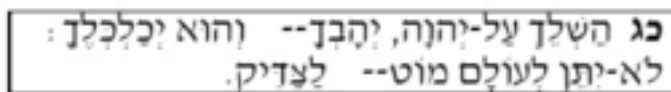
Eliezer heard a shofar in the distance...Who had the courage to welcome the Shabbat with a shofar? The shofar sounded...a warning signal of danger sounding louder...and louder.

The lamps in the room swayed back and forth casting eerie shadows against the walls.

As Eliezer was staring at the shadows he saw a figure emerge.

The Rabbi suddenly stopped...another voice finished...

Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He will sustain thee; {N} He will never suffer the righteous to be moved. (Psalm 55:23)



A figure stepped out of the shadows, tall and princely...then another. And another until there were eight men and women standing before them.

“Fear not, holy remnant. Your Mashiach has heard your prayers for deliverance and has returned us from the land of the dead to lead you to victory. I am your Father, Avraham. Before you stand your fathers and mothers of ancient Israel.”

Father Avraham? Eliezer knew their synagogue was built over the tombs of Avraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Leah. But there were others. And they did not look like old men and women. In fact, they were strong, with dark shiny hair, smooth skin, and sparkling eyes. Father Avraham’s kind firm voice continued.

“First, my children, I want to introduce you to some of your fathers and mothers.”

As he said their names, each stood forward and bowed.

“My wife, Sarah...our son Isaac...his wife Rebekah...my grandson Jacob...his wife Leah...and his wife Rachel...and their son Joseph....

“Our Mashiach has brought us back from the land of death to be with you this Pesach night of deliverance. The Land once promised to

me and to you will be delivered to us for an everlasting possession this night. And the LORD will bless all the families of the earth through you, my children.”

Sarah looked lovingly around at each face before she spoke.

“Shalom, my children. The seed of promise and covenant was established with Isaac, not Ishmael, as you all know. And the promised land from the River of Egypt to the River Euphrates is yours for eternity. The promise of blessings to all families of the earth through you, passed from Isaac to Jacob and to his twelve sons, the nation of Israel. The promises are yours because of the faith of your fathers. The LORD has sworn by his oath and he will not change. Is anything too hard for the LORD? I have learned, nothing, absolutely nothing is too hard for Him.”

Isaac stepped forward.

“Shalom, my dear family.”

He had a full beard, but seemed younger than the years he had attained when he married.

“Rebecca and I stand before you with great joy in our hearts. The promises of the LORD are sure. Not only will He be with you this evening and bring great deliverance to you through our Mashiach, but you will see all nations of earth being blessed as was promised and for which we have longed, and you, dear brethren, have a great portion in giving this blessing.”

Jacob added, “Shalom, brothers. As I once was brought back to the Promised Land with my twelve sons and wives Rachel and Leah, again I have been brought back from the land of death to the Promised Land. We are not worthy of the least of all the mercies of the LORD, but he has blessed us greatly and kept his oath. The Land given to Abraham and Isaac is also given to us and our children, whom you are.”

Then Joseph rose.

“Because I kept faith in the Promises to our Fathers, my bones were carried from Egypt to the Promised Land. And now the promises are to be realized before your eyes. We have been brought back from the land of darkness and death, oblivion, to dwell with you in this Holy Land. Tonight you will witness a deliverance even greater than the deliverance of Israel from Egypt. This deliverance will not only be for the nation of Israel, but it will eventually involve deliverance of all the families of the earth from death.”

Father Avraham then rose and gave the final counsel.

“Let us go forth to your homes and gatherings where we will be with you through the coming hours. Your Mashiach will bring you great deliverance tonight and all nations will know the LORD is God of all. Let us go in haste.”

Eliezer and Reuven walked quickly, almost running, with their honored guests to their Pesach celebration. Each gathering would receive a visit and instructions this evening from the ancient fathers and mothers of Israel.



Chapter 6

The Sword of the LORD

The faithful of Kiryat Shemonah had gone into their underground shelters yet again. Sometimes it seemed they spent more time in concrete rooms than in their homes. But this was nothing new. Being a border town in the Galilee Panhandle, they had always dealt with unfriendly neighbors on the Lebanon border. They were known as the world's champion in "life under siege."

Of the town's 7,100 apartments, 6,854 had been hit by Katyushas from Lebanon. The "shelter children," as they were labeled, were the generation of children who knew shelters as their extended home life. The rule was, if a Katyusha was coming toward you, lie down and cover your head.

Kiryat Shemonah had been founded in 1949 in the Northern Hula Valley just west of the Golan Heights, 130 miles from Jerusalem, 117 miles from Tel Aviv. Originally called Kiryat Yosef, it took its name Shemona (Hebrew: "Town of the Eight"), from eight fighters (Joseph Trumpeldor and his seven comrades) who had lost their lives in the defense of Tel Hai during the establishment of the State of Israel.

Kiryat Shemonah's population of 22,000 had dwindled down to 300 families. Now, the invading army camps from the north surrounded them.

While living in shelters was nothing new, what was new were the obvious miracles happening to them every day. For one, food supplies had not run out. Like the widow's cruse of oil and barrel of meal, there was just enough to eat each day. Somehow the food was always sufficient. And then, though surrounded by enemies, none of

them had been injured. Like the blinded Syrian army of Elisha's day, the enemy troops bypassed them time and again. The IDF forces had pulled out long ago, leaving 300 families in the most vulnerable precarious position in Israel. But they stood firm. Like the ancient queen, they were determined, if they perished, they perished. They would not leave.

At age 45 and still on call, Mordechai was finished with guard duty for the day. He joined the men of Kiryat Shemonah as they quietly met for their daily prayers in a forest covert. Mordechai and his brother Ebenezer walked wrapped in their prayer shawls to the appointed place. Tonight was Pesach and families would be gathering in small groups to share their meal of remembrance. Rabbi Akim Avshalom began. (Psalm 121)*

I will lift mine eyes to the hills. Whence cometh my help?...

Mordechai looked out toward the hills, blue in the evening light. All he could see for miles were camps of enemy troops and artillery. Where was the "help"?

My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

Rabbi Avshalom's unfaltering voice continued, "We shall not rely on our own strength or wisdom. Nor the assistance of our fellow-man. Nor on the military might of the IDF. We rely on the LORD alone."

*He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

"Whether we call on the LORD during the busy hours of the day...or the silent watches of the night, in our homes or our shelters, He will uphold and protect us....

The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

"The Almighty Creator will keep his Covenant with us. He will not fail to keep his promises. As the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, he will protect us if we are loyal to him."

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night...

The Rabbi stopped short, interrupted by another voice from behind. The men turned around.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, even for evermore.

A stranger wearing a hairy mantle walked up and stood beside Rabbi Avshalom.

Then another man clasping a shofar came up on the other side. At the end of Psalm 121 he began to blow the shofar, the sound echoing off the hills. The men were petrified. This was like waving a red flag. They had been so secret and now their presence was being announced throughout Hula Valley as surely as if the two strange men were part of the enemy. But the real enemy didn't even seem to notice.

The first man stepped forward and spoke. "Holy remnant, fear not. Our Mashiach has sent us to comfort and guide you. I am Elisha, the Prophet, returned by Mashiach from the grave. And this is Gideon." He nodded to the man holding the shofar. "We have come to assure you that the Almighty has heard your prayers and is with you this very hour. Look out over the valleys." Elisha raised his hands and looked heavenward. "Eternal God, please open their eyes."

The men looked as directed toward the enemy camps. And their eyes were opened. Encircling Kiryat Shemonah were fiery horses and chariots protecting them. They had known the ancient story from childhood, how Elisha's servant's eyes had been opened to a similar scene, and now they instantly understood how they had been spared disaster.

Gideon held out his hands.

"Men of Kiryat Shemonah, we have been sent to be with you this night. Remember how the LORD uses few to win the battle so that no one will question that the victory is the LORD's. Even so, He has kept you, though small in number, that His name will be glorified tonight. As Gideon's band of 300, you have passed the test of full faith and

reliance upon the Almighty God. Because you have been alert and energetic for the LORD...because you have shown your appreciation of His Holy Word by your obedience to it...we have been sent to share your Pesach meal this evening. For tonight it will be, 'The sword of the LORD' and He alone will fight for you as 'in the day of battle.' Before leaving, I would like you to meet your guests."

Behind them walked in others.

"Shalom...I am Deborah. Remember, female as well as male servants of God are to be responsible and faithful in using all their talents. I was a mother in ancient Israel. I set up my tent under a palm tree between Raham and Bethel, in Mount Ephraim. The children of Israel came to me for judging, admonishing and assisting. Jabin, king of Hazor, had subjected Israel for twenty years and the spirit of patriotism was crushed. I roused the people from their lethargy. At the LORD's instructions, I summoned Barak to battle against Jabin's General Sisera. He will tell you what happened."

"Shalom...I am Barak. As you know, Deborah helped me organize 10,000 men from Zebulun and Naphtali to fight Sisera's army of 900 iron chariots. With her support, we led our men to Mount Tabor on the plain of Esdraelon at its northeast end. When Deborah signaled the attack, our host rushed down upon Sisera's army and gained a great and decisive victory. The enemy was totally crushed, except for Sisera who later died at the hand of Jael, a woman. The LORD promised He would deliver them into our hand, and He did. Remember, the Almighty Creator is omnipotent and He will fight your battle for you. No one can stand against the LORD and win!"

"Shalom...I am Prophet Nahum, a prophet in Ancient Israel during the time the ten tribes were taken into captivity. I then fled to Jerusalem. My prophecy at that time was against the city of Nineveh. Remember, the LORD is jealous for you and will avenge you. He will take vengeance on your enemies. His way is in the whirlwind and storm and the clouds are the dust of His feet. None can stand before His anger. But for you, He is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble. A strong hold is a fortified place, a defence. He knows each one who trusts in Him. He will be your rock of strength, your mighty fortress."

"I am the Prophet Joel. Shalom. Take heart and know that the LORD is in your midst, in the center, nearest to you. He is your God and no one else. You will never be ashamed or disappointed in Him.

Whoever calls upon the name of the LORD shall be delivered and escape. Even the remnant, the survivors, in Mount Zion and Jerusalem. He will gather all nations to the valley and plead or judge them, especially those who have divided His Land and given it to others. The Lord will sit in judgment against all the nations and stand for you who are His heritage, Israel, the LORD's portion."

"Shalom! I am Prophet Malachi. This is the great and frightening day of the LORD I wrote about centuries ago. The LORD has come to smite the nations of the earth, for they have not heeded His messages and repented. Remember, though a host should encamp against you, do not be afraid. Though war should rise against you, be confident. For in the time of trouble He shall hide you in His pavilion. In the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide you. He shall set you up upon a rock. Your head will be lifted up above your enemies round about you. Therefore offer to Him sacrifices of joy. Sing praises unto the LORD." (Psa 27:3-6)

"Shalom Aleichem. I am Jochebed, mother of Moshe. I want only to remind you—the Lord will overrule your experiences. His timing is impeccable. When I thought I had lost my baby, the Lord brought him back to me under the protection of Pharaoh's courts. I even received pay for caring for my own child. And Moshe was used by the God of our fathers to deliver Israel from Egypt. Fear not. The God of your Fathers will again bring you deliverance in His own way at His own time."

When they had finished their introductions, each guest left with a different man to his home. They planned to visit all the families of Kiryat Shemonah that evening. Mordechai and Ebenezer led their guest, Gideon, to their bunker. Mordechai's wife Jolliana had the table prepared for the Paschal meal. Several families had gathered together with them. Mordechai's sons Noe and Yoel were thrilled to have this famous general as their guest. Even his daughters Hannele and Amarissa could hardly contain their excitement.

The families gathered around Gideon and hung on his every word as he told of how the LORD selected a small band of 300 men to fight the Midianites and Amalekites who were camped in the valley like a "multitude of grasshoppers" and their camels without number "as the sand."

Noe whispered to Yoel, “That’s just like the armies around us! There are so many of them as far as the eye can see! Like a swarm of grasshoppers!”

Yoel gulped, “Yeah, and we’re as small as Gideon’s band of 300.”

Hannele nodded, “And then the 300 were divided into three smaller groups...oiiiiii.”

Wide-eyed Amarissa jumped in excitedly, “And each one had a trumpet to blow and an empty pitcher with a lamp inside. I’d like to do that!! They’d sure be surprised!”

They went to bed that night dreaming of the battle, hearing the cry “The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.” Just as the Midianites and Amalekites were scared to death and turned on each other in battle and then fled, Gideon had told them the LORD would bring them victory. For, though small in number, the remaining families of Kiryat Shemonah had trusted and waited on the LORD. They knew it would be a night unlike any they had ever known.

*Psalm 121

א שיר, למעלות :
 אָשָׁא עֵינַי, אֶל-הַהָרִים-- מֵאֵין, יִבָּא עֲזָרִי.
 ב עֲזָרִי, מֵעַם יְהוָה-- עֲשֵׂה, שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ.
 ג אֶל-יְתֵן לְמוֹט רִגְלֶךָ ; אֶל-יָנוּם, שֹׁמְרֶךָ.
 ד הִנֵּה לֹא-יָנוּם, וְלֹא יִישָׁן-- שׁוֹמֵר, יִשְׂרָאֵל.
 ה יְהוָה שֹׁמְרֶךָ ; יְהוָה צִלְךָ, עַל-יַד יְמִינֶךָ.
 ו יוֹמָם, הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לֹא-יִכָּכֶה ; וַיְרַח בְּלִילָהּ.
 ז יְהוָה, יִשְׁמְרֶךָ מִכָּל-רָע : יִשְׁמֹר, אֶת-נַפְשֶׁךָ.
 ח יְהוָה, יִשְׁמֹר-צִאתְךָ וּבֹאֶךָ-- מֵעַתָּה, וְעַד-
 עוֹלָם.



Chapter 7

The Silent Shout

Jericho, the City of Palm Trees, is one of the oldest towns—and lowest, 259 m below sea level—in the world.

Here at Gilgal, on the eastern border of Jericho, the Children of Israel entered the Land by Divine Command and celebrated their first Pesach in the Promised Land. Jericho was once given to the tribe of Binyamin. Here the Prophet Elisha and the Sons of the Prophets had dwelt. And here to the plains of Jericho, King Zedekeyahu fled from Jerusalem through a secret canal. The Chaldeans caught him, gorged out his eyes, and sent him into Babylonian exile.

In the heart of Jericho was the oldest synagogue in the world, “Shalom Al Yisrael,” (“Peace upon Israel”). A Talmudic academy had been set up in the synagogue following the 1993 Oslo Accords which guaranteed Jewish access to holy sites. Until Rosh Hashanah, October 12, 2000. That night, rioters broke into the yeshiva and destroyed prayerbooks and furniture, burning much of the second floor. PA police prevented Israeli firemen from reaching the scene and Jews were banned from the site. The Torah scrolls, however, had been spared because they were locked in a safe next to the mosaic floor.

The scrolls were now in use at the Na’aran Synagogue at Yishuv Mevo’ot Yericho (“Gates of Jericho”) about one mile away from the Shalom Al Yisrael synagogue. With a small synagogue, a study house, and an agricultural base, Mevo’ot Yericho was keeping Jewish Jericho alive and growing. The Yishuv’s residents were from all over the world and weekly visitors were educated about the ancient history of Jericho and Israel.

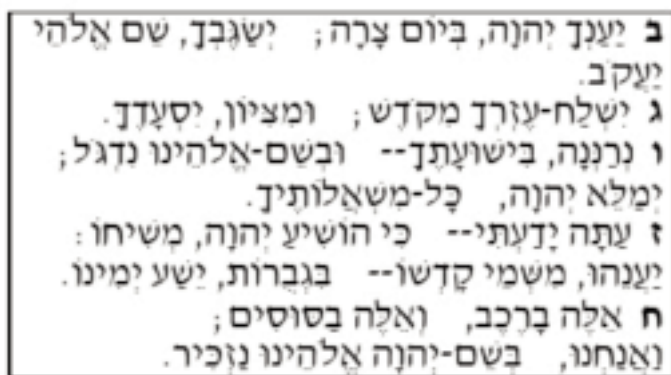
On this Pessach, 120 of the faithful gathered to celebrate. Rabbi Tsidhqivah Ben-Tziyon led the services at the Na’aran Synagogue.

The men sat on one side; women and children on the other. Yedidiah stared at the floor as he listened to Rabbi Ben-Tziyon.

The LORD answer thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob set thee up on high; Send forth thy help from the sanctuary, and support thee out of Zion; We will shout for joy in thy victory, and in the name of our God we will set up our standards; {N} the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.

Now know I that the LORD saveth His anointed; {N} He will answer him from His holy heaven with the mighty acts of His saving right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; {N} but we will make mention of the name of the LORD our God.

(Psa. 20:1,2,6,7,8)



Yedidiah was sandwiched between his father Ari on one side and his Uncle Levey who was clutching his prayer shawl and rocking back and forth. Little Yedidiah was fighting sleep with his eyelids, wishing something interesting would happen. His wish was heard.

A man dressed like an ancient warrior entered the room and walked right up to the front next to the rabbi. Yedidiah blinked and rubbed his eyes. Was this a new play to entertain them? Then six more men and a lady followed him. You could hear a pin drop. Rabbi Ben-Tziyon stepped to the side and offered the podium to the warrior.

“‘Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.’ (Jos. 1:9) Do not be afraid, remnant of Jericho. I, Joshua, have been sent to remind you, as the walls of Jericho once fell at the shout of your fathers, so the walls of your enemies will fall before your silent shout for the victory is the

LORD's. Hearken to the message we have brought you from our Mashiach. I'd like you to meet my best friend, Caleb."

"Shalom! Joshua and I were the two faithful spies. As we once had faith that the LORD was mightier than all the giants of Canaan, you have shown faith that the LORD is stronger than all your surrounding enemies. And your faith will be rewarded. The LORD will give you the victory. We'd like to introduce you to another woman of great faith, Rahab."

Yedidiah looked over at his mother Janina, Aunt Ahava, and his two sisters Gabriella and Isabella. He could see they were fascinated with Rahab. She was so beautiful and kind looking.

When she spoke, it was with the authority of a man, yet her voice was soft and melodic. "Shalom, families of Jericho! Just as my faith once saved me, Rahab, and my family, so your faith has preserved you and your families. The LORD has seen your red cord of trust and has found you. He has selected you to be his witnesses among the nations of the world."

"The LORD God is your strength, children of Mevo'ot Yericho. I am Prophet Habbakkuk," interjected a young man who seemed no older than 30, yet his eyes had the wisdom of a patriarch. "He will make your feet like hinds' feet and you will walk upon high places. Rejoice, for He is the God of your salvation. It is time for the vision of prophecy to become a reality."

"Shalom, faithful ones. I am the Prophet Zephaniah. Seek the LORD, meek ones. Because you have sought righteousness and meekness, you will be hid in the day of the LORD's anger. He has gathered all nations to pour on them his anger. But this will not be the end of all things. It is only the beginning, for then the LORD will give the people a pure language. Truth will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. The families of earth will call upon His name and serve Him with one consent."

"Shalom! I am Jephthah. I once judged Israel and made an oath which involved my daughter's life. I had to keep my oath and she was never allowed to marry because of it. When we vow to the LORD, we must carefully keep our vows. And we know when the LORD promises something to us, He will keep His promises. The LORD has even taken an oath to keep all of His promises to our Fathers."

"Shalom, my dear children. My name is Shem. For 120 years I worked with my father, Noah, building a huge ark to save us from the

flood which covered all the mountains of the earth. All the animals came to us, seeking refuge. My father preached every day to our neighbors of the coming judgments of the LORD. But they mocked us. No one had ever seen rain before. But we had faith that the flood would come and we knew the LORD was going to save us, and He did. It rained for forty days and nights while we were safely carried with all the animals in the ark of gopher wood. Can you imagine living for over a month in a floating zoo? When we finally were allowed to set foot on the land again, the LORD gave us a promise to never destroy the world again by water and the token of this promise was a beautiful rainbow. The LORD's promises are never broken."

"Shalom, beloved of the LORD! I am the Patriarch Enoch. I once walked with God living according to His righteous laws. The LORD took me, sparing me physical pain and suffering usually experienced by death, because of my faith in Him. I know what it means to live a life of total devotion to the LORD. Your Mashiach has now come with thousands of His saints to execute His righteous judgments. He will save you through your Mashiach. Have faith!"

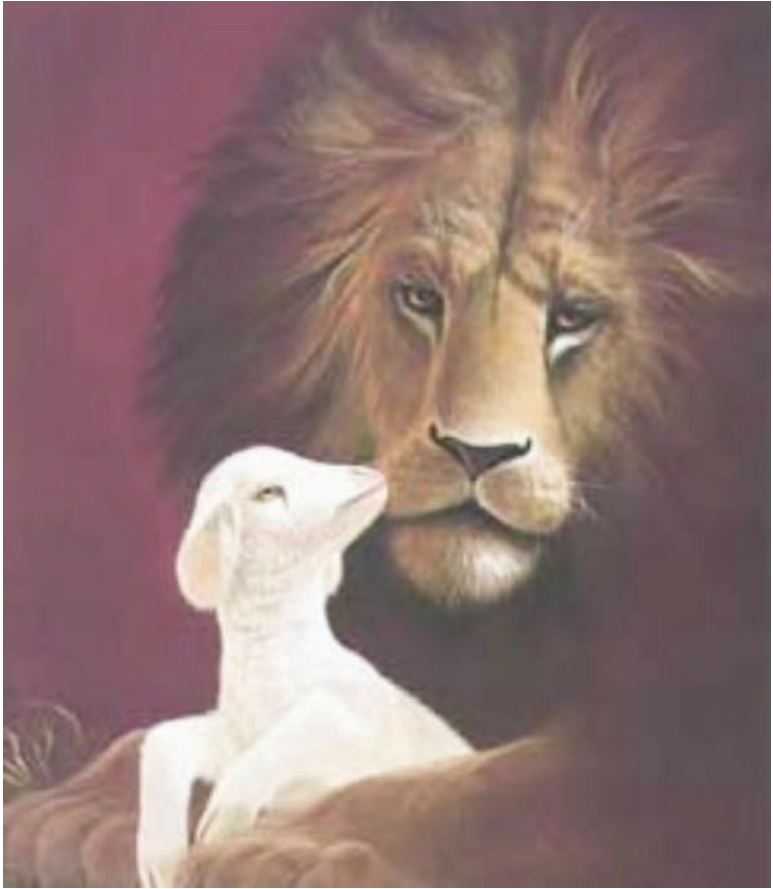
Joshua stepped to the center again. "We have come to spend this Pesach with you. Tonight your Mashiach will deliver you from your enemies. As we spend the evening with each of the families of Mevo'ot Yericho, we will give you instructions and lessons for your deliverance. We will go from family to family this evening and visit each home. Let us now depart to your homes."

That evening as they sat around the table, Joshua was their guest. He looked down at little Yedidiah. "Yedidiah, why is this night different from all other nights?"

Yedidiah looked up into Joshua's kind brown eyes. "Because tonight we will be delivered from our enemies just as our fathers were delivered from Egypt long ago."

Gabriella was so excited. Joshua began telling them of how the battle of Jericho was won. She was ready to blow her trumpet and shout. Isabella had fallen asleep in her father's arms. Gabriella helped her mother and Aunt Ahava serve the dinner.





Chapter 8

The Last Katyusha

The entire relatively isolated community of Netzarim felt abandoned. Ever since the UN and EU peacekeeping troops had withdrawn, their Palestinian neighbors had resumed their shell-and-rocket campaign. The taste of peace had been short-lived and now children could no longer safely play outside.

All IDF forces had been called to fight at the northern border and the sixteen Jewish communities in the southern Gush Katif bloc were vulnerable once again. Only this time it was not only the enemies within that were an increasing irritation. Armies on the northern border were invading the Land as they advanced toward Jerusalem.

Zaneta kept the children indoors involved with their Hebrew studies. Every day her husband, Rabbi Chaim Yisroel, and the men of Netzarim checked the grounds and greenhouses for landmines and bombs. And every morning they found booby-traps that had been planted by their Palestinian neighbors. This had become as routine as eating breakfast.

The God of Israel had protected them miraculously for many years. Over 10,000 shells and Kassam rockets had hit the community, frequently landing on tables and beds only moments after the residents had left the room. Incredibly, few deaths or injuries had been incurred. They knew it was no mistake. They were under the protection of the Almighty Creator of the Universe. After each incident, the families gathered to offer prayers of thanksgiving. They were people of great faith and would have never stayed under such circumstances had they not believed in the LORD's promises to their Father Avraham.

Their faith was refined under perilous circumstances every day. But they would not take military arms. They had watched the government and the military leave them unprotected again. Who could trust in soldiers for protection? Where were their friends? Where was the US? The UN? No. Their security was in the God of Israel alone. They knew, once He planted them in this Holy land, they were never to be uprooted. And even if, for a brief time, they were uprooted, they would never, no never, leave their prayers to join in battle with the armies of the world. Netzarim was populated by ideologically strong families.

Zaneta knew it was prophesied there would be an attack from the North. There was no way to avert it, except by the Lord's intervention. They all knew this. They could only wait and teach their children to trust in the power of the Lord. Every time a life was spared from the mortar shells, and there had been thousands of them, the children and parents gathered to thank God for his protecting power.

Videos they had received from several biblical Zionist Christians had also reminded them of God's promises. They didn't know where these people were now, but they watched the videos often to assist in teaching their children their precious heritage and that the time of God's favor to Zion had come. It comforted them to realize they weren't the only ones who believed in God's love for them and His faithfulness to abide by His Word.

Zaneta looked up at the clouds. Where, when, and how would their Mashiah come to save them? It had been so long. They made their homes in this dangerous area because it was part of the land promised to the twelve tribes...the tribe of Judah, to be exact.

That night was a community prayer meeting in Netzarim. Several nearby communities traveled to join them. This Pesach evening they had chosen to celebrate and worship together. They were looking for direction and guidance from the Torah. What were they to do? They had seen the departure of the UN and EU peace troops had left them to be prey for the beasts that surrounded them. They had heard rumors of defeated IDF forces. They were vulnerable helpless children.

As each came into the building, their faces were drawn with a worry they couldn't quench. Toddlers clung to their parents, babes in mother's arms. Children shared in all prayer meetings with their parents.

In holy silence the congregation waited for Rabbi Yisroel to read.

Out of my straits I called upon the LORD; He answered me with great enlargement.

The LORD is for me; I will not fear; what can man do unto me? (Psalm 118:5,6)

ה מן-המצר, קראתי יה; ענני במרחב יה.
ו יהנה לי, לא איכא; מה-יעשה לי אדם.

Rabbi Yisroel paused, looking across the room. Every eye searched his face for comfort. He continued, trembling weakly...

The LORD is for me as my helper; and I shall gaze upon them that hate me. (Psalm 118:7)

ז יהנה לי, בעזרי; ואני, אראה בשנאי.

A strong solitary voice from the back of the room recited the verses with him...he continued to the end.

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

The LORD is my strength and song; and He is become my salvation. (Psa. 118:8-9,14)

ח טוב, לחסות ביהנה-- מבטח, באדם.
ט טוב, לחסות ביהנה-- מבטח, בנדיבים.
יד עזי וזמרת יה; ויהי-לי, לישועה.

A stranger walked up to the front, a large lion following at his heels. The congregation gasped as a single person, and, in terror, clasped their children to their breasts and remained still lest the animal turn and attack. The man faced them and raised his hands, the lion tamely curled up at his feet like a kitten.

"Shalom. I am the Prophet Daniel. Our Mashiach has sent me to be with you this evening. You are the generation that will witness the time of the end. Your Mashiach has been standing up for you since Petah Tikvah in 1878, 1948 your nationhood, and 1967 giving you Jerusalem and Samaria and Gaza. Now He will fight for you as the LORD fought in the days of ancient battle. As in the vision, when the stone smote the image and filled the earth, so now you will see the

winds of the LORD blow away the last vestiges of the kingdoms of earth and His kingdom will be established here in the Land of Israel and extend to the ends of the earth.”

Then a shepherd followed by a little lamb walked into the room. Everyone gasped as the little lamb boldly pranced up to the lion and snuggled under its head. The lion took a paw and covered the lamb as though protecting it and the lamb fell asleep. The shepherd faced the group.

“My name is Amos. The Lord will do exactly as he has promised. Just as the LORD brought back His people to Israel from their lands of captivity, and they built cities and planted vineyards and gardens and ate from them, he also planted you in his land. And he promised you would never be pulled up out of this land again for he has given it to you. We know you are here today because you have believed these promises.”

Daniel then held out his arms in welcome as three more men marched up to the front of the room. “I’d like you all to meet my three best friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Some of you may remember their names as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.” The people, fear replaced by joy and awe, began to clap their hands.

Hananiah (Shadrach), smiling, waved. “Good evening, friends! We each have a little message and are so happy to be with you. I want to address the young people. We were once separated from our families and taken to a foreign heathen land to live. But we never forgot what we had been taught by our parents. We stayed close to the principles and laws of the God of Israel. It affected our eating, our daily study habits, and our worship. But the LORD blessed us for following the ways of righteousness. We’ll tell you more about our experiences later this evening.”

Mishael (Meshach) next addressed the room. “Shalom, everyone! I’m glad to be with you! You know what happened to us! Just as we refused to bow to an image King Nebuchadnezzar had made of himself—and it was enormous! Over 90 ft tall! When the music played, everyone as far as your eye could see, bowed to the earth—except the three of us! Well, we’ll tell you about it later! But you, too, have put the laws of the LORD above the laws of man. It has cost you greatly. But our Mashiach is with you in your fiery furnace—you are not alone!”

Azariah (Abednego) bowed to the group. “We’ve looked forward to meeting all of you and sharing our experiences with you. As we once purposed in our hearts not to be defiled with the ways of the world, you also have chosen to stand for the ways of righteousness, and the LORD will bless you. The LORD is able to deliver his servants from every evil circumstance. But even if He does not, we will never worship any other but the true God of our fathers. That was our decision and that is your decision.”

The crowded room cheered loudly and clapped. Everyone laughed excitedly. Then two more men and a woman walked up to the front. A hush went through the expectant group.

A man with long hair and extraordinary physique stood before them. “Fear not, O Holy remnant of Israel. My name is Samson. Our Mashiach has also brought me to be with you. As I once delivered your ancient fathers and mothers from the hand of the Philistines, by the holy power of the Almighty, your Mashiach will deliver you from the hands of your enemies. Be still and know that the LORD, He is your God.”

The lady next to him held out her hands. “Shalom, my dear friends! I am Hannah, mother of Prophet Samuel. I have a message for all the children here. I once had a little boy. I devoted him to the LORD and he became a servant to the High Priest and later became a Prophet in Israel. Your parents have devoted each of you to the LORD and you will some day become strong men and women, serving the LORD with your lives. I hope to spend time with each of you this evening. I have brought you little coats especially made for you.”

The last man stood up. “Shalom, dear friends! I am Jonah! And I have a many things to tell you all this evening. But now I will just say, you can’t escape. And you don’t want to. The LORD is with you whether you jump ship or get swallowed. And His mercies are great. Far greater than man’s imagination. So trust Him! God bless you all!”

Prophet Daniel turned to Rabbi Yisroel. “Rabbi, we are ready to go with you to your homes this evening to have Pesach with you and talk with all the families about the LORD. We must make haste. May we now depart?”

Rabbi Yisroel asked Prophet Daniel to closed their meeting with prayer and then arrange the evening schedule with each family of Gush Katif.



Chapter 9

“Why Is This Night Different Than All Other Nights?”

It was the 14th of Nisan and the full moon lit the dark night. In every Jewish home throughout the land, families joined around the table for the Pesach feast. They knew that the land of Israel had come to its extremity. The IDF had been demolished and many loved ones killed. But their extremity was God’s opportunity. The northern armies had ravaged their land and were encamped at the gates of Jerusalem. Half the city had been taken captive. The churches had been ravished. By morning it would be over.

Except for one singular thing. And in each heart of the faithful remnant there was peace and restored faith. At every Pesach table in the homes of these faithful ones, sat an honored guest, sent to them by their Mashiach. His arm had not failed them and his eyes had not been closed to their cries. Mashiach had brought back from the land of the enemy death the faithful men and women of ancient Israel. Mashiach had restored their judges as at the first, and their counselors as at the beginning, as promised. The remnant knew in their hearts that Jerusalem would once again be called, “The city of righteousness, the faithful city.”

In Elihu’s home, their guest of honor, Joseph sat in Elyahu’s seat. The children were in awe. They had so many things to ask this wonderful man of God. But they obediently sat in holy silence waiting to hear the words they had heard every year all their lives.

Joseph turned to little Gabriel, the youngest child, and asked him, “Why is this night different than all other nights, Gabriel?”

With bright eyes, little Gabriel looked up into his kind face and said, “Because this is the night we remember how the nation of Israel left their slavery in Egypt and became free.”

Joseph smiled, “Yes, Gabriel. You are correct. And much more happened that very night.” He retold the story so precious to their hearts. They were fascinated — it was as though they were hearing it for the first time.

And in every village, in every home of the faithful remnant, the honored guests at the Seder were telling the same story. The eyes of every face were fixed on their guests. They knew tonight, especially, would be different from all other nights ever lived on the face of the earth. For tonight, though they didn’t quite know how, the God of Israel would fight for them as in the days of ancient battle. Their Mashiach would deliver the faithful City Jerusalem, and the Holy Land, from the hands of the armies from the north, “Gog and Magog” as everyone referred to them.

And it was a night of remembrance for eternity. As each lay in their beds that night, none slept soundly. They were thinking of the last plague against Egypt that had freed them from slavery. At midnight, in the full of the moon, the angel of death had smitten all the firstborn of Egypt, from Pharaoh that sat on the throne even to captives in the dungeon. Even the firstborn of the cattle. There was not one house where one was not dead. But against the children of Israel, not even a dog barked. Because the Lord “put a difference between Israel and Egypt.”

The holy remnant knew that once again their LORD would put a difference between the children of Israel and their enemies. Few were able to relax. At earliest dawn, parents were stirring about the kitchen.

As each household throughout Israel gathered for morning prayer, they knew in their hearts the Almighty God had delivered them. How? — they weren’t quite sure. They had heard no noise of war or received news of catastrophic events through the night. Only the sound of silence. They had done nothing to defend themselves except to lift up their hands in prayer to the God of their fathers. They knew and believed their Mashiach had come to deliver them, for the men and women he had sent them told them so.

After quickly dressing and eating, the guests led the groups of families outside. The sunrise was beautiful. All was quiet except for birds singing their morning songs. As they ventured out toward the

enemy camps with their guides, not a word was spoken. But thoughts were racing. Where were the tanks? It appeared that all the enemy artillery had been dismantled. They were gone. But not all of them. Corpses covered the ground.

“I will fight for you as I did in the battles of old.” Now the remnant understood what that meant. Just as the angel of the LORD had slain the firstborn of Egypt at midnight long ago, the angel of the LORD had now slain their enemies from the north. Just as the angel of the LORD had smitten the camp of the Assyrians under Sennacherib, leaving fields of dead corpses, they were now living witnesses of an even greater deliverance from the northern armies. All enemies had died or fled out of the land.

Every eye beheld the glorious victory of the Holy One of Israel. They recognized the power of their Mashiach was far greater than any human power. The holy remnant returned to worship, offering prayer and praise in their synagogues. And in each synagogue throughout the land, services were led by their ancient guests returned to life, their new counselors and judges. Every ear heard the readings from Ezekiel 38 and 39. Every heart and head was bowed with humble gratitude and tears.

And the houses of Israel experienced that the Almighty was their God. He had demonstrated his great power and glory to the heathen who had witnessed and felt the heavy hand of his judgments.

And the LORD their God poured his spirit upon the House of Israel. And The Almighty God was glorified in the Land by His holy remnant and Ancient Worthies.

Epilogue

“And this man shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men.” Micah 5:5

The title of our book refers to the time when northern armies (the Assyrian) invade the land of Israel and take over their cities. The turning point of the battle comes when the Lord raises “seven shepherds” and “eight principal men.”

The “seven shepherds” refer to Israel’s Mashiach, who brings deliverance to them through “eight principal men.” Israel’s spiritual Mashiach brings back to life the faithful worthy men and women of ancient Israel who receive their instructions from Mashiach and lead the nation to a final victory.

This victory is achieved not by human might of military weaponry, but by faith in the power of the Almighty God. As God once won victories for Israel under the faithful leadership of righteous men and women of old against insurmountable odds, he will fight again as in the days of old. There will be no questions in anyone’s mind that the natural catastrophic events that turn the battles into victory could only have been accomplished by spiritual powers.

However, these exciting victories are not the end. These are just the beginning of the most eventful time in the life of the human race. What makes the experiences ahead so meaningful is that they will involve every man, woman and child who have ever lived.

Trace these unfolding adventures in the *Alive Again* series, a series of five novels. The events of the End Times are only the beginning of the most exciting drama that lies ahead of us. What might it be like? Read *Alive Again*.

Scripture Index

Numbers

32:39,40 — 12

Deuteronomy

6:4-6 — 16

7:6-9 — 17

20:1 — 18

31:6 — 18

Joshua

13:29-32 — 12

2 Chronicles

20:15 — 26

Psalms

18:2-4 — 21

18:5-8,10-12 — 22

18:17-20, 28-31 — 23

18:49-51 — 24

20:1-2, 6-8 — 42

32:7-11 — 27

50:2-3, 15 — 25

55:17,18 — 29

55:23 — 30

118:5-9, 14 — 49

121 — 39

Jeremiah

30:11 — ii

50:19 — 13

Obadiah

1:19 — 13

Micah

5:5 — i, 25, 57

7:14 — 13

Zechariah

10:10 — 13

14:3 — ii

Malachi

3:23 — 11

Old Testament Scriptures taken from the Hebrew Bible in English according to the JPS 1917 Edition.

The time has come for the vindication of God's Holy Name and plan. Israel is at the brink of complete annihilation. As village after village becomes surrounded by enemy forces, Israeli troops begin falling. The situation becomes more desperate by the hour. The lightning victories of past Israeli wars are not repeated. With all their sophistication, the military of Israel is losing ground until it seems any victory is impossible. Large contingents of soldiers are actually falling on their knees in prayer, pleading for deliverance. The world stage is being set for Israel's "eight principal men" to appear . . . G-d's answer to Israel's prayers.

Israel's Eight Principal Men

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