



December 2023

A Letter from Jerusalem

Dear Friends,

There is a big problem in the world today. We are all suffering from a lack of truth. What is truth? The Rabbis say truth is the Seal of God. Truth, to put it simply, is the bond between persons and between God and humanity. It means to come to know His Word more deeply.

*"Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day."
(Psalms 25:5)*

You find the same idea in the New Testament.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

Unfortunately, many people today cannot distinguish between truth and falsehood. They lack a moral compass. Simply put, they are not operating according to Biblical values.

"And thou shalt swear, The Lord liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory." (Jeremiah 4:2)

Can I give an example of what I mean? Yes, in fact I can, and it concerns the case of Emily Hand, age 9, a dual Israeli Irish citizen who was released by Hamas on Sunday, November 26, 2023. According to the Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar: "An innocent child was lost and now is found." Israelis and Jews around the world were furious with this description of Emily's capture and abduction to Gaza. Following his tweet, Varadkar who is a physician by profession, also came under criticism in Ireland. His tweet failed to mention Emily's abduction by Hamas, and that she was a freed hostage. He issued a statement clarifying his statement but neglecting any direct mention of Hamas. Since October 7th, he has been consistently critical of Israel's actions saying they bordered on revenge.

Meanwhile, this poor child only whispers as she has been conditioned not to make any noise. She lost all track of time and thought she was gone for a year. In her confinement, she was kept underground and never saw the sun. Now that she is reunited with her father, she cries herself to sleep at night hiding under her covers.

The Christian hymn "Amazing Grace", speaks of being lost: "I once was lost but now I'm found". However, here the meaning is spiritually lost, having rediscovered faith, and being found by God. We are all in need of a spiritual revival. This is now taking place in Israel. People here are starting to realize who their true friends are.

I saw a program on Israeli television where a man was interviewed, after having returned from the U.S. He did not focus on anti-Semitism, but rather on seeing signs on Baptist Church Boards calling for people to pray for Israel. We have also received money from abroad from people asking us to use it to help wounded soldiers.

There is a Christian organization HaYovel (The Jubilee) led by Tommy Waller, which brought cowboys from Arkansas and Montana, to help out at farms in Israel. This program went viral on social media. It operates under the supervision of Rabbi Eliezer Melamed of Har Bracha. According to Rabbi Tuly Weisz, founder of Israel 365: "We are facing a vicious common enemy. Jews and Christians together are an unstoppable force supporting our shared values, which are under brutal attack around the world."

Together we can overcome diversity, equity, and inclusion which is fueling Woke culture and Post Modernism, attacking the truth and building a new Tower of Babel. In Post Modernism everybody has a narrative. Therefore, Hitler has a narrative and so does the Devil. It is time to return to our common roots in the Word of God. It's the Truth that needs to be heard.

"O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord." (Psalm 117:1-2)

**Whishing you many blessings during this holyday season,
Daniel & the AMI staff**



In the Bosom of Abraham

By Daniel Gwertzman

"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died and was buried;" (Luke 16:22)

All three monotheistic religions acknowledge Abraham as their common father. What does it mean to be in the bosom of Abraham? The bosom means the front of the human chest. It is the center of secret thoughts and emotions. The quality that characterized Abraham was kindness.

"O Praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord." (Psalms 117:1-2)

Religion and faith are supposed to lead to the creation of a new man with life and hope.

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;" (Colossians 3:12)

The knowledge of the Word of God gives us hope for the future.

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4)

We are in a struggle in Israel between Good and Evil and between those who love life and those who worship death. Many people around the world have come out in support of Hamas, calling for the destruction of Israel and death to the Jews. The Bible tells us that we must choose life.

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:" (Deuteronomy (30:19)

Israel has many friends who are praying for us around the world, but we must also acknowledge the Moslem citizens of Israel and in countries abroad, who stood with us during our time of trouble on October 7, 2023, and after. They sought to preserve life and chose to make a commitment to understanding by seeking life and not destruction. These are true descendents of Abraham.

On October 9th, the Global Imams Council (G.I.C.) condemned the Hamas terrorist attacks. It is headquartered in the Islamic Seminary of Najaf, Iraq, consisting of over 1,470 Muslim Imams and scholars from all Islamic denominations and sects. They condemned, in the strongest possible terms, the barbaric and terrorist attacks committed by Hamas against Jewish, Christian, and Muslim civilians in Israel, and expressed condolences to the families of victims. They urged the international community and faith leaders to stand with the Jewish people in their struggle against Islamic terrorism carried out by Hamas.

They abide by a Fatwa (Ruling on a point of Islamic Law by a recognized authority) issued against Hamas by the Islamic Fatwa Council on March 9, 2023. It charged Hamas with corruption and crimes against humanity, forbidding Muslims from supporting, donating to, joining, or praying for the terrorist organization. The

G.I.C. proposed the Fatwa against Hamas to the Islamic Fatwa Council. As a result of this Fatwa, Hamas is prohibited from operating and fundraising in the Islamic Seminary. Any individual visitor or worshiper found supporting Hamas in mosques, Islamic centers or institutions operating under the framework of the G.I.C., will be publicly condemned and banned from the venue and removed in

coordination with local law authorities.

The G.I.C. also condemns the extremist and violent rhetoric displayed at rallies taking place in Europe, Canada, U.S.A., Australia, and elsewhere, where flags of terrorist organizations are being raised accompanied by genocidal chants against the Jewish people.

One of the unsung heroes of October 7th, is a Bedouin bus driver from Rahat named Youssef Ziadna. He is 47 years old and saved 30 people, by boarding them on his minibus for 14 people and getting them out of the rave at Kibbutz Reim. He came under fire by Hamas and was traumatized by the experience. He saw the killing field. He would not rest until he got his passengers to safety. When he got back to his home in Rahat, he discovered that Hamas had killed one of his relatives, Abed Ruhman, who was murdered while sleeping in a tent on





Zikim beach. Seven people from Rahat were wounded, including a second grader. A further five are missing, including four members of the Ziadna family.

Another hero of the Supernova Music Festival was Awad Darawshe. He was a 23-year-old paramedic who was murdered by Hamas outside Kibbutz Re'em. He was part of a group of six other paramedics from Yossi Ambulances, a division of United Hatzalah, who refused to abandon the wounded he was treating believing that because he spoke Arabic, he could protect himself and the wounded. He was mercilessly

slaughtered by Hamas and died with bandages in his hands. In the face of evil, he remained human and humane.

It is people like this we should be looking to and being inspired by, and not those who are looking for death and martyrdom.

"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." (Isaiah 54:17)

What is the Meaning and Purpose of Shoes in the Bible?

By Daniel Gwertzman

"Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver them up to Edom: But I will send a fire on the wall of Gaza, which shall devour the palaces thereof:" (Amos 1:6-7)

Why talk about the meaning and purpose of shoes at a time like this, when the fate of humanity hangs in the balance and we are in the midst of a struggle between good and evil? We are now in the month of Kislev, which is when we celebrate Hanukkah (The Festival of Lights). This is when we commemorate the victory of the weak over the strong, the pure over the impure, the righteous over the sinners. In short the victory of Good over Evil.

This was a victory of the Jews against the Syrian Greeks, and those who had supported Greek culture against the faith of Israel. Thus, it marked a victory of faith and the Word over paganism.

We are currently locked in such a conflict over the very fate of Western Civilization, against a death cult seeking to destroy both Judaism and Christianity. Thus, our current conflict will mark a turning point in the history of the world and not just Israel.

The month of Kislev corresponds to the Prophet Amos. The three transgressions mentioned by Amos referred to above are idolatry, immorality, and bloodshed. The fourth sin, which will ensure the punishment of God and bring about destruction, was the sin of Hamas. According to the Rabbinical Commentator Radak, this sin refers to the distortion of justice. Amos refers to this in his prophecy as: "they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes;" (Amos 2:6)

What Amos is referring to in the above quotation is the sale of Joseph by his brothers for twenty pieces of silver (Genesis 37:28). According to the Jewish tradition, the



money obtained by the brothers from the sale was used to purchase shoes for them. This action alludes to the divisiveness and lack of unity that led to the sale of Joseph. What caused the sale was jealousy and division among the brothers. What can avert this punishment is unity and love, which will lead the Lord to bless His children. Any priest in the Jewish faith who does not love his people may not raise his hands to bless them.

So what makes the shoes so special? They act as a separation between the flesh and the ground. This is because the earth was cursed as a result of the sin of Adam. Therefore, we erect a barrier between the ground and our feet. This is why one should walk barefoot in a holy place where the ground is no longer subject to the curse and is now blessed.

"And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." (Exodus 3:5)

Today in Orthodox synagogues, the Priests (Cohanim) remove their shoes before pronouncing the Priestly blessing over the congregation to promote brotherhood and love. It is also the custom of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church to remove one's shoes before entering the Church.



If all the children of the Lord wish to ensure both their material and spiritual blessings, the secret is to be found in unity, with the Word of God at the center in a community of faith.

"Because it is written, Be ye holy; For I am holy."

(1 Peter 1:16) Where there is unity, the Shechinah (the indwelling presence of God), is to be found to inspire the blessed assembly and then there is hope.

With unity there is victory over evil. This is the message for our time and our hope is to pass it on to future generations.

"For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and has crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:"
(Psalms 8:5-6)

In this special season, it is time to fill the earth with the Light of the Lord and push back the darkness.

"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (1 Corinthians 2:5)

A Request for Emergency Funding From the Shilo Israel Children's Fund

We have been privileged to have our groups visit David Rubin's school in Shilo for terror victims on a number of occasions and seen the miracles he has performed with these young people. I was asked to get an update on his work at the current time.

His teaching staff has been affected by the military mobilization but he continues his work. He has been called upon by the authorities to deal with the traumatized children victims from the Gaza border. The following is the appeal which we received from him.



Emergency funding needed for therapeutic staff

Narrative

In 2004, two years after former Shiloh mayor David Rubin and his then three-year-old son were wounded in a terror attack, the Shiloh Israel Children's Fund (SICF) was born.

SICF's primary mission is to provide a wide array of therapeutic services, blended with faith-based educational and recreational programs, to heal children with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), resulting from either direct or indirect exposure to terrorism and war. SICF has healed thousands of children from life-threatening trauma.

After the horrible massacre of October 7th, referrals to Shiloh Therapy Center for therapeutic services for PTSD, have surged over 300 percent. Immediately after the massacre, the Ministry of Defense requested the services of many of the therapeutic staff currently employed at the Center, to treat the traumatized massacre victim children from the Gaza region, who have been relocated to the center of the country. As a result of this urgent need, many of our therapists have become mobile therapists, going out to each of the communities that are housing the massacre victims. To meet the skyrocketing demands for its services, SICF is requesting emergency funding to expand the number of therapists. Our goal is to increase or double our staff of certified therapists, including whole family therapists and specialty therapists. To directly support our work, please go to www.israelchildren.org.

Blessings and Shalom,

David Rubin

Founder, Shiloh Israel Children's Fund

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