

Session 169

Bo – 100+ Days, From Bondage to Redemption

21 January 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onqNoBc4VCc&t=1s>

Jeremy

Shalom everybody, welcome to the Land of Israel Fellowship, so good to see you all, so nice to see you. I love seeing all of your faces. Thank you for joining us every week. I can't tell you how much strength it provides me, it provides Tehila. I don't know if you've been watching, but you know the Torah that Tehila has been teaching lately, has just spread like wild fire all over the world. Thousands and thousands of views on multiple platforms – on YouTube, on WhatsApp, it's almost like chosen for this time to bring the messages of the Torah to the world in the most unbelievable way. And there's no way that she would be doing that if we didn't have our Sunday meetings and she's preparing for the Sunday meetings. And it's like this platform has encouraged her to bring forth so much Torah and so much prayer.

And you know, it's such a dark, scary chaotic time and us coming together as the world is so fractured in such a beautiful display of unity from so many different backgrounds and so many different places around the world. There's just nothing like it. It is beyond a blessing in our lives. And before we kick it off, what I want to try to do, is share a little bit about what it's like to be in Israel now. Because we've been at war now for more than 100 days and that's a lot of days to be at war. The Yom Kippur war for example, that was in 1973 and that was one of Israel's biggest wars, was 16 days. And Israel has now been at war for over 100 days and you just got to wonder, like what is going on here. Because there's so many processes that are happening. It's like we're getting a root canal or a wisdom tooth is being extracted from us. And it's like this long process that Israel is going through.



And it's like one thing to know the news, but it's a whole other level to feel what we're feeling. And that's really what I want to try to give over. And if you look at this picture here, that was a school ground in Eilat and the kids were coming out of school, walking to go home and all of a sudden they hear sirens. And they just bolt for shelter because missiles are going to be landing around them at any moment. And you know, you can see those are like little children bags. Those are like five year old, six year old, seven year old, eight year old bags.

And so people are thinking about the war in Gaza and soldiers that are falling, but like it's affecting everyone everywhere. And now after 100 days of reserve duty, many, many soldiers

are being released from duty. And the reentry syndrome is really overwhelming for them. I have friends that are telling me, it's too hard for them to go back to being civilians right now. Imagine for 100 days, they were in Gaza, fighting the forces of evil in the world, sleeping on the ground, eating tuna fish and beans, going to the bathroom wherever they could find, being shot at, rockets, bombs falling, terrorists coming out of tunnels, shooting at them. One hundred days like that and now they're just going to go back and go to their job in front of a computer now? Like, that is difficult.

I mean one of my friends who, he is in charge of 20 tanks and he has been released from the army now for at least one week and he came back and his wife wanted to schedule him a massage and try to like...she just wanted to like whatever she could to like help him feel better. And he's like, DO NOT make my schedule. I've been made a schedule for me now for 100 days, I want freedom right now. I love you, thank you for thinking of me, but I just need freedom. I've been a soldier for 100 days and just people are like living within this reality of war, but having children and being so hard, then coming home and needing to be so soft. It's just impossible.

Saturday night we get a phone call from Tehila's mom and she says, "We have two tickets to Comedy for Koby. Would you guys like to go? Comedy for Koby is a once a year event that happens where this Jewish comedian named Avi Lieberman brings top-tier American comedians to Israel and it's a fund raiser for the Koby Mendell Foundation which supports the families that have lost loved ones in terror attacks or in the army. And they have all these different programs to help the bereaved families. And once a year they have kind of like a fund-raiser and the ticket that you buy for the Comedy with Koby go to help the Koby Mendell Foundation and the truth is, it's one of the best nights of my year. It's so funny.

And because they know that it's in Gush Etzion in Judea, they tell the comedians, "Listen. This isn't Tel Aviv. You gotta keep it clean." Tehila and I love stand-up comedy, but sometimes it's just unholy. So it's like unpleasant. But when they come to Gush Etzion, you know it's going to be a really...just like pure comedy with no guilt, it's just so funny. And I remember thinking to myself. Do I really want to go to a stand-up...I didn't really even know it was happening, I am so removed from that world that I didn't even know that there was a comedy fund-raiser happening in Gush Etzion. And Tehila was like, "Well, should I go? Do I feel right about that? Should I go or shouldn't I go?" Tehila's parents were like, "Well we already got the tickets, we're happy to give them to you." Tehila said, "You know what? We should go. We should go. After 100 plus days, we haven't had any fun. We can't just be miserable and sad, we gotta like make ourselves happy. It's a mitzvah to be happy. We should go."

And I'm like, "Alright, if Tehila wants to go, who am I to be holier than Tehila? If she thinks it's holy, I think it's holy. That's usually my rule." And so we went out that night and then it was so funny. I saw all of my friends, all of my friends are like the most dedicated. They're either in the

army, fighting for Israel online, they're doing something that is making me be friends with them. Like the best people ever.

And we're all at this stand-up comedy thing, and of course it became like, "We are defeating the Chamas by going out to Comedy for Koby. We're not going to let the Chamas keep us down. We're going to be happy and we're going to go back to our lives." And it became like an ideological movement ...like we've turned stand-up comedy into an ideological stance in our war against the Chamas.

But in some ways, that's kind of true. Like everything takes on a whole new level of meaning that just didn't exist before this war. Everything now is meaningful. I'll tell you, Shabbat on the Farm, I was overwhelmed so many times with tears that were just kind of like...they just kind of flood your eyelids. And then they just kind of come down, you can't really do anything about it. But you don't know what else to do because you're just overwhelmed with emotions. And I'm looking around and nothing that special is happening. It's just the feelings that I have in the context in which we're living now. Everything is more meaningful.

You know, sometimes people ask me and I don't know why. Sometimes an address for these kind of questions, but they say to me, "Jeremy, what is the purpose of all of this creation?" And there are a lot of ancient Jewish answers to that question. But lately I feel this deep impression that doesn't come from the books or writings. Just over the last 100 plus days, during this war, I've experienced this deep feeling, more times than I remember feeling in my whole life. And there are moments that you are so engaged, so in love, so overtaken by reality, that there are no words that can describe it. When my boys came home after a week of not seeing them in the middle of this war, you just can't take life for granted.

And there are moments that are ineffable, just seeing them come home. I'm like filled with tears in my eyes. They're not in the army. But they've been away for the week. And they come home and you have to say there are God-moments. Because they are transcendent. The laws of time and space don't apply. All there is, is just that moment. And it's like those moments justify everything else. Those moments are so precious. And since this war, I've found more and more of those moments where it's almost like God is revealing Himself in my life more and more. And everything has become more sensitive, more meaningful, more love. And the little things that I would take for granted, there is no taking anything for granted anymore. When you wake up every morning and you look for the words – It is now ready for publication – you know you're going to read the names of soldiers that have fallen. And that's pretty much the reality every day in Israel. You can't take anything for granted.

And so this Fellowship, I don't take it for granted at all. It is a life-line for me, for Ari, for Tehila, it is the source of blessing in our lives. And so, I want to take this time to bring our hearts together and kick off this Fellowship with a prayer:

HaShem, Master of the World, our Father in Heaven, Creator of everyone and everything, thank You for bringing us together today. It's Sunday, the first day of the week and no matter what happens around us, we continue to gather here to realign, to return, to start our week off in Your order. And as the world continues toward chaos, we turn to You for order, for shelter, for guidance. May the Torah we learn together today enter our hearts, inspire our lives, inspire the lives of our loved ones around us. HaShem, shield our soldiers from evil. Guard them and bring them home safely to their families. Give them the strength and courage and wisdom they need to overcome all the obstacles they face. HaShem, give strength to all of Israel now. Fill Your people with faith and resolve. Give the wives and the mothers that have been left behind the energy, the patience, the calm, the faith to keep on holding their homes together. HaShem, thank You for this Fellowship, thank You for this unity in a time when the world is so fractured. Thank You for this anchor in our lives, thank You for this community that has become our family. Thank You for the Torah we learn together and thank You for the prayers that we pray together. May our prayers be a sign of our times. And we bring more and more people together in this prayer until we finally gather together, one soul at a time in Your House of Prayer for all nations in Yerushalyim. Amen.

Alright my friends, so I want to kick off the Fellowship with just one of the greatest guys that I know. His name is Ari, you know him. He is just so good, he's just goodness covered in goodness. And so, I know that he has some Torah that he wanted to share. And I know that he's hosting dozens of soldiers at the Farm tonight, specifically in his house. And so I know that he has a lot to do. So I wanted to give him the opportunity to share with us first, so Ari, if you are live, because I don't see you yet, you are on.

Ari

I'm here, Jeremy, can you hear me? Good to see you, Jeremy. I gotta say, yeah, good, good. I'm reluctant to even share right now because I have deeply enjoyed the 12 minutes of this Fellowship. Your words have uplifted me because I'm in a place of turmoil. Because you know you said you want to share with everybody in the Fellowship what it's like to be in Israel right now. And you know we have...our program used to be called "Israel Inspired," and we try to share an inspiring message, but also a true message. And there are times that are not super-inspiring, that are sometimes confused.

And I find that sometimes, when you're at a place of strength and clarity, I'm in a place of confusion and vice-versa. It's almost that HaShem puts it like that for HaShem to be able to strengthen each other. And you've been strengthening me just these last ten minutes. It makes me think that we really have to hang out more. Because while in some ways, I've never been filled, my life has never been filled with more love and happiness...like you said, these precious transcendent moments. To be honest, I've been feeling a little bit demoralized, also. It's like these transcendent moments and then this feeling of...I don't know, demoralization. And I

know you can identify with me. You're not always where you are right now at this moment. We all go through it.

I feel like right after October 7th, the entire nation, we were brought to our knees and we were humbled. And there is no one in the country who didn't have at least a moment, a singular moment of existential fear. You know, perhaps, maybe from the first time since the foundation of the country, definitely since the 6 Day War. There hasn't been a moment like that where terror has struck the hearts of the entire nation. That perhaps we would be wiped off the map, like existential. We were questioning our continued existence. I mean as horrific and as traumatizing a massacre as we faced, just imagine HaShem's great kindness to us and compassion to us, that it was isolated to Chamas alone in the south and not Chezbollah in the north and Iran and Syria. We've talked about it before, but just imagine if they all attacked together. Because most reports are saying that that was the plan.

But nonetheless, I don't know if you remember, but in the days afterwards, immediately afterwards, we thought an all-out attack from the countries around us, from the Arab villages around us, could all at once, that out-numbered us exponentially was a real possibility. And it wasn't clear that we would survive that if they did. It felt like we were grabbing for some sort of stability, for some sort of surety, somewhere, anywhere. Someone we could rely on, somewhere we could put our faith in and there was none. There was none other than HaShem. And for me it was a terrifying moment, but it was also a liberating moment because it was a moment full of hope that we were literally on the cusp of redemption. And that for me is the ingredients of what we as a nation need to be, where we need to be holding, to experience redemption.

You know, the issues that had been deeply dividing us, just two days earlier, seemed small and irrelevant and we were coming together in a unity like none of us had ever experienced in our lifetimes. We were humbled, individually and nationally. We were calling out to HaShem from the deepest place, I don't know about you, Jeremy, but I really thought...I still think that really would have been a perfect time. That would have been a perfect time for salvation and redemption.

But here we are, 106 days later. And not only haven't we been redeemed, but it feels like we are becoming increasingly confused and disillusioned and disoriented. And it feels like we're losing a little bit of that unity. And you know, maybe not. Honestly, hearing you, maybe not. Maybe I'm just projecting what's happening inside of me. And inside my own heart, but I can't help but to think that if it's happening to me, it's happening to others in their hearts and their minds as well.

I didn't even know if I was going to share this, but this is just one small example of what I'm talking about that just threw me off for a number of days. A few days ago, a guy named Ami

Ayalon, he's one of the prior heads of the Shin Bet of Israel's secret service, came out and recommended that Israel release Marwan Barghouti from prison. Marwan Barghouti, the convicted terrorist who murdered at least five Jews, wounded and maimed countless others, and that is who Ami Ayalon wanted to release from prison. Why? Brace yourselves. He wanted to release him from prison and send him back to the Palestinian Authority so that we would have someone to negotiate with. I don't even understand it, it's insane. It's insane. And I'll admit that when I heard this idea, and other insane, suicidal ideas that got us into this nightmare to begin with, I started feeling...I'm ashamed to say it, but I felt hatred in my heart. At least I think it was hatred. I felt such a disdain in my heart for these people who have shown that they're willing to subject the nation to another October 7th in order to find favor in the eyes of the West. I wanted him to be locked up for treason at the very least.

You know these sort of delusions are what got us into October 7th and they're starting to return. And we have those among our leadership right now that are cramming it down on our nation on behalf of these foreign powers. And I confess that there are moments that I have just, that's what I'm saying. I'm feeling this hatred and division and that...just those feelings in my heart, in and of themselves is breaking me sometimes. That I have them, that I allow anything but love to enter my heart. It's so sad for me, so heartbreaking for me. And there are moments when I find myself doubting whether we as a nation are in a place where we even deserve to be redeemed anymore. It feels to me like we're losing focus, like we've taken our eye off the prize. It feels like there was a moment when we really deserved redemption and we're losing it right now. And we may not deserve it anymore.

But I started getting hope when reading through this portion again. And thinking, really Jeremy, you started the dominoes of hope for me earlier in the week when you shared this idea because it's in Parashat Bo. That what actually caused HaShem to hear Bnei Yisrael, the children of Israel, from within their horrific, heart-breaking, back-breaking servitude in Egypt. What actually caused HaShem to intervene in history and change the natural order of things was what? Chapter 2, verse 23:

Bnei Yisrael sighed from the labor, and they cried out, and their cry ascended to Hashem from the labor.

-Exodus 2:23

It wasn't their perfectly articulated liturgy that stirred HaShem to intervene in history on their behalf. And it wasn't some sort of national unity. At least not what it says. What was it? It was just that they were broken, they just cried out. It was their visceral moans of anguish that reached HaShem. It was their raw, unadulterated outcry of distress and devastation that reached directly to the throne of glory. Jeremy, so do you remember what you said to me? I was looking for it, I couldn't find the thing, it was using a different verse.

Jeremy

Yeah, it's really interesting what you're saying here. Because you quoted the verse where it says, "And they called out to HaShem." Za'achu (זָעָחוּ), like they were crying out to God. I pointed out a verse a little bit later in chapter six, verse 5. And what does it say there? And I heard...And I heard the moaning or the cries of bnei Yisrael that were in...as slaves in Egypt, and I will remember my covenant with them. And that word there is really interesting. Because na'acha (נִאָּחָה) is not za'acha. Za'acha is like "I calling out to God, help me, I'm calling out to God." Na'acha is a very unique word, it's not really mentioned any other time in the Torah. And the word na'acha is actually a female camel, it's the same word, moaning. But that moan there when they're still not redeemed. They're not even crying out to God. They're just crying and moaning because Pharaoh made their work that much harder. And they're still slaves. It's almost like they've given up on crying out to God. Now they're just like a physical cry of like a female camel. It's like the physical....ohhhh...and God heard that.

Ari

Ahha, so it's even stronger, a stronger point than what I was saying. Because the verse I shared is that they're za'acha, they're crying out to HaShem, "Help us!" And you're saying, beyond that when they're even more broken that they can't even direct their cries upward and it's just an animal sound of brokenness. That's what Hashem heard in addition to that.



And I feel like we still have that. You know, we have that. You know just this morning, on the way to minyan where we pray in the morning, we passed by this white prayer tent. You know, for the soldier's family that is sitting shiva, right there in the village. This picture that you're seeing right here. This is the soldier that just died...we woke up this morning, 6 A.M., and that's the face that we saw. Uriel Aviad Silberman, 23 years old. Cut down in the prime of his life. His entire future ahead of him. Another family, destroyed. Another mother, father, in anguish, siblings devastated, never going to be the same again. Another jewel from the nation of Israel. Violently ripped away from us by evil incarnate.

And not only that, but reports are coming that they're finding proof that many of the kidnapped people have been horrifically tortured and are dead. And we're hearing every day how much closer we are to all out war breaking out in the north in which so many of the soldiers...Jeremy's talking about all of our friends that are being released back to their families after months of fighting in Gaza. Their children are finally coming to terms with, yes, daddy is here, he's alive. My father is here, after all these months and dealing with that and reintegration. And they all are very acutely aware that yet again, they will most likely be called back to war. Possibly very soon. It's exhausting and it's demoralizing.

And as a nation, we are moaning in grief and pain and in trepidation. And sometimes it feels like the only thing we have left is hope. Because you know there's a fundamental teaching that during the plague of darkness, the wicked evil doers of the nation of Israel died. The ones without faith, they died. But the great sage known as the Rosh, teaches that Natan and Aviram, you remember them, these really evil characters? They were spared that death during that plague because why? Because they never gave up hope of being redeemed. Meaning like as Rav Biederman says, "If someone as evil as Natan and Aviram merited salvation, merely by virtue of the fact that they didn't lose hope of receiving, we need to have hope. Even if we're in the heart of Mitzryim.

I'm not only talking about the country of Mitzryim, the head-space of Mitzryim. I've been there, part of me is there right now. The head-space of narrow straits. We need to have hope, even when we're so deep in this head space of constriction and scarcity and hopelessness that we don't know that any other frame of mind is even possible. Right? Even in that space of extreme constriction and hopelessness, particularly in that space. We need to grasp on to our hope for dear life. We need to hold on to our faith, even if we're in this place of spiritual constriction, so great that like the Jews in Egypt, we couldn't even imagine a way out of it. We need to not only hope, but we need to know as much as we can that the degree of hopelessness that it appears that we're in is inversely proportional to the degree of absolute salvation and redemption that we'll experience on the other side of this. Get ready for this.

Rav Biederman brings this teaching from the Chatam Sofer who points out that the Jews, initially in their slavery were confused about how it was even possible that they were enslaved to Egypt to begin with. Why? Because the Mitzryim, the Egyptians were descendants from Cham, from Ham, right? Who was the son of Noah. And the Torah clearly tells us that it was a punishment for the sin that he had against his father, Noah, Cham's descendants would be slaves to Shem's descendants. And as you know, the nation of Israel is descended from Shem, which by the way is where the word, anti-Semite comes from. I don't like the word, but it means those who are against the descendants of Shem – anti-Shemites.

So it seems like according to the Torah, Israel being slaves to Mitzryim, to Egypt, should be impossible. Right? Let's look inside, let's look inside. Genesis chapter 9:

When Noah woke up from his wine and learned what his youngest son had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan; The lowest of slaves Shall he be to his brothers."

-Genesis 9:24-25

And as we read in the next chapter, chapter 10, the descendants of Cham:

The descendants of Ham: Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

-Genesis 10:16

Meaning that Canaan, that Mitzryim, that Put, were supposed to be slaves to Shem. How could it possibly be that the descendants of Shem are the servants to the descendants of Cham? It should be the other way around. They couldn't rationally understand it and no one could.

But that's where the faith comes in. The faith that HaShem has a plan that our limited intellect could not possibly grasp. But someday we'll see and understand that the nation of Israel indeed did come to understand it. As the Torah tells us, when they were redeemed from Egypt and they found this extraordinary, inexplicable grace in the eyes of the Egyptians who showered them with all of their wealth, right? Exodus chapter 12:

And Hashem had disposed the Egyptians favorably toward the people, and they let them have their request; thus they emptied out the Egyptians.

-Exodus 12:36

Meaning, all of those years when it seemed that they were working for free for the Egyptians, it was not that they were working for the Egyptians, it was that the Egyptians were working for them. The Egyptians were working to send the children of Israel away with overwhelming abundance and wealth as they left

Egypt. The Jews weren't working for the Egyptians, they were working for themselves. And they couldn't have possibly imagined it at the time.

And that's where we are right now. It's hard to understand how all of this darkness could bring light, it's hard to imagine how this could turn around for the good, but it will, but it will. That I promise you and that I promise myself. My friends, we should be blessed, all of us we should be blessed with the faith and the fortitude and the spiritual strength to know that as hopeless as things may seem, HaShem has a great plan. To know that HaShem hears our cries and our anguish. To know that our moans of pain and heartbreak ARE reaching the thrones of glory and they're stirring HaShem's compassion for us and His desire to redeem us.

May we be blessed to know that despite the fact that we may not deserve it, the great day of salvation is coming. The day when everything will become clear to us, when we'll know that all our pain was for a purpose and that everything that happened was for our ultimate good. May that day be soon, may that day be today. Thank you my friends, thank you for being there for me and for being my therapists in a lot of ways, thank you, Jeremy, thank you, Tehila, back to you Jeremy.

Jeremy

Thank you, Ari. That was really beautiful. I think what's happening now is, you know, a lot of our friends that have been pulled out of the army now, they've been given notice. Like just be aware, things are happening, like...it's not quiet in the north. And there are over 100,000 Jews

that used to live on the northern border of Israel that have been evacuated. They are refugees in our country. So we have 100,000 Jews in the south that have been evacuated, and another 100,000 Jews in the north that have been evacuated. A country can't function like that. Kids are not going to school, people are not working. It's like two regions of Israel...I don't ever remember anything like this since I've been living in Israel. I'm 44. I don't ever remember anything like this.

And so, it's kind of coming to a head. Because you heard what Ari said. The modern leadership of Israel, the secular paradigm in which they see the world is continuously making them make wrong decisions. Because the way that they're seeing everything is wrong. I was invited to speak at the Sovereignty Conference, just a little more than a week ago. And I shared one of the clips, kind of online and it went absolutely viral. It went like fire everywhere. But there are other clips that I finally clipped out that I really wanted to share with the Fellowship. Because the phenomenon in Israel is really unbelievable because you know there's battles within the non-Jewish world outside of Israel, about what it is to be Messianic, what it is not to be Messianic. In Israel, it's a totally different discussion. And it's fascinating. Because right now, on the main-stream media in Israel, it is the new curse word in Israel. It's like, "Oh, you are Messianic. You're a delusional, Messianic." That's what they call everyone that has a little bit of a broader vision for Israel. "What, you want to conquer and re-settle Gaza? Oh, you're a delusional Messianic!"

It's like anything, anything that's beyond toppling the military wing of the Chamas for a few months, if you think anything beyond that, you're being labeled nowadays as a delusional Messianic. And I feel like that's really interesting. That the battle in Israel is actually coming to a head. Where is Israel headed? Are we actually owning it and owning the idea that we are headed toward a Messianic vision? Or are we here to just be a secular state that are making pragmatic moves and trying to find partners to negotiate with and we'll do things that are in absolute contradiction to the Torah and give land away that was promised to Israel to the enemies of Israel. And hope that will bring peace. That's obviously insane.

And so, I just want to share this one clip with you because my job at the conference was... everyone's talking strategy. Everyone's talking security, everyone's talking diplomacy, everyone's talking about politics. And all I wanted to talk about was God. I wanted to bring God into the conversation. And so, here's just a clip that I really wanted you to see, I think you'll appreciate it.



I just want to point out an interesting phenomenon in Israeli society right now. If anyone suggests anything that's beyond the conventional wisdom or anything that's beyond the myopic vision of the Israeli establishment, immediately he's labeled as a delusional Messianic, that's what he's called. The new curse word is oh...you're just delusional. And I feel like that's really interesting that that's happening now. Like this really wasn't about the Judicial reform or legal activism or even a Palestinian state. Like it's finally rising up to the surface, the actual complication here in the State of Israel.

Because the founding fathers of the modern state of Israel, they just wanted a night shelter. They wanted a safe haven for the Jews. And all of a sudden comes October 7th. And we realize that the foundations of the greatest Jewish enterprise in 2,000 years was built on a false foundation. But what is a foundation that can actually hold the light that we're receiving now? What is that foundation? It's the dream that our fathers had and that our ancestors had. And we're saying, "We haven't given up on that dream." We're not saying, "It's not enough to just have peace now. No, Israel could be the safest country in the world, the most prosperous country in the world, this could be an amazing country." I'm not giving up on that dream. And if giving up on that dream is calling me a delusional Messianic, then we should be honored to be guilty of that charge. (end of video)

So, yeah, thank you, thank you. It was interesting because there were a lot of claps in that conference, but every once in awhile, when I give like a right-left punch, the crowd just went crazy. Because everyone wants God to be involved here. That's why we're here. This entire thing is revolving around the axis of biblical destiny. And we can try to deny it, but you know who's not going to let us off the hook? Are our enemies. Because HaShem has chosen our enemies. The Chamas are not a coincidence. They are designed, programmed to attack us for a very specific purpose.

And that was another message that I gave at the conference. And I couldn't be there in Jerusalem in the auditorium, but here's like another little highlight that I know you'll appreciate:

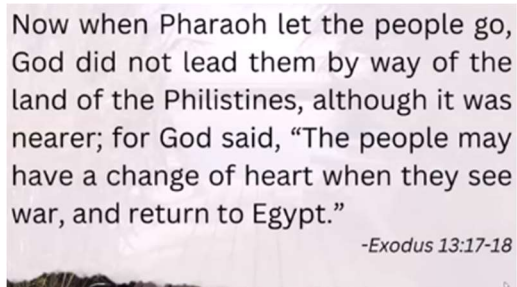
I'm saying we need to go down to the root and reset. And what I'm saying is a new vision for Israel. What is b'emunah? What does that really mean? It means that October 7th didn't happen to us, it happened for us to wake us up, to guide us to the right path. That we should not continue on this boat that's literally on its way to the edge of Niagara Falls and maybe establishing a Palestinian State. It's like, whoa! We can use the bechira now, but let's chose the destination. The destination should not be a night shelter.

Here's the thing – the design of our enemies, they're never going to stop, they are never...no amount of money, no amount of land, no amount of concessions, it's programmed into them,

they've been indoctrinated with a religious ideology. And they are going to force us to become the people we were created to be and to become the country that we are destined to be. So we have to choose it, or it will choose us. (end of video)

Yeah! Amen! We have to choose it, or it will choose us. That's the thing. Jewish destiny, biblical destiny, the promises of the Torah, they are a must. They're not a choice, they will unfold. The destiny will happen.

And I was reading up on this week's parsha and something beautiful happened. Because it's the first time where God gives an insight into Israel and He sees that He doesn't really trust us to go according to plan. And He sees that somehow this generation that's leaving Egypt, they need a little bit more prep time. They need some time in the desert. If you look at Exodus, chapter 13, verse 17, here's what it says. Can we get it up on the screen please: Exodus chapter 13, verse 17:



Now when Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although it was nearer; for God said, "The people may have a change of heart when they see war, and return to Egypt."
-Exodus 13:17-18

So the original plan was, God was going to take us from Egypt and just go right up through the Gaza strip and right through the Negev desert, right into Israel, and that would have been the quickest way to go. And God said, "Mmmm...I don't think the people of Israel are ready for that." At the beginning of their journey, God saw into their hearts and He said, "No, they may have a change of heart when they see war and they'll want to return to Egypt."

And now I think, 3,000 years later, a war is happening in the land of the Philistines in southern Israel. The same place that God did not want Israel to go through because they would be scared of war. And now, you see 300,000 brave young men and women that have enrolled into reserve duty to go all the way down to that land and to face war head-on. And what a change from the first thing God says about Israel as they're leaving Egypt. He's saying... "Na, they're just not strong enough yet." What you're seeing right now is Israel is stronger than ever. And at the very beginning, it's been a 3,000 year process, but did you know that over 200,000 Jews that were all scattered around the world got on planes and went to Israel in the middle of the war. There is no country in the world, not America, not Europe, not the Ukraine, no where in the east, no where in the west. When a war breaks out, that its civilians come back to the Land. On the contrary, when war breaks out, civilians leave the land.

And here what we're seeing is, that the Jewish people have become strong enough to not only face the land of the Philistines, but to go down there, to go and face the evil and be victorious. And what a beautiful thing to see that like circuit finally closed. And so, I'm kind of looking at things and I'm wondering like, Israel is so courageous now. Like the people of Israel are so strong, like I've never seen Israel like this before, so united, so powerful, so selfless, so giving,

just...it's like, the Talmud says that Israel is analogous to olives. Israel is like symbolized by the olive branch. And why is that? Because under extreme pressure, the pure oil comes out. And so when you put Israel under extreme pressure, the most beautiful parts of us come out into the world.

And you see that the pressure of October 7th and the war just brought out the pure olive oil of Israel for the world to see. And you know, I've taken it upon myself since October 7th to become more active. You know, for five years after moving to the Arugot Farm, I kind of went off the radar. I didn't want to attract too much attention. We almost had our vineyards uprooted. Like sometimes, the Gemara says that sometimes blessing resides on things that are hidden from the eye. So I don't do Facebook, I didn't do Twitter. I don't do those things, but October 7th came and I'm like, "Oh, Israel needs this now. The believers around the world, they need this Torah, they need this light, they need this encouragement. I'm going to start to engage again. I'll start making short videos." Since the war, over 2,000,000 views on YouTube. It's really been unbelievable.

And I said, "Ok, if I have to choose a platform that I want to start communicate with, I don't really trust any of these platforms, but it seems like Twitter is the one that seems the most fair. That there's not like some hour that's manipulating or shadow-banning you. So I get my news from Twitter and I started tweeting out a little bit. And in one of those tweets, if we could just put it up on the screen for those that don't have Twitter, I want you to see this. So what does it say here:



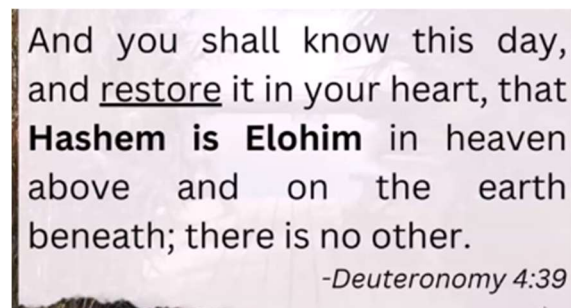
And I thought to myself, 2025? What? This started in 2023, and now we're at the beginning of 2024? He's saying that it's going to go into 2025! What is going on here? That is crazy, 2025! This was my Tweet...

The powers that be don't want this war to ever end. Israel must resist.

And I've been thinking a lot about that. The powers that be don't want this war to ever end. And when you think about the Biden administration and what they are pushing for. The response, let's create a Palestinian state. Could there be a response that is more delusional than that? It's like, "Well, they've raped us, they killed us, they kidnapped our children, well let's give them a state. That's obviously..." It's like, that should be the reward? We're rewarding them with a state? Like it's delusional.

But what would a state do? A state would embroil Israel in this war forever. And the powers that be, I don't really know who the powers are. Are the powers the politicians? Are the powers the corporations? Are the powers the military complex that's making so much money in a perpetual war. The rockets that we have to buy and the ammunition that we have to buy and the technologies that we have to develop. There's an interest to keep Israel in this war forever.

And I started to think that the powers that be...that's a really unique language that's used. And Ari asked me, maybe two weeks ago, if I would write a song based on a verse in Deuteronomy, chapter 4, verse 39. And if we could get that up on the screen, this is the verse:



So, thinking a lot about that. So first, it's to restore it into our hearts. It's not just to know it, but it's to bring it into our heart, to restore it into our hearts. That HaShem IS the Elohim. Now, in English, it just says that the Lord is God. That's not what the Hebrew is saying. The Hebrew is saying something really profound. What does the word Elohim mean?

So, for those of you that know Hebrew, when there is a Yud, Mem, im, at the end of a word, it's plural. So mayim is like waters, or like s'ferim is books. Sefer is book, s'ferim is books. Yeled is child, yeladim is children. Ben is a boy, banim is boys. Elohim, it ends with im is plural. So it's saying HaShem is Elohim. What does the word El mean? El means powers, God, powers. And so, the powers that be, the powers that be, that actually is not a bad name to understand what the word Elohim is.

It's not there's solar energy and there's the wind god and there's the moon god, and there's corporations and there's politicians and there's the military industrial complex. And these powers are all Mark Zuckerberg and George Soros and whatever the conspiracy theories are. But like Bill Gates is doing his thing. No, no, no. HaShem, hu ha'Elohim. All of those powers that you think are actually running the world, they're not running the world. They're the powers that be, HaShem is the powers that be. That needs to go into our heart.

That's really what the Messianic vision is. To realize that everything that's being set up. It's not the military industrial complex, it's HaShem that's right now forcing Israel to be independent of the American industrial complex. It's forcing Israel to be a country that stands alone. That stands alone because it stands with God. HaShem, hu ha'Elohim is saying that we think there are all these different powers that are running the world or conspiracies and things. No, no, no, no, no. HaShem, He is the sum of all powers in the world. And they're actually all unified. And under His control, they're just puppets in His Hand. And they are all there in order to bring about His ultimate plan. Once we internalize that everything that is happening in Israel is

actually about the destiny of Israel, it's about the inextricable relationship that the Jewish people have with God, a covenant, a promise that will be fulfilled. A promise that must be fulfilled.

See, if you see Israel through a secular paradigm, or through a political lens, like the mainstream Israeli establishment does right now, everything you see is warped. You won't understand what happened, you won't have the ability to understand what the future holds, you can't see the present for what it is, you won't learn any of the lessons that need to be learned because you're looking in the wrong direction because you're not looking to God for answers.

Imagine for just a minute, God forbid, October 7th would have happened in Shiloh, in Samaria. What would the lessons have been learned from the mainstream Israeli establishment? I can hear the left-wing secular Israeli media in my ear already. If October 7th would have happened in Samaria...it's the settlers, it's the settler violence that instigated the massacre, it's their fault for being there to begin with, the Jews shouldn't be in Judea and Samaria. We need a peace now, we need to create a Palestinian state immediately to stop this conflict because it is the settlers that are the problem. The exact wrong lesson would have been learned.

But October 7th exposed the truth. It's undeniable now. We saw the true evil of our enemy and what they've been planning to do to us for years. Now there's no excuses. All of the veils have been removed. The kibbutzim, they weren't right-wing settlers. Those kibbutzim were the most peace loving, coexisting, pro-Arab people in Israel. And the war in Israel, it's not about Judea and Samaria or the West Bank as they call it. This war is not about 1967 borders. Because Kibbutz Be'eri, that was established in 1946, before the establishment of the State of Israel. They were Jews and so the Arabs were attacking Jews. Nothing to do with any political borders. The war isn't about where borders are supposed to be drawn.

There isn't one map in Gaza and there isn't a single map in any Arab/Palestinian school in Israel that shows a map where just Judea and Samaria is the Palestinian state. Like the West Bank, that's the Palestinian state that they're striving for. Every single map shows the entire land of Israel. October 7th, the murder, the torture, the children, the rape, the hostages, it's forcing Israel to encounter reality. That we have evil in the Land of Israel and it's been programmed. Religiously indoctrinated to hate Jews in a way that we can't even understand. We don't know what it's like to be indoctrinated when you're in kindergarten, to kill the Jew, kill the Christian. First the Saturday people, then the Sunday people. Kill the infidel, kill. We can't even imagine, it's so difficult for us to really relate to our enemies. But never forget the glee and the exuberance that the Gazans showed as they celebrated our massacre on October 7th.

See America is demanding that Israel create a Palestinian state, retreating from more land with the delusional hope that that's somehow going to bring peace now? It's nothing less than

national suicide. It's like the Arabs murdered, raped, and they're still holding our innocent hostages, it blows my mind that the reaction in the west to October 7th is...well, let's give them some more land. Give them a state of their own. That's insane.

And so October 7th has to force us to change our foundational mentality. We have to transition now, like a total reset. And what does that reset look like? It means renewing our faith. Reality. Our history, the Torah, the prophets, the sages of Israel, our 4,000 years of collective wisdom point us to a certain truth. Jewish history is guided. It's a directed reality that must be, that will be. Every force known to humanity has tried to extinguish the fire of the Jewish people and the Torah. And beyond all logic and all reason, we are back in the Land of Israel again as promised by every prophet in the Bible. You see a great light came into the world in 1948. And it's still something that the nation of Israel is processing. Do we really understand what it means that the Jewish people have returned to eretz Yisrael after 2,000 years? You have to stand in awe at the mystery of Jewish destiny.

As we're watching it unfold before our eyes, we saw in the last generation, the mass graves of dry bones and ashes that Ezekiel saw before the rise of the Jewish people and the resurrection of the State of Israel. And we've seen all the laws of history and nature bend or break with Jewish history unlike any other people on the planet. And yet still somehow, the perfect balance of freewill has been maintained to offer everyone the opportunity to chose our destiny. Do we align ourselves with God? Do we align ourselves with the Bible? Do we align ourselves with the good, the true? Do we align ourselves with love? Or...do we side with the murderers? The rapists, the anti-truth people? The choice now, we have as a nation.

And what do we need to do now? We have to reclaim the Jewish dream, the dream that God gave the prophets of Israel. The dreams that we've been praying for, that we believed in. For thousands of years. So right now, Israel needs a new vision. King Solomon, the wisest of all men said, "Without vision, the nation will perish." The direction the leaders of Israel are taking us is ensuring that there will never be peace in this Land and another war and another October 7th are awaiting for us down the road. But the next time it will be worse. Because their weapons will be more sophisticated.

And America is trying to embroil us in this conflict and never let us out of it. And so we have to stand up against this administration. And we have to wait, please God, for a new administration to arise. But really, we have to wait for Israel to rise up and say, "We don't need any administration. We don't need America and we don't need Europe. All we need is to do what's right, what's moral, what's true, and follow God's way. Everything else will fall into place.

You know even if you think about the national anthem of Israel, it's called HaTikva, which means "The Hope." The dream of 2,000 years, to be a free people in our Land. A hope of 2,000 years to be a free people in our Land, that's not really the dream, to just be free from oppression.

Hoping for peace and quiet in our Land is the best way to ensure that there will never be peace and quiet. You just want peace and quiet? That's all that we're after? I'm sorry, we have to aim much higher than that. If you ask every Jew in the world, every Jew, what is our purpose as the Jewish people? And it doesn't matter if they're right, if they're left, if they're orthodox, if they're reformed. Every Jew knows that there is a purpose to the Jewish people. Now it manifests maybe in different ways according to your ideology, but the purpose will always be the same. Tikun olam – to fix the world. That's why the Jews were brought in here. Adam and Eve, they made a mistake. And then we were brought into a broken world. And the Jewish people were the doctors, were the soul doctors, going to fix this world slowly but surely. Tikun olam. To fix the world, that's our purpose.

But that's not enough. Because the verse is, to fix the world through the kingdom of God. One Jew, he can save a whale, maybe you can help an orphan. Well how much can one Jew really do? You want to fix the world? You need a kingdom. You need to operate on an international level and only a kingdom has the power to actually bring a new light to the nations. That needs to be the foundation of what Israel is. That's the only foundation that this Jewish enterprise can really be built upon. That can endure forever. That's the only vision that will bring, not only peace now, but peace forever.

So our goal must be to build a country inspired by the vision of the prophets, guided by the commands of the Torah. We have to build a country that fosters a society that's worthy of being the dwelling place for HaShem's Presence on earth. That was always our collective vision for the future of Israel. That was the ancient dream that we believed in. That's what we were praying for. That's what we were ready to die for. And that's what Israel must aim toward. Nothing less. In a country worthy of being called God's Kingdom on earth.

And so, I think that this war is really forcing us, what are we ready to die for? Are we ready to die for a night shelter that in case Jews are persecuted around the world they'll have a place to run to? And have like another Canada that happens to be in the Middle East? A Hebrew speaking Canada. Is that really what we're doing here? Obviously not. Obviously not. So, it's now come to surface, do we have a Messianic vision for the future of Israel? That's what this is all about. Because that's the only thing that's worth fighting for. That's the only thing that's worth dying for. To actually bring peace forever. That Israel could be the most prosperous, the safest, the light that the world needs now. So much, that's our aim and that's our goal.

And that will only happen when we invite HaShem into this conversation. When we invite HaShem into our lives on an individual level. When we invite HaShem into our lives on a national level. And so, with that, that's kind of what this Fellowship is really all about. And how beautiful it is that it's able to transcend nationalities, religions, cultures, languages. Because HaShem transcends all of that. It's the only thing that can bring us all together. A brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God. That's it. Nothing else will ever work. And the amazing

thing is, that there's a system in place that's going to bring that out in us whether we like it or not. Either we can choose it, or it will choose us. Those are the options and HaShem says in the Torah, "Choose life so that you may live." That is where we need to go. Choose life so that we may live.

Alright my friends, with that, I want to end with a bracha, a blessing to all of you that are here live today. You don't understand how happy I am to see all of your faces. It really makes my week in such a profound way. Just to see...Rico...he was just driving with his family. But he turned the Zoom on and saw his kids in the back. And all of you who are sitting around. Couples and families and I see from Germany and South Africa and Oak in Virginia. I see all of you and thank you so much for joining us and for being a part of us. It's like our hearts are being knitted together to show the world what it would be like to be like ish echad, b'lev echad – like one person with one heart with one nation with one Land with one God. How beautiful it is for us to express that in the world. To reflect that in the world. What greater thing could we do in this time of war than to bring that vision of unity and peace and love together. So, with that, may you all be blessed.

Aaronic blessing (Hebrew)

I just want to end off this Fellowship with one last prayer. I was blessed at the very beginning, as soon as the hostages were taken, I must have sung this prayer a hundred times with my children. Just me and my guitar and my children, singing for the hostages. There's actually an old Jewish prayer for Jews that are being held captive, that are in trouble. And a marvelous music video came out with it. And so I released it on the 100 days of their being captive and it just spread around the world. And so I thought that would be a beautiful way to end the Fellowship. With that prayer and that song together. And so, thank you all, thank you Tabitha for putting together that slide show as the Fellowship is getting ready. It is so beautiful and so touching. Just a wonderful insight into all of the behind the scenes that are happening in Israel. In our families, with our soldiers. And so, here's a prayer called Acheinu – Our brothers and sisters. So we'll end it off with a prayer together with this song. Thank you all.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYnZRH6Q6QY> Acheinu: 100 Days!



