

Session 172

Mishpatim – Visions of the Future

11 February 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyQQ9Js0rnM>

Ari

Shalom, Shalom, are you with me, can you hear me? I can't see any of you. I'm just trusting that we're together. Please God, I'm at the Farm, I wasn't able to get out, so I'm hoping the reception holds up, but I'm starting to see some of you now. It's good to see all of you. I was deliberating about whether to follow through with this Fellowship as something is going around in Judea. It seems like everyone is sick, as I'm sure the case is in many places in the world. The winter right now, we're in the heart of it. And kindergartens are the epicenter of it all. And when you have two kids in kindergarten day care like we do, it's inevitable that you're going to get it. I mean, these kids are like sneezing directly into each other's faces, eating out of each other's hands. It's adorable, but it's also a petri-dish. Anyways, our family has been shut down this week, and it's starting I think, to hit me too, pretty hard.

But anyways, with Tabitha's encouragement, I decided to down some caffeine, give it a go and honestly, looking at your faces, it's worth it just to see all of you. I hope and pray that I bring value to you as well, but you certainly do for me, just by virtue of the fact that you are you. But anyways, you're just an encouragement and you're a support and I can't even tell you thank you.

Now before I take off and take this totally different direction than we normally do of the Fellowship, at least for me...allow me the great honor of introducing my best friend, my rebbe, Jeremy to share with you. Jeremy, you are up.

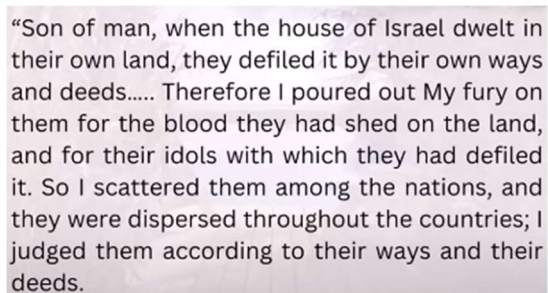
Jeremy

Oh, great! Wow, I get right off the bat, I'm already on. I love that. Thank you, Ed, that really made me feel good that you clap like that. That really made me feel wanted here. I can't tell you how happy I am to see all of your faces. I see like there's all these friends that I haven't seen in person in so long. Like Rusty and Erin, I'm just so happy you guys are together, we get to hang out here in person. Cal and Ardelle, just love you guys. I can't tell you how wonderful it is that we get to gather here every week and that we're going through all of this together. I wrote it just now on the chat, but I really do believe that this Fellowship was formed in the heart of the most insane global pandemic the world has ever known. And it was the first time that the whole world was unified in a consciousness. Like everyone, everywhere was obsessed with Corona and we were all isolated and Ari and I felt this need to just broadcast the message. And all of a sudden, a Fellowship was being born and it's been growing and it's continuously growing.

But I believe that all of this was brought into existence for the time that we're in now. And that all of us are making history. We are all a part of this history that's unfolding in Israel, that's destined to be here, and this living example of what could be in the world. And I just know that as this Fellowship continues to grow and spread its influence, it's just a light from Zion that's reaching over 50 countries. And in some ways, the people that come here, 200 people from all over the world, families are gathering together, and your faces that we see every week are the heart and soul. It allows us to be a true community and it is beyond. There's nothing like it anywhere in the world. So, like what more could we ask for on this faith walk than to be brought together in such a time as this.

And so, what I want to do today, is I want to go deep into the Tanakh. I actually want to give over like a Bible study, like a study in the prophets of Israel. And I've been saying over and over again that Israel has to bring God into this conversation. You know, I haven't done social media in 6 years, since moving out to the Farm. I sort of wanted to go off the radar. And then about a month into the war, all of these lies were being said about Israel. And all of these things were happening and I said, "You know what? I need to like jump into the ring and like start broadcasting more, making more short videos, just getting the truth out as much as I can to broadcast." And what I see is that everyone's talking about all these things, but no one is talking about what matters most. Everyone's talking about security and politics and the Biden administration and the State Department and UNWRA and all of this stuff that's around the main issue. And what is the main issue? It's the littlest of all words, but it's the word that means everything. And we're talking about God. We have to bring God into the conversation about what's happening in Israel.

And more than just talking about God, we need to understand, what is the crux of this war? What's actually at the heart of Israel? What is this process of Shivat Tzion? Of this return of the Jewish people to Zion? What is this actually all about? And so, the way to really like bring it to light is to go deep into a Bible Study. And so first, I would absolutely encourage everyone that's here live, that's listening to this later, to take notes, bring out your Tanakh, mark it in your Tanakh so you can reference it later. This, in my opinion, is the axis upon which everything spins in the entire world. And so, let's open up to Ezekiel, chapter 36, start with verse 17-19. And here's what it says:



"Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own ways and deeds..... Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols with which they had defiled it. So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds.

-Ezekiel 36:17-19

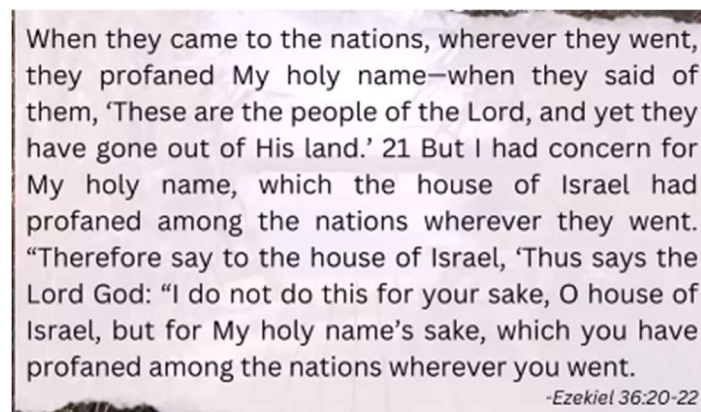
And so, so many people when the Jewish people were in exile, they said, "Ok, the Jews are gone, they're lost. God has forsaken them." For whatever theological reason that they had. They're just a cursed people. Because look at them, they're scattered around the world, they're persecuted, they're being judged by God, obviously God has left

them for someone else, or God doesn't exist at all. But the Jews...they're done. It's over for them.

And that really was the story. There're consequences. There's a covenantal relationship that we have with God that if we don't act according to His ways in the Holy Land, the Holy Land cannot handle unholiness, and it will spit us out. And that is the last two thousand years of Jewish existence.

Now there's another promise in the Bible. It says the Jewish people will always remain. An eternal covenant is an eternal covenant. But the last thing you would want to do to an eternal people is scatter them around the world with no common culture, no common language, no phones, no faxes, no internet, no way to communicate with each other. It's like you want to erase people from the world, bring them out of their land, scatter them across the world and in a few generations, they'll be gone as are every single one of the ancient peoples of the Bible. The Jews, we are the only ancient people alive today. So God made an eternal covenant at that time, all of the peoples of the Bible are lost. Think about that, it's really remarkable. The Canaanites, the Moabites, the Jebusites, the Babylonians, the Persians, I mean even the Egyptians, they're not the Egyptians of old. There are Pharaohs with different gods and different people. Arabs now live in Egypt and they're not the Egyptians of old. All of the ancient peoples and all their civilizations are all gone, but the Jews were promised that they're going to be scattered around the world, but they're going to be eternal.

And then what happens? Let's go to the next verses in Ezekiel. 36, verses 20 and 22:



When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned My holy name—when they said of them, 'These are the people of the Lord, and yet they have gone out of His land.' 21 But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went. "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God: "I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went."
-Ezekiel 36:20-22

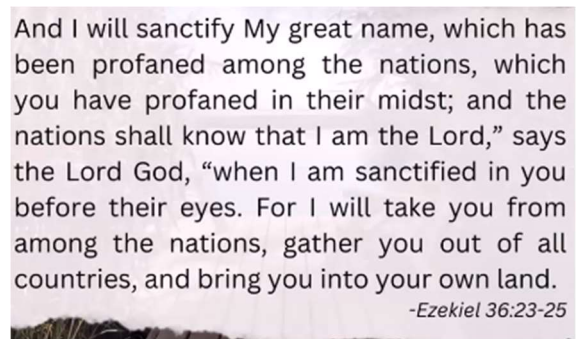
So now, this is stage two. A time is going to come in history where God sees that the scattering of the people of Israel, is in Hebrew, a chilul HaShem, it profanes God's name. Now that's a really, that's not a good word in English. What does the word profane really mean? Chilul HaShem, is the word in Hebrew. What does the word chilul HaShem mean? Chalal means empty.

So what is chilul HaShem? It is an emptying of God from the world.

Cause the nations look at Israel and they're like...that's the chosen people? That's God's chosen people? That doesn't look like a chosen people. Their God is either very weak or their God doesn't exist. And it emptied God's name from the world. And that was a chilul HaShem. And God said, "I created this entire universe and I don't do this right now for you, o house of Israel,

but for My holy Name's sake." That God ultimately created this entire world for the ultimate revelation.

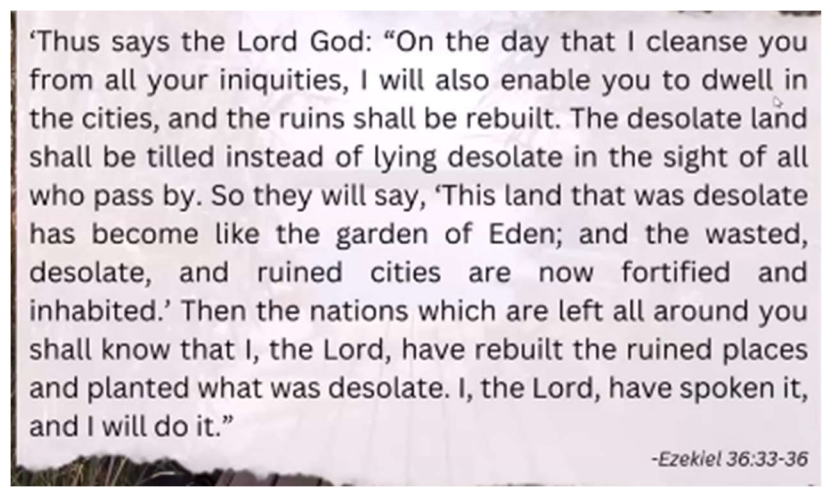
And right now, Israel in the exile is a desecration of God's Name. It empties Him from the world. When you think about the Nazi's in the last generation, it wasn't just that the Nazis were throwing us in the gas chambers. But it was as they were kicking us in that they would say, "Where is your God, Jews, where is your God now? If He's so strong, why doesn't He save you?" And then God said, "A time is going to come, the Nazis will be gone and Israel will be back in their Land." And that will be the ultimate sanctification of God's Name. So let's continue. Ezekiel 36, verses 23 through 25:



And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord," says the Lord God, "when I am sanctified in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.
-Ezekiel 36:23-25

So God is now going to sanctify His Name. He's going to bring His Presence back into the world. So now, let's set up this thing so we can actually understand what is happening in Israel. God chose a singular family, one people that came out of Jacob, b'nei Yisrael, the children of Israel. And He said, "I'm going to put my Name, the children of Israel? I am the God of Israel. And I'm going to

give them the Land of Israel. And the living testimony of God's truth, of God's sovereignty will be expressed when against all odds, the people of Israel return to the Land of Israel. And that will be a kiddush Hashem, that will be a sanctification of God's Name, that will be filling the world with a God consciousness because how did all of these prophecies possibly come true? While the Jews are living in Israel? You can't deny it. So then, now let's look...Ezekiel 36, verses 33 until 36:



'Thus says the Lord God: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.' Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the Lord, have spoken it, and I will do it."
-Ezekiel 36:33-36

That's what this is all about. That's why when people come to the Arugot Farm and they see the desolate, barren, forgotten mountains of King David...and all of a sudden, a Garden of Eden like oasis is emerging in the desert mountains with the most spectacular views and a House of Prayer in the place where prayers were brought into the

world, and they see that that's just a miracle. And what that is, is exactly that. It is a miracle.

And what's happening here, we really need to get. This is what the war in Israel is all about in every way. That's the axis of the war. The entire world history has been spinning around this one idea, this one concept, that the nations will know that HaShem is God. On that day, He will be one and His Name will be one. How will the nations know? When the promise, the foundational covenant with Abraham that He promised this Land to His children. When Israel becomes sovereign in the Land, given to them, that is the testimony. God chose a particular people, He gave them a particular Land. Israel is the only people that can make that claim.

Everyone can claim an indigenous right to the Land. I mean people could just, theoretically... imagine they find an ancient tribe in Africa and they're actually the Romans that were exiled 2,000 years ago, 3,000 years ago. And they walk up to the Vatican and they're like, "We were the indigenous people of Rome, we demand Rome back. And the Vatican would be like, "What? Every land was taken at some point from someone." That's not Israel's claim. It's not that this was our indigenous home Land. This was the Land that God GAVE us as an eternal covenant. And we are here because God gave the Land to the people of Israel and He established His covenant with them through this particular Land. And our covenant is to build a society, to build a country that is so beautiful that it is worthy of being the resting place for His Presence in the world.

So in that way, Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel, is the international testimony of the sovereignty of the living God of Israel. Now what we need to understand that all of the forces that are lining up against Israel, it's all a set-up, it's all a set-up. It's a gift that Israel is about to give the world, as Israel's greatest ally, America, is now turning on her. The odds are being stacked against us. And soon, we will be up against insurmountable challenges that no reason or logic will be able to explain how Israel will ever be able to overcome all of the challenges. The Chamas and the Chezbollah and Iran and America is now turning on them and they're left alone. Only 6 million Jews, surrounded by over a billion Muslims that want to throw them in to the sea. No one is siding with them, they are all alone.

Just know, evil's primary purpose is to deny the existence of God. If we really understand that evil isn't about evil or killing or the transgender agenda, that's not really what evil is. Evil's goal is to deny the existence of God. And then, that can manifest itself in different sort of political movements. I mean, a transgender person, you sort of have to be compassionate for them, they're so confused. But the political engine, the powers behind that movement, those are anti-god movements. The people that are working to take the Land away from Israel, it's all a war against the existence of God. Because the essential role of evil is to convince the world that there is no right or wrong, there is no good and evil, there is no truth because there is no God.

And that's why Zechariah, chapter 8 says:

This is what the LORD says: I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth...

-Zachariah 8:3

It is the living testimony of the living God of Israel. Period. Anyone that comes against the Jews in the Land of Israel are coming against the living testimony of the living God. That's what this is about. So when you draw a land in the sand, it's very clear. You either stand with the people of Israel, that have a

God-given right to the Land of Israel, to be a testimony of the living God of Israel, or you stand against us. And if any war against the people of Israel, is a war against the God of Israel.

But you know what? God will be revealed whether the enemy likes it or not. In this time in history, the stage is being set. For those that have emunah, it's like exciting, it's kind of cool. How is this thing that's going to unfold? For those that don't have emunah, for those that are just like... "I don't know, a lot of instability in the world." Get ready because it's going to get rocking, it's going to be a roller-coaster of a ride. But if you know, that God is the One that's actually driving the bus, you don't need to be the paranoid passenger, being like, "How are we going to get to the end of our destination?" Oh, God, is riding the bus, He is the driver, everything is ok.

We are being set up for David against Goliath. We're being set up for the Maccabees against who? Alexander the Great. Do you understand the descendants of Alexander the Great, were against a group of priests? A little tribe in Judea are going to overthrow and beat the Greek empire? That's a kiddush HaShem. We're going to sanctify the Temple in Jerusalem and the fire is going to go and light up the world?

So that's what's about to happen now. And when we realize that that's actually what this war is about. We are the proof text. We are the living testimony. And so, when we understand that, we cannot...not bring God into this conversation. Because everything that's happening in Israel, all of it is for that purpose. That God's Name will be one and He will be one and the truth will be revealed and people will know that there's good, there's bad, there's evil, there's lies. All that they're trying to convince you that there's no such thing as a boy and a girl right now. They're actually...that's a war against the truth, that movement that's trying so hard to break our brains and say, "There is no truth. Whatever I say is true, whatever I believe is true. I'm going to form this little idol and I believe that that's god." That's what's happening here. And Israel is coming to shatter all of the idols and bring us to a new consciousness where the knowledge of God will cover the world like water covers the sea. How is that going to happen? Because Israel is going to be a living testimony.

And so, with that, as we watch the news and we see the unfolding destiny of Israel, we just need to know, understand that what's actually happening here is God is preparing Israel to represent, to represent Him in the world. And so, it's a process because we are not ready yet. The Jewish people in Israel, we're getting much better. This war has built us into a new people

right now. And we are slowly getting...our shoulders are getting broader to carry the responsibility of actually being the people chosen to carry the yoke of heaven in the world. That's our responsibility, to be the ones that are carrying God's Name that rests on our shoulders.

And so, with that, I want to pass it over to Ari, because people keep on saying, "Jeremy, you want to bring God back into the conversation, what does that really mean?" That's what I just said now, that's what I mean. That's what I want people to know. That this whole war, everything that's happening, is all about bringing God's light and testimony into the world. And to fight the essence of evil, the essence of evil is to just deny the very existence of God. And Israel is the living proof that God is alive and well. And so they hate us. But we're going to win because we are good and they are bad. Alright, thank you, friends. I hope that that was a good Bible study.

Ari

Ok, can you hear me now? Great, great, great. That was an excellent Bible study. And just your last words. First of all, I didn't know that you were going to say what you said, and it really, unbelievably fits into my message that I want to share right now. But also, just your last words, that they are evil and we are good. That is such a mind-altering politically incorrect statement. How could you say, "Well they believe that they're good and you believe that you're evil and everybody believes their own thing." No there is a truth in the world, and that's part of what it means when the prophet says, "We are God's testimony." We are His testimony to the world.

Anyways, so I want to share this because as all of you know, since the war brought out, it's rare that I leave the Farm at night. Without going into details, since October 7th, I've left my family at home...without me on the mountain, maybe twice. Because if I do, it's important to coordinate with the army and increase the patrols and guarding and security and whatever. If I'm going to leave, it's going to be for a very good reason.

But this week, I'm planning to leave the mountain for a reason that I think is very important. I hope it's very important because it's a real trip that I'm taking, it's not just to Jerusalem which is 40 minutes away. It's to Tel Aviv. And the reason that I am going is that I was asked to speak to a group of primarily liberal college students from America that are here in Israel. And as far as I understand, I would be their sole representation of the religious Zionist perspective, speaking on the topic called, "A Vision for the Future State of Israel." So they'll be hearing from the two-state solution types, they'll be hearing from the other side altogether from Jihadist types about why Israel shouldn't exist at all. I'm the only one voice in which there's any chance that they'll be hearing anything about HaShem. And that's a responsibility that I couldn't turn down. And it used to be that if I was ever asked to speak to a group, Jeremy knows this about me, I received it like it's a Divine directive straight from HaShem that I could not say no to. It was like the equivalent of being asked to be the 10th person in a minyan. You know in a prayer quorum,

you just don't say no to that. But as my life situation has shifted, there are times that I've determined that I really needed to say no, such as this situation! Exactly where I would be asked, take an hour and a half trip to Tel Aviv, give a speech, drive an hour 1 ½ back, while leaving my family alone on the mountain during war time at a time that I'm trying to recover from being sick.

So why did I say yes? The reason I said yes was not only because of how important this was to the group. That alone may not have tipped the scales. The reason I said yes was because of how important crafting and articulating this message is, not only for them, but even more so, because of how important it is for me. Because I believe that crafting this speech, immersing myself on this topic and this issue is exactly what I needed for what I need right now...for myself on my own journey. Because it's easy for me to declare that the absolute devastation of northern Gaza, that's how Tehran should have looked on October 8th. You guys know how I believe this. It's easy that I should say that we should have leveled Gaza and immediately started resettling it, because I also believe that that's true. Not only for reasons of justice, but also just recognition that the only true victory in this region and arguably anywhere in the world is the acquisition of the territory that was occupied by your enemy. And even better from which they launched their attack against you.

So we could talk about this stuff, but really, to what end? That's the question, you know, to what end. What are we really doing all of this for? What are we fighting for? Our enemy is such evil incarnate that it's just so easy to exclusively focus on them and their evil without asking ourselves what we're proactively trying to build. What are we trying to do? What's our greater vision here? So it's an intimidating question, but it's exactly what we need to be asking ourselves. At least that's how I feel for me, that's what I feel like I need to be asking myself.

And so that's what I wanted to discuss together on this Fellowship. And I feel fortunate that I feel so close to all of you. Because that closeness, that friendship, as Tabitha encouraged me today, it allows me to broach a subject that I don't get necessarily, have all the answers to. That I haven't figured everything out quite yet. And it allows us to sort of figure it out together. I'm so eager to hear your thoughts and hear from all of you. Which I actually think is quite beautiful. Because one of the areas of the growth and the evolution of the future state of Israel is that it will no longer be a place where Jews run away from persecution and it's no longer a place to merely be a place of refuge from the wrath and hatred of the nations. We saw how far that paradigm got us on October 7th.

On the contrary, Israel will be a light of godliness and inspiration and morality for the entire world, for all the nations. And so there's something beautiful about us sharing, discussing this vision together, of working on it together, of sort of polishing it, of bouncing our ideas off of each other. So eager to hear from all of you. Because I'll tell you, right now in Israel, it feels like we're at a breaking point. It actually feels like we're beyond a breaking point. We're facing a

genocidal, jihadi, Nazi-like enemy in Chamas and in Gaza. But we know of course Chamas is like one singular, relatively small tentacle of the octopus of the global jihad. Led by Iran whose paramount vision in their world and in their life is to wipe Israel off the map. You know sometimes I think that we here in in Israel, we intentionally don't zoom out from Chamas too often. Because subconsciously we recognize that the sheer magnitude and size of the enemy that we are facing that is bent on our destruction is just so great that if we gave it too much thought, we would just throw in the towel and give up hope. At least our current leadership would.



You know, here's a picture of the Middle East. Tabitha, could you put that up? The green are the Arab countries, and the red sliver there, that's Israel! How can anyone look at this map and still come away with the tired and ridiculous narrative that Israel is the bully and Chamas is the underdog, it's just so ridiculous and insane and it's just getting old.

You know, the global jihad, is an enemy possibly greater than we've ever faced in history, possibly! Because we also have right now, America. And I know that this is going to get me in trouble with Jeremy's mother. She hates it when I talk about this. And I should say, she's right. I should say that that it's the current American administration. I really believe it's not the majority of the American people. But it doesn't really matter. Because on the ground, in real time, America as a nation is becoming more acrimonious from the government I'm saying. More adversarial, more hateful, and more existentially dangerous to Israel every single day.

Now I'm not even going to go into giving a comprehensive list because by that point, it would take up the entire Fellowship. But I'll just share a couple of things that they've done you know just over the past week. Such as sanctions. You know I grew up believing that sanctions were a measure taken against other countries in order to make them suffer. In was short of war, but it was in order to make other countries that were bad evil countries, yield to America's will which was good. This is how I always say it, like Iran or Afghanistan or Bosnia or whatever. It was a severe economic and political measure taken against an enemy nation that probably deserved it. Or that's how I believed growing up because I grew up believing that America was fundamentally a force of goodness in the world. I actually have to believe that then it was much more so than it is now. I'm 44, when I was a kid, it was much more so. So if a country was sanctioned, good! Good! They probably deserved it. Never did I imagine that you would sanction Shalom Zickerman on a Sunday morning or (couldn't hear) Levi, that America would sanction individual people...Jews, living in Judea and Samaria. I've never heard of such a thing before. But alas, they are, they are! You know, it seems like...

Jeremy

Can I just like add one idea to that? These are people that they've not been charged with any crime in Israel, they've had no day in court, there's just no proof of any wrong doings of these people. And the American administration has targeted farmers in Judea and Samaria, simple people. And right now, they can't pull money out of their bank account to buy groceries in the store. Of all of the things America could be doing with their time. They removed the sanctions from the Iranian regime, and they're putting sanctions on a farmer in Judea without any trial. It is absolutely insanity.

Ari

Yeah, and it looks like they are only getting started. You know reports are coming in that they're soon going to begin sanctioning soldiers that serve in Judea and Samaria. And if these reports are true, then soldiers in the Israeli army will be personally sanctioned, have their Israeli bank accounts shut down and assets frozen by order of the United States government. All for the crime of defending and protecting their fellow Jews from the Jihadi terrorists that vastly outnumber them in their indigenous homeland. It's so crazy, it's so important to the Biden administration to create this blatantly false and corrupt moral equivalency in Israel's battle of Chamas that they needed to find a villain. They needed to find dangerous settler extremists to balance out the dangerous Chamas extremists. And who do they find? The Jews of Judea. You know, who since October 7th, there have been zero attacks carried out against Arabs. Zero. But that doesn't matter. Because he found the extremists on both sides that he so badly needs to assuage the 40,000 Arab voters in Michigan that he feels that he needs for his re-elect efforts. So there's that.

So then yesterday, another small example, just a little example of the most recent thing of U.S. abuse the United States government demanded that Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken meet privately with IDF chief, Herzi Halevi, right? You see the administration, they're very familiar with the top brass of the IDF and they've identified the weakest links in the government, in the military establishment, they've identified the most ideologically vulnerable or morally compromisable or bribable ministers. And they're seeking to capitalize on their vulnerability, to navigate them, push them away from the Prime Minister, isolate them from the war cabinet and other ministers, to you know inflict their will on the entire country. It is so...it's the work of an adversary that isn't even trying to hide it anymore.

Chutzpa: Blinken Demands to Meet Privately with IDF Chief Halevi

By David Israel · 28 Shevat 5784 - February 7, 2024



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So they demanded that Blinken meet with Herzi Halevi. You know here's a picture...isolated and alone. It's such an aggressive and insulting demand. It's like the disrespect is getting worse and worse. And the question is, how much the nation of Israel is willing to take? Because like I said, it feels like we're past our breaking point. Maybe the government hasn't reached it yet, but the nation has. The nation is past our breaking point. I'm telling you, it's not only showing up in the polls, but I talk to people. No one has anything good to say about America right now. Yeah, there are people that say we have no choice but to take it on the chin because we need America. So we need to endure the humiliation and the disrespect that they're pouring out on us. But no one has anything good to say about America.

You know, I've been envisioning, at least everyone that I've spoken to, maybe there are people that do, that like this sort of thing. But you know, I've sort of been envisioning the nation, much like the children of Israel in the Elah valley, emek h'elah, approximately 3,064 years ago, if my math is right, when just like Jeremy said, when Goliath stood in the valley, towering over the largest of the Israelite soldiers, mocking and insulting the nation of Israel and the God of Israel, and no one stood up to him. And by the way, I don't think that they were cowards. They were standing there as an army of Jewish soldiers, sword and shield, willing to fight and willing to die. I think they just didn't know where to start. They didn't know how to go about it. If anyone accepted Goliath's challenge and they lost, which seemed inevitable in a one-on-one battle, then the entire nation would suffer the slavery of the Philistines. And the horrific way that that would look. And I think they didn't see a practical, realistic, pragmatic way out of this one. And so no one rose to the occasion.

You know, their leadership under Saul was less than inspiring, and the parallels, my friends, between that moment in history and the one in which we find ourselves right now, are overwhelming. I'm not the only one to see it. I'm not the only one to see the parallels between King Saul and Prime Minister Netanyahu. Not to mention by the way, his very name – Benjamin, an illusion to the fact that Saul came from the very tribe. You know, they're both leaders who were not bad people. I really believe they were both leaders who truly cared for their Land and cared for their nation. Because you can't say that about every leader. We've had leaders that I don't believe cared about the Jewish people at all or Israel at all. But I believe that Netanyahu does and I believe that King Saul, he did also. But they were also leaders who were not equipped with the character and the leadership and the faith to truly rise to the occasion and answer the call.

And King David, he answered the calling. He answered the calling without thinking twice. And he was so eager to simply put an end to the gross desecration of God's Name, the humiliating mockery of the people of Israel. It took David to be so zealous and so fearless to be able to have

the expansive state of mind to realize that he didn't need to play by Goliath's rules. He didn't need to adhere to some sort of fictitious international law. Goliath is saying it's a sword, you have to take a sword to the battle. It took David to realize that the only thing we needed to defeat this fierce adversary was not outside of himself. The answer to this seemingly insurmountable challenge the Jewish people were facing was in his own heart. It was in the prism through which he was viewing the entire world. David knew that HaShem was with him. He didn't believe it, he knew it. And when you know HaShem is with you when you know that the darkness and the pain and the challenges in your life are not happening to you, as we always say, but for you, then it changes everything. Your eyes become illuminated with the light of HaShem and the solution – so simple, so achievable, as right at your fingertips, it's been there the whole time.

You know, Malcolm Gladwell, prolific author, he wrote an entire book about it. You know about how David, merely by viewing the challenge differently, entered the battle having won before it even began. You know a sharpshooter versus a sword, Goliath never stood a chance. And so who is the old leader? Who is the old leader stuck in his limited, constricted paradigm of seeing the world? It was Saul. It was King Saul. And the truth is, as we know, that by this point he had already lost his kingship. At the orders of HaShem, the prophet Samuel had already ripped away the kingship from Saul and anointed David. And why? Why did Saul lose the kingship? Now this isn't just a historical review. Ok? Because we could just read it in a dry, historic way. But this is important here. Because I think we're going through a parallel journey right now. A journey from the Kingdom of Saul, to the Kingdom of David. And by understanding what happened then, we can understand what needs to happen now. What's happening now.

And so we see it in detail. You can read it inside, you know the entire sequence of events, that effectively ended Saul's true kingship of Israel, it's in chapter 15 of the first book of Samuel. So Saul is commanded by Samuel who is commanded by HaShem to wipe out Amalek completely, everyone – men, women, children, animals, possessions, everything needed to be burned and destroyed, everything. And familiarly, his top brass convinced him otherwise. While their reasons have changed from then to now, the fact that the entire political and military leadership pressured him not to, well that definitely rings a bell. So it's familiar. Right? And he listened to them and he rationalized it to himself that he listened to them.

And so, and then Samuel arrives and demands to know why Saul didn't adhere to his words. Let's look inside.

And Samuel came to Saul; and Saul said to him, Blessed be you of the Lord; I have performed the commandment of the Lord

And Samuel said, What is the meaning then of this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites; but the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; and the rest we have completely destroyed.

Then Samuel said to Saul, Stay, and I will tell you what the Lord has said to me this night. And he said to him, Speak.

And Samuel said, When you were little in your own sight, were you not made the chief of the tribes of Israel, and the Lord anointed you king over Israel? And the Lord sent you on a journey, and said, Go and completely destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.

Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord, but did fly upon the booty, and did evil in the sight of the Lord?

And Saul said to Samuel, Indeed, I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and have gone the way which the Lord sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have completely destroyed the Amalekites.

But the people took of the booty, sheep and oxen, the best of the devoted property to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.

And Samuel said, Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen better than the fat of rams.

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.

And Saul said to Samuel, I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and your words; because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

And therefore, I beg you, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord.
And Samuel said to Saul, I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.
And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it tore.
And Samuel said to him, The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.

-Samuel 1: 13-28

So I actually wanted to read this inside because it's important to look closely at the words of Samuel to see what really happened here. Because it's conventional wisdom that Saul lost the kingship because he didn't wipe out Amalek. But that is not true. A very pivotal conversation happened that revealed why Saul really lost the kingship.

Notice the repetition of the words, "but the people." But the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen. Right? But the people took the booty of the Lord. It was only after Saul's continual shirking of the blame. It was only after Saul's constant unwillingness to take responsibility for his sin, only then was the kingship ripped away from him.

It's actually reminiscent of the great original sin of Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden. And what is the conventional reason as to why? Ask any school child – because they ate from the tree of knowledge and they were commanded not to. That is why most people believe that they were thrown out of the Garden. But if you look closely, you see that they were not expelled from the Garden immediately after eating from the tree. There was a conversation that happened there. They were only expelled after HaShem asked Adam, why all of a sudden he was covered up and shivering and hiding in the bushes!

Again, let's look inside.

He was thrown out when he blamed Eve! And HaShem said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you that you should not eat?" And the man said, Adam said, the woman you gave me, she gave me and I ate."

And he said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree, which I commanded you that you should not eat?

And the man said, The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.

-Genesis 3:11-12

There, that's it. That's when they were thrown out of the Garden. When Adam, like Saul, or perhaps I should say – Saul like Adam, refused to take ownership. He refused to take responsibility. It's really interesting. This thing can be tracked through all of Tanakh, and through all of Jewish history. I mean most of us were probably raised learning the virtue of taking responsibility for our actions. But that is, I

think, one of just many values. But there's something about this quality, this virtue of taking responsibility that's much more than any other sort of biblical value. There's something about it

that is so central and critical to true leadership. And so critical for all of redemption. The whole world hinges upon it.

And that's why King David and his descendants have the leadership qualities, the character, and the strength to be leaders of Israel, not only in the past, but in the future. To usher in the final redemption. Because King David was a man of truth, a man that took responsibility, a man that owned it.

We see that after King David's seemingly egregious sin against Uriah the Hittite with Bat Sheva, that he's castigated by Nathan the prophet. Here is what he said:

And David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said to David, The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

-II Samuel 12:13

Immediately he takes responsibility, immediately he owns it. Immediately then, almost like reflexively, Nathan says, "You shall not die for that sin."

We see further ownership of his sins and recognition of his sins in the book of Psalms. This is Psalm 51:

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak
and justified when you judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

-Psalm 51:1-6

It goes on, that's verses 1 through 6. So here we are. We're in the fields of the Valley of Elah and we're taunted by Goliath, but who's Goliath? Is it Chamas? Is Goliath Iran? Is Goliath America? Is Goliath the West? We have so many powerful adversaries. Who's Goliath? I've come to believe they are all Goliath. We're being called upon to slay all of the Goliath's who are standing against us. Not slay them like we need to kill them, slay the fear in our own hearts. All the Goliaths that tower over us and mock us. We're being called on to defeat all the Goliath's in our lives.

And as we say with King David, “The key to slaying Goliath is not by garnering alliances with the Perizzites or begging the Gergashites for weapons and chariots. The key to defeating Goliath is taking responsibility and stepping up to the plate with faith and courage.”

And that is the reason I broach this subject. The vision of the future state of Israel is because that’s the root of it all. To usher in the Messianic era and envision the future state of Israel, we need to understand that it’s all established upon the foundation of taking responsibility. Not only for ourselves, but really for the entire world. We could look at America and see their perfidious betrayal and we could see their threats to cut off our weapons in the midst of a war for our survival. They’re threatening to cut off our weapons and our supplies. And we see their threats of not using their veto to defend us in the United Nations. We see their sanctions against Israel and their moral equivocations between the most compassionate army in the world, arguably the history of the world against the most evil. We could legitimately see all of these things and feel like victims. We can look at the betrayal of the world’s superpower that’s supposed to be our friends and we could feel helpless and we could feel like victims.

OR we can take responsibility. We can recognize that we played a very significant role in creating this toxic co-dependent relationship with America. We can recognize that we bear the responsibility for what our relationship with the United States has become – how? How did we bear responsibility? By having put our faith in them! By believing that without their friendship, without their support, without their largess, we couldn’t exist.

Some people say that when you get married, you should feel that you simply wouldn’t be able to live without the other person. But no, that’s a recipe for disaster. When two people come together in a union. When two people that are emotionally self-sufficient come together, they can forge a bond in which they can be even stronger or happier together. But their happiness should not be dependent on one another. The Saul-like leadership of Israel really believes, really believes right now that without America, Israel would be lost. That without America, we couldn’t survive.

But the Israel of King David would immediately put an end to those illusions. He would immediately shatter the idol of America. The King David leader would issue an executive order that would never again Israel accept a dollar of America’s poisonous foreign aid, that Israel could go at it without American aid. And that America really should open up their eyes and recognize the obvious truth, that Israel is on the front-line of the global jihad, of that battle that has its cross hairs on America. That if America realizes that and they want to supply Israel with weapons because it’s in their critical, strategic interests, then fine! But it would not be foreign aid. It would rather be a military expenditure, which has no strings attached. Israel uses the weapons as we see fit. As we need to fight this war and have victory in this war. Israel would clearly state that we are no longer in need of America’s precision, tactical weapons. We aren’t

fighting a war in the Middle West. We're fighting a war in the Middle East. And we're more than capable of making do with what we have. We need America for nothing.

On the other hand, we can recognize that our old friends in America, they actually need OUR help now more than ever before. We can look at them and see that they're coming apart at the seams. That they are being torn apart with hate over the most insane and morally corrupt issues imaginable. Right? Transgenderism and sexual deviance and immorality and just like the superficiality of racial divisions, is just rippling them apart. It's really sad to see. You know, we can be a voice of light and guidance and godliness here. We're so used to positioning ourselves as the victims that we literally don't even know what else to do. Imagine that instead of spending tens of millions of dollars on an ad like this which will be played at the Super Bowl:

(video)

Little Girl

Hi Mr. Cody. Mom, what's that?

Mom

Nothing. Get in the car let's go.



Little girl
Who did that?

Mom
Come on, right now, in, get in right now, let's go?

Little girl

Did you paint it or something?

Mom

Move it, seat belt on right now. Put your seat belt on.

(return home)



Little girl
Hi Mr. Cody.

Mom (notices painted door, whispers thank you)



Ari

An ad that's appealing to the tender mercies of the Gentiles to have compassion on the poor, helpless, victim Jews, that this ad actually paid for by the State of Israel. Look at this one:

(video ad)



In a roaring stadium, their silence is deafening (Super Bowl stadium). 136 people are still being held hostage by Hamas.

Jeremy

Can I tell you about these ads? Can I tell you my opinion about these ads?

Ari

Yes, but I'm afraid I'm going to get cut off again and I really want to...but yes, Jeremy, go ahead, go.

Jeremy

Your reception has been pretty good now. You can breathe, you can speak slow, it's all good. But my opinion is, I don't know how many millions of dollars were paid to buy these ads in the Super Bowl, but I would like to take that money and buy more bullets to go get more terrorists. I think, what is Israel wasting our time? Putting out ads on the Super Bowl? Talk about the ...let's go get our hostages back. Let's go and crush the jihad and save our hostages. Take all of that money and buy more bullets. That's what I think.

Ari

Ok, but if we're going to spend the money on ideas and in trying to appeal to the American people, how about instead of that, we played a Torah teaching during the Super Bowl from Tehila Gimpel? Imagine that.

Jeremy

Yes, that's a good idea. Every Super Bowl needs to have a class from Tehila. I agree with that.

Ari

Or instead of that, we played this final message, given from the holy lips of Ori Mordecai Shany of blessed memory, who was killed on October 7th. He was killed in this fierce, heroic battle against Chamas, a battle which he could have fled from, but he selflessly charged into, slaying by all reports, tens of Chamas terrorists and saving untold numbers of Jewish lives. But anyways, imagine playing this during the Super Bowl.

(video)



Wife

Say something to the nation.

Ori

Dear citizens of Israel, we are in the midst of a clarification process in the Israeli nation. A process in which we see that the waves threatening to flood us seem that they will overwhelm us. But know, citizens of Israel, the good will win! Good has always won. Good won the War of the Four Kings, the good won in the days when the judges ruled.

Wife – that's all.

Ari

How beautiful was that? You know, that was recorded by his wife just months, his wife, a new marriage, just months before he was killed in that battle. You know we're here to be a light of godliness and inspiration. But instead of sharing that, we share guilt. Guilt. We aren't being a nation of Maccabees, we're being a nation of...forgive the stereo-type, a nation of Ashkenazi Jewish grandmothers, guilt-tripping the world. You know how does a Jewish grandmother change a light bulb? She says, "Don't worry about little ole me. I'll just sit here in the dark." That's the joke, because it's true, and we're just guiltig as a country, as a nation, we're guiltig the world, it's embarrassing.

You know, we can also take responsibility for our part in creating this situation in Gaza. You know the Torah tells us that when you conquer the Land, you are to banish your enemies or they'll be a thorn in your eyes. The Torah tells us that there's no pacifying them. That if we're kind to the evil, in the end we'll be evil to the kind. And we can recognize that when we forcefully transferred, actually ethnically cleansed our own people, our own brave, innovative god-fearing pioneers out of Gaza, to surrender it unilaterally to the openly genocidal Chamas, we can recognize that the responsibility for the one day Holocaust we experienced October 7th, lies directly in our laps. We need to own it.

There's an entire world out there. There's a world that is yearning for God in the deepest way and they don't even know it. You know, a world as the prophet Amos foresaw in which there will be a hunger in the Land. But the hunger will not be for bread, and the thirst will not be for water, but to hear the words of God.

And so, my friends, with your blessing, as we move forward, exploring the vision of the future State of Israel and really zooming in, focusing in, I really felt we needed to start with the foundations of it all. The foundation of having the faith and the courage to take responsibility for ourselves, for our nation, for our situation and also for the entire world.

You know, it's not a coincidence, I think that this Fellowship fell out on Parashat Mishpatim, where we actually start getting into the laws, the national societal laws. Modes of morality and codes of ethical behavior. You know, it says you shall distance yourself from falsehood. Falsehood is the antithesis of God, it is the opposite of God. When you speak truth, you're putting your faith in God and letting the cards fall where they may. It says, מִדְּבַר־שֶׁקֶר תִּרְחֹק, From the words of falsehood you shall distance yourself. But the sages of Israel say, שֶׁקֶר־מִדְּבַר, if you speak words of falsehood, you will be distanced (תִּרְחֹק) from HaShem.

Israel is founded on a foundation of truth and of faith and of responsibility. And I want to thank all of you in the Fellowship really for giving me the confidence really to explore these uncharted waters and to continue doing so. I want to continue on this path. I want to thank you for your love and your friendship and I think sometimes many of you recognize the historic role that this Fellowship may be playing in the unfolding story of redemption, I think sometimes even more than we do. And I thank all of you for strengthening us with that. And so as a future, further foreshadowing of the role the nation of Israel is destined to play in the world, it's my great honor to bless all of you with the blessing that Aaron the High Priest blessed the nation of Israel, and the blessing with which I believe, in the great, magnificent days to come, Israel will be blessing the whole world.

Aaronic blessing
(Hebrew)

May God bless you and protect you. May He shine His light upon you, may He give you peace. Amen, my friends. Be in touch.