

Session 183

12 May 2024

Kedoshim – Jeremy Airlifted to the Hospital

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjX-nOkCfY>

Ari

Shalom, my friends, so good to see all of you. Can you hear me? Shalom, shalom. I don't even know where to start this Fellowship. There's a lot happening right now. You may even be wondering why I am here speaking to you and not Jeremy, as expected. So I'm just going to launch directly in and share with you what's happened, as some of you may have heard. Some of you may have heard the news, one way or the other. These things have a way of getting out. But this Friday, meaning just a couple of days ago, right before Shabbat, I hopped over to Jeremy's house to do...you know, all the time...I just go there all the time. I always find an excuse to go there. He finds an excuse to talk to me. And so our wives get mad at us, we should be helping and doing more things.

And so my daughter Dvash was playing with her best friend and role model, Jeremy's youngest daughter, Chen. But I had to pull her away and leave because I knew that Shaena needed my help those last few hours before Shabbat. Those are the most chaotic hours of the week. If there's strife in the Jewish home, very often those are the hours when it shows up. And so I sat down with my kids and they agreed to take a bath only after I read them a book. So right as I was launching in, my phone rings. And it was Eden, Jeremy's 14-year-old daughter, calling me. And I picked up and she was screaming in sheer panic and terror. I didn't need to hear anything more than that. I sprinted out of the house, I pulled out my gun, I chambered around, charging towards Jeremy's house, thinking that they were being attacked.

And as I am approaching the front door, Tehila came out looking way too relaxed for that to be happening. So I realized that whatever crisis is happening, must be happening somewhere else. And I had a faint recollection that Jeremy said that they were taking out the horses for a ride which they often do before Shabbat. So I screamed to Tehila, I said, "Get in the car," which she did, she's like calling the emergency number. I think at that point, we could already hear Eden's screams in the distance. That's true. And so, knowing that she was on her way, I called the emergency numbers. I told them to send out everything they had. I just knew something very real was happening. I still didn't definitely know what we were dealing with yet. I ran back to the house, grabbed my M16, the keys to the car, and jumped in, and drove on the main road to the nearby village.

And on the way there, I came upon Tehila and she was on her knees in front of Jeremy who was lying on the ground. And it appeared she was giving him some sort of chest compressions. That's the way it appeared to me. And I jumped out of the car and saw Eden with hysterical tears, with blood all over her shirt. And I ran over, or lunged forward to see Jeremy. And I'm

not going to sanitize this for you. I thought he was dead. His face was white, his eyes were rolled back, his head on the side was cut open and there was lots of blood. His eyes were fluttering, I started slapping him in the face, trying to wake him up. And then he sort of came to, and then gone, and that was an unbelievable moment. And the ambulance showed up shortly thereafter. It seemed like forever.

And then I took Eden away to get the other kids. Tehila ran out of the house panicked, and they must have been panicking and not knowing what's going on. So I was just trying to stay calm and collected and strong for his children. Although at the time, the very foundations of my world were on fire. And we got to the house and the kids had barricaded themselves in the safe room with all the doors locked, and they were screaming their brains out and screaming and weeping and crying. I couldn't get into any of the doors. I was about to break through. Eden ended up getting in in a different way and pulled them out. And yeah, it was a lot. You know, I brought them into the house and I lied to their faces. I don't like to ever like to lie, but I felt it was the right thing to do in that moment. I told them, I was like, "Your abba is going to be ok," even though in my heart he may be dead at the moment, at the time that I'm saying this. I said, "But he may have a broken arm, but we'll have to wait and see."

I thought that would calm down, but they panicked! "What a broken arm? Oh my, God, he has a broken arm!" Anyway, Eden was unbelievable, the 14-year-old girl that was just there seeing what she thought was her father dying right before her. She was able to collect herself for the sake of her little siblings. The girls is 14 years old, and she was so strong, she was stronger than I was at that time, it really felt like that. I'll just never forget that. And so I brought them to my house, and then I high-tailed it back over to see a team of doctors and medics and first-responders, and they were all crowded around him. And I heard one of them say that the helicopter would be landing in three minutes and they called the most elite rescue team in the IDF called Shesh, Shesh, Tesha, 6-6-9. Apparently, they determined that every moment counts here and they needed to air-lift him. I mean the whole thing was so surreal, and I was praying with all of my heart, I mean ALL of my heart.

And the helicopter landed, and they didn't know what they were landing, they set up a safe perimeter and the soldiers jumped out. And the doctors were grilling Eden about what happened to know what they were dealing with. She explained that her and Jeremy were on the two horses. Jeremy was on Hector, the big horse, and the relatively new baby horse jumped in front of Hector, the horse that Jeremy was on, causing Hector to fly forward. Tehila is in the room with me. If I have any of this wrong, she'll hopefully correct it. But Hector flew forward and fell forward onto the side, slamming Jeremy onto the rocks and falling on top of Jeremy. And you know, I'm just telling you by natural law, he should be dead right now. And it would have been the worst Shabbat of my life and I was bracing for that. Had I not heard from Tehila who flew in the helicopter with Jeremy to the hospital, she called before Shabbat, she said,

“He’s conscious. He said, ‘Say hi to Ari,’” he said, ‘Hi Ari.’” Of course, the minute I heard his voice, I burst out in tears.

Anyways, we spent Shabbat on the Farm, we didn’t know what was going on with him, what was going on with them. Jeremy’s parents and his kids and his brother, and his nephew, and their guests...all the guests that they were going to have for Shabbat were at our table for the meals, which was wonderful, really, really wonderful that we were able to be there for each other and with each other. It was a Shabbat filled with prayers and hope and healing and a lot of tears. A lot, a lot of gratitude. I tried to keep focusing on just how grateful. I said this week, the week of Parashat Kedoshim, every year I’m pronouncing that this is Jeremy Gimpel’s life celebration.

Anyways, unbelievably, they released him from the hospital after Shabbat, which I was quite distressed about. Because when I saw him, it was clear to me that he should be in the hospital. What do I know? I don’t know anything. But it certainly felt to me that he should have been there for at least a few more days of observation. You know, he’s even better now, but his memory is still spotty. He can barely walk, and he only has moments here and there, but it’s absolute miracles. Anyways, I took a few pictures, knowing that he would have wanted me to. And it was only of course when I wasn’t critically necessary at the moment. And Tehila gave me her blessing to share these with you, here on the Fellowship and not for public release.



Ok, so I just sort of haphazardly put those together. You probably never thought when you joined this Fellowship, that you’d be seeing Rabbi Jeremy Gimpel in his underwear. But Tehila gave me a thumbs up, I don’t know if Jeremy would have. But I know that he would have wanted you to all be really experiencing and knowing what’s happening right now.

And it was really very powerful, what happened. The entire village just jumped into action. And there was this team of women there at the village that were social workers that immediately sat down with Jeremy's children and spoke with them and comforted them. And everybody just jumped into action. The nation of Israel is so beautiful. And called Tabitha, of course, immediately and let her know.

Anyways, I'm going to introduce Tehila. I wanted her to share with you. But I wanted to start with a prayer for Jeremy, and you know, I feel selfish because I know what's happening in Israel right now. I know about the soldiers, four that were killed over Shabbat, that we're going to be mourning right now, who are mourning on Yom HaZikaron. But also we just have to be real, and Jeremy is not my best friend, he's my brother. And this was just very, very, very painful and difficult. So I want to pray for him to start with.

HaShem, please have compassion on Your loyal servant, Jeremy, Yermiyahu Binyamin ben Liora. He needs Your healing, HaShem. Our hearts are filled with over-whelming gratitude that You spared his life and You saved him from death. We still need him, HaShem, His family needs him, the Jewish people need him, the whole world needs him. He's a special light, and he shares, and he shines, and we need that light right now. The whole world needs him. Please, HaShem, shower him with healing – healing of the soul, healing of his body. Bring him back to us here on the Fellowship family with strength and vigor and zeal and light. Thank you, HaShem, amen.

Ok, so the truth is, the honest truth is, I wasn't even sure about this Fellowship, whether I'd be able to...I didn't even have a voice for much of Shabbat. I didn't know if I'd have a voice right now. And I just knew that Jeremy wouldn't want this Fellowship not to happen because of that, and he would want us to come together, even though it would look different. And he would have just said, he would have been like, "Ari, they're your family, they're our friends, you don't need to have it perfect, you don't need to have anything great to say. Just come together." I just knew it, I just knew that's what he would say. And so, here we are.

And I have more that I want to share with you. And I also want to take this opportunity to open up a Fellowship Connection, that's what Tabitha said we should do, so we're going to do that soon. So we're going to do that later. But before any of that, it's my honor to introduce, Tehila. Until the day I die, I will not know what type of other worldly material Tehila is made of. I don't know if it's titanium alloy. I don't know if it's from crypton, or what it is, but it's not from this earthly realm. She just had such a strength and a resolve and cool-headedness that she displayed during that hour or so. It's something I will never forget. Tehila, here you are.

Tehila

Hi everybody! You guys hear me? Wave if you hear me? Ok. Hi. So, so much that I have to be grateful for. I heard Ari giving over really the main points of the story. You know, I'll start from the end because you guys know the beginning. Jeremy woke up, he hasn't been awake very

much, maybe in the last 48 hours, he's been awake probably an aggregate, of maybe a half an hour of being awake, just maybe for a minute at a time. But he opened his eyes right before I came here and he said to me, "What day is it?" And I said, "Sunday." He goes, "Ok, I'm getting up to do the Fellowship." The main thing he was worried about was being with our family, with the Fellowship, so he had prepared and he wanted to talk about Yom Ha'atzmaut, and he goes, "I can do it, I can do it," and then he fell back asleep.

So I told him, "Jeremy, don't worry. I will go and update our friends how much you love them and that even in your complete state of semi-consciousness and hardly remembering your name, you still remembered our beloved Fellowship." And that I thought was really meaningful. And so, that gave me the strength, even though I'm a little bit wiped out. That gave me the strength to get up and say, ok, if he wants that, that's what I'm going to do.

So, you know, usually before Independence Day, we want to just be talking about our gratitude for having the State of Israel. Right now, we're in our own personal kind of state of gratitude, but I'll try to connect everything together. So as Ari said, he came running in front of our house, and to me, it was obvious...what happened was, Eden had called him from Jeremy's phone, and then he says to me, "Where's Eden? Where's Eden?" And I said to him, "Oh don't worry, she's out riding with Jeremy." I was totally calm. And then he said, "No, she's screaming." And then I heard her screams, and then I pulled out my gun and got in the car and I screamed to the children, and I said to the children, "Get in the house." Because the only reason that Jeremy would not be taking care of her was if something happened. And he's such an experienced rider, it never even occurred to me that he could have had a horse-back riding accident. I thought, God-forbid, he'd been attacked and that she had somehow gotten away.

And so, I went out to go try to do what needed to be done and I told the kids to lock themselves in the house, the younger children. And so, thank God, they were so bright and so put together, they had the presence of mind to even take an army walkie talkie that connects to the military and to take a phone into the safe-room and then barricaded the door to the point that a grown man like Ari could not get in. So I was so proud, I was so proud of their presence of mind, even in such scary situation. And to imagine, unfortunately the light-bulb had blown out in our safe-room and I didn't know that, and so they were sitting, four children in the pitch black darkness, barricaded in a room together, just kind of holding onto each other for dear life. So that was really...they're only 8 and 10. So that was really...I was really very, very proud of them.

And then when I got to Jeremy, it was just...even in that place, I had a feeling, even though it looked so bad, I had a feeling that it was ok. Because I know that he just has so much more to give and so much to do. And you know, so I was, thank God, I was able to do what needed to be done and speak to the emergency services, and they were explaining to me what to do and how to take care of Jeremy until the ambulance arrived. And then, the first ambulance arrived and they were very nervous about his situation. And so they brought an intensive care ambulance.

They put him in the intensive care ambulance. They were worried about him, and so they called a helicopter. It was quite dramatic. And then, I got to really see what a good friend Ari is, because he was so distressed over Jeremy that half the medics were taking care of Jeremy and half of them had to be taking care of Ari because he was so nervous.

Ari

It wasn't exactly...

Tehila

Ok, I'm just kidding, Ari's in the background saying that he was very manly, he was very manly and kept it together. Everyone nod in agreement. Yes, see, Ari kept it together. No Ari was wonderful and Ari and Shaena both took care of our children the whole Shabbat and I don't know what we would do if we did not have such wonderful friends who truly are like brothers and sisters to us.

And then, we were in the helicopter, and it was really quite amazing. I was just kind of like...I was yelling at Jeremy the whole ride. I said, "You better stay alive so I can kill you cause for riding without a helmet. Because I tell you to ride with a helmet. You better stay alive so that I can get to you. And you'll be lucky if I get to you first because once your mom finds you, then she's really going to kill you. So you better stay alive."

And I was actually able to fly over the Temple Mount. We were able to fly over the Temple Mount. And I was able to be saying Psalms over Jeremy, kind of holding onto him and begging him to just stay away from the light while we were flying over the Temple Mount. And it was really quite remarkable because he was completely unconscious, like not responsive at all. And then we got to the hospital, to the trauma ward, and they said, "Well, what's his name and his ID number?" And I start answering and before I could finish answering, he said, "Jeremy Gimpel, 309..." He started rattling off. It was like he just all of a sudden woke up and then fell back asleep. But once he said that, we knew that he was basically ok, thank God.

And they put him into a CT and amazingly because he had such a severe head injury, they did not see any brain damage, thank God, they did a full CT on his organs because he was really beat up. He's really, really mashed up on his body. But thank God, they couldn't find any organ damage. And so, we're just unbelievably, unbelievably grateful and filled with just awe at HaShem's miraculous saving of him. When Eden was there with him, she was holding him in her arms and she thought that that was it. And it was really to go from that to him being able to speak and already be home, they released him home last night. And for him to already be home from the situation that he was in, nobody could believe that he...the people who were there with us, the ambulance driver called us to see how he's doing and she said, "What hospital is he in?" And I said, "He's home." And she could not believe from seeing him strewn

on the ground in a puddle of blood, and to now be home and in his bed is just beyond, beyond, beyond. So we have so much to be grateful for.

And so, I just wanted to share a few things that kind of came to me through all of this. When you're in the hospital, you have a little bit of time on your hands. Especially when you're with a very drowsy man and it's Shabbat and you're not on the internet, so there's a lot of time to think. So I wanted to share with you a few things that came to me, because I wasn't obviously able to prepare a well-crafted bar Torah of all of my ideas on the sages for the upcoming holiday. But you guys will have to bear with me and tolerate me, whatever I can manage.

You know, being in the hospital, I'm a big fan of Israeli medicine and doctors and I think that we have a wonderful medical system. But I bless everyone in Israel that you never have to end up in the hospital on Shabbat because all the really smart doctors go home to be with their families, and you're kind of left with the first year interns. And every question you ask them, they're like, "Ummm...I don't know." And they all just sort of look very confused. And it was very hard, like he had a bleeding gash in his arm for like seven hours and I'm like, "Is somebody going to think about the bleeding gash at some point?" And so, it was not much attention.

Eventually they sewed up his bleeding gashes, but it took quite many more hours than one would expect because it looked like they were all scratching their heads, like trying to figure out what to do and calling their bosses from their Shabbat tables to get instructions. It was not very comforting, but at the same time, what was so interesting was to be in...I mean I don't know what it's like in hospitals elsewhere, but to be in a Jewish Israeli hospital on Shabbat is of the most awe-inspiring and remarkable experiences that a person can experience because of the amount of chesed, the amount of just kindness that is going on there.

And a few things really struck me in those moments. First of all, it struck me...I always try to see how things connect to our Torah portion. And we were reading Torah portion of Kedoshim, and how many times in yesterday's portion does it mention honoring your parents. And literally, almost everybody in the emergency room was either a parent with their child, or a child with their parents. And that bond that you see, I think that the people next to us, I think that we're going to be bonded forever, they have a daughter there who is 27 years old, who is anorexic, to the point of being, God-forbid, at death's door. Like she can barely...she's barely alive from the severity of her suffering. And the parents are so dedicated to her. They are with her every moment and they never leave her.

And then the next door you see, children that are that dedicated to their parents. And just watching the loving kindness between everybody in the ward, like even as we're all trying to get the doctor's attention. Jeremy, they had to cut off his clothes in order to tend to all of his

wounds in the ambulance. And there was literally a Jew there who took the clothes off his body to give Jeremy clothing to wear. It was so incredible.

And then you have entire families who come to...I thank God, not had to spend a lot of time in the hospital so I wasn't really aware of this, but entire families that come with their children and live in the hospital on Shabbat in order to bring food to all the people, like to make Shabbat, and to make for them kiddush and to light candles for them and to do all of the Shabbat meal, the songs, and give people a feeling of Shabbat. And they come there, like that is their Shabbat every week. They come and spend Shabbat there. And it was just so remarkable to see each person, within their capacity, within their suffering, and you say to yourself, "To me it felt like a parable, like a microcosm to our generation, kind of thinking about the state of Israel as we're coming into Yom Ha'Atzmaut. It was like, you're looking at the kindest, most unbelievable people.

And then this like coterie of really incompetent doctors leading the way. And I said it reminded me so much of Israel. Because you see the amount of kindness and the kind of generation and the self-sacrifice of our young people. And parents having to take care of their wounded children and children having to bury their parents. And people at the greatest level of faith that we've been seeing in this current war that we're fighting. And you say, there has never been...has there ever been such a courageous generation in our history of self-sacrifice and bravery and like the most unbelievable generation. And then you look at the leaders and they all kind of look like those young first year doctors. Kind of hesitant and like lacking faith and I was like, "Wow, this hospital is just like the perfect kind of microcosm of what we're experiencing as we're coming on Independence Day."

And in some ways, that's depressing because you say like how did we end up with these leaders that we deserve so much better. Where is their faith, where is their Torah? And you look at this generation, there's more people learning Torah than at any previous generation in history. And you see that love and the dedication and the kindness. And then you see our leaders, and that can kind of get you down.

And then I was sitting in the...there's a synagogue in the hospital. And I just pulled the first book off of the shelf that I saw that looked interesting. And it brought a beautiful midrash on this coming week's parsha. There's a midrash that says, in this coming week's parsha of Emor, where Moshe addresses the priests and gives them their instructions on how to do their work in the Tabernacle, the midrash says that at that moment, Moshe was given a vision by God, seeing...it says, "Every generation and their kings, every generation and their leaders, every generation and their judges, every generation and their princes..." And it keeps going on like this.

And the Chasidic masters ask, "Why does the Midrash keep saying every generation and their leaders, every generation and their judges. They could have said, 'They saw every generation

and their judges, their kings, their princes.' Why does the sentence keep repeating every generation AND their leaders, every generation AND their princes?"

He said, "Because it goes together. It's an inverse relationship. The lower the level of the generation, the greater the leader they need." So when we have not so many people learning Torah and the simple generation, we merit to have King David. We merited to have the sages of the Mishnah and the Talmud. But the greater the generation comes, will actually be a sign that our generation is rising and coming closer to the times of redemption because we don't need King David. Meaning, of course we all yearn for King David, but it will be like HaShem's sign that as we grow in our Torah, we're going to be able to come back to that place...HaShem always like, when the Jews in the times of Samuel asked for a king, HaShem said, "Don't worry Samuel. They're not rejecting you, they're rejecting me, because they want to serve a leader, rather than serving me directly."

So as the generation grows in their connection with HaShem, we don't need a leader to worship, actually our leaders are going to become less and less important, less and less impressive, because we're going to be able to have that connection directly with HaShem. So I thought from that kind of place of despondence, it gave me a little bit...I felt like that was a little spice cart that I was able to find that book and find that message coming in on these days, these days of Memorial Day and of Independence Day. Because it's like Independence Day is what we're coming on.

What does it mean to be independent? Maybe it's also that we're going to grow. It's our responsibility as each individual to grow in our relationship with HaShem because HaShem's dream for us is not that one day we'll have a really powerful government that will take care of us and tell us what to do. HaShem's dream for us is eventually to all be in a direct connection with Him, all be His direct servants, so we need to perhaps make our leaders a little bit less impressive so that we have to develop that within ourselves, that leadership within ourselves. It's exactly what I saw in the hospital. If the doctor's not coming to help, if the doctor wasn't bringing Jeremy clothes, somebody took the clothes off of his back to help him. And like, that person grew in their connection with HaShem by that kindness, and he grew in receiving that kindness. And returning kindness to them in whatever way we could. So perhaps that's like...for me that was the message I took also in our personal situation, but also into these special days.

Another thing that I wanted to share, in coming home, I had this remarkable moment. Noam, my eight-year-old came and told me that he really wants to speak with me. And I said, "Well, you know, I just go home." He said, "I really need to speak with you." And you know, when your kid says that...I just came home from the hospital, I said, "Ok, he really needs to speak with me, I'm going in, he's only eight years old. This whole thing was obviously very terrifying for him."

And what he said was so beautiful that I actually asked him to stop for a moment and I recorded it and I asked him permission to play it for the Fellowship.

(audio)



Tehila

I'm just talking with Noam about happened yesterday when Jeremy's accident and he just told me this story and I wanted to record it because it was just so beautiful the way he was telling it to me.

Noam

So it's just a big nes that like because me and Eden were fighting to see who would go first on the horse. And if I go first, Abba would be in trouble because I don't really have anything, I'm too small to do something about it. Eden is like big enough to call people and do that...so something bad would happen. And like he'll be way more worse.

Tehila

So you actually saved Abba's life by...

Noam

...one little mitzvah saved the life of a person.

Tehila

So by doing a mitzvah, you saved the life of your own father, is that crazy? Like you never realized the power of doing one small act of kindness. Like one little chesed can just change your entire...somebody's entire life. Like it happens to us so many times, we don't even know. And in this case, you actually found out. That it could be like sometimes you let somebody, you know, go ahead of you in the line and then something good happens to them later, or something bad doesn't happen to them later. Because like you don't always know about the thing. Here you were able to see it and it's kind of like a lesson for life. All the time, whenever you do something kind for somebody, you never know how far that can go and all of the amazing things that that can do. Right?

Noam

Right, like one little, little, little mitzvah...just like letting her go first, and such a big nes (miracle) from such a little thing.

Tehila

That's crazy, wow. (end)

Thanks, Tabitha, so he mixed in some Hebrew and some English there, but I think you guys got the gist of it. He was saying that he had wanted to go first on the horse and he gave up his turn for Eden because he wanted to be kind to her. And he said, had he gone first...Eden was able to call us and call for help and she knew to put pressure on his head wound to try to stop the bleeding. And he would have been...he wouldn't have known what to do and he was able to recognize them himself and he just said...the first thing he said when I got home...I thought he would just say, "I missed you, it was hard without you on Shabbat." The first thing he wanted to say was that he felt like HaShem had turned everything to be for the best and that by him doing that one act of kindness, that he had really saved his father. And he wanted to say that that's a lesson for life. That even when something seems like such a small...following a small commandment, doing even the smallest act of kindness to another person, you don't really know how far that can go. That's what he wanted to tell me and I was just so proud of him that he was able to see in this situation...like imagine the terror that he had been through. He didn't say to me, "Oh Ima, I was so scared when I was in the dark, in the saferoom," or "I was so upset that Abba got hurt." He just wanted to tell me that he knew that doing a small act of kindness can save a person and do things that HaShem has a plan in everything and that HaShem can bring this amazing miracle just from one small act of kindness.

So I wanted to share that with you because I just thought that that was absolutely beautiful. And I think that's it. That's what I have to say. And I'm going to bring Ari back on. I wanted you to thank you guys. I'm sure that you're going to be keeping Jeremy in your prayers. And please pray that my children have a quick recovery from this traumatic that they're dealing with. We're trying to talk it out with them and help them, but we appreciate all of your prayers for them to be able to bounce back as minimally scarred and with good lessons. We're amazingly grateful and grateful to have you guys to share this with and to sort of proclaim our gratitude to HaShem in your presence.

And so from here, I think Ari has a few more things that he wants to say and then maybe we'll go and do some questions and answers. This is my first time on Fellowship Connect and so I'm very excited for that as well.

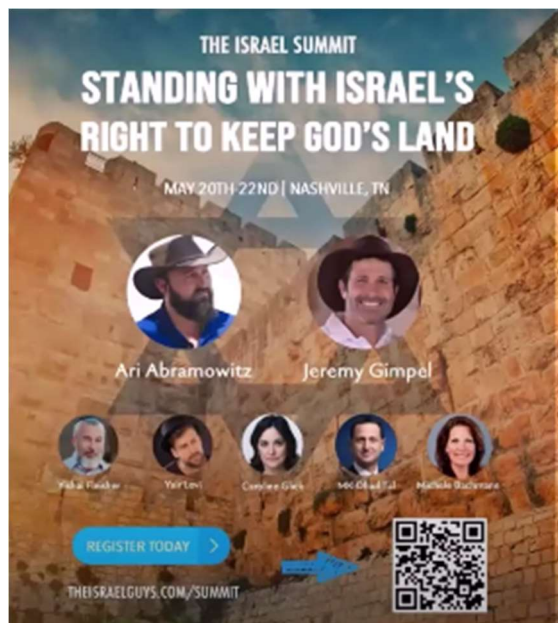
Ari

How powerful was that? I mean, it's just so...they're such a special, special family. I feel so grateful that I'm able to raise my kids with her children as role models, that they're able to look up to. Truly very powerful.

So, now that the dust is settling, there are just a few ideas I wanted to share and then we're going to open up the Fellowship Connection. You know, it's looking like we're in the clear. I think...I've been reluctant to accept that he's going to live. You know, I think it was just...I was a little afraid to really allow myself to believe it because I thought he was dead. So now that the dust is settling, and we're starting to look at life now and what's it looking like.

So there's a number of big events that are coming up, Tehila tell me if I'm wrong, that simply can't take place. Jeremy's going to fly to England...no chance. She's saying, "No chance." To be flying to England later this week to speak to a number of Jewish communities there in England. I can't imagine that he would be able to...but then again, I couldn't imagine that he would be alive, let alone released to his house. So watch me be wrong and he's giving a speech to hundreds of British Jews three days from now, what do I know. But it was just hard for me.

Tehila said he's a train wreck. And you know, I'm an Abramowitz. Abramowitz's speak with some...what's the word I'm looking for? Hyperbole? A little bit of exaggeration? Tehila doesn't. And so she said a train wreck and when I saw him, I just couldn't imagine that there's any way...that it any other than medical negligence for him to have been released from the hospital in that condition. He just looked so bad. Anyways, but Jeremy was going to go to England, and then we were going to meet in Nashville at the Israel Summit, organized by our beloved friends the Waller's and HaYovel.



Here's a picture of the flyer that they send us. And you know, I was going to be a key note speaker with Ambassador David Friedman. And there's just incredible people, Yishai Fleisher, Michele Bachman, I can't see the faces, but I remember there's a lot of really awesome, incredible people. And you know, we were going to meet there.

And I haven't left Israel for years, for years. And I was quite nervous about the prospect of leaving now. Why? Because I'm just always so afraid that if I were to leave Israel, the gates would be shut and I would be stuck over there. But I just have so much love for the Waller's and I feel that this righteous remnant of the nations that are truly

with us and supporting us and loving us...many which are in this Fellowship and I'm looking at your faces right now. I feel like you're just so good, and you share so much light and love and support. And I feel like maybe with all that's happening, you're strengthening us, but maybe you need some strengthening and love thrown your way, too. It can't be easy to be so many of you, I know there are many, many Jews in this Fellowship, but we have many non-Jews, also.

And so...I'm sure that he won't be able to join us at this Israel Summit. And then, last night I get the message...I think it was last night. My head is spinning. But last night I get the message from Josh Waller from HaYovel, that the hotel that's hosting the event has been barraged by hate messages and threats. And that the hotel just didn't have the strength, the will, the

fortitude to stand up to it, and they cancelled the event. You know, it's hard for me to be mad at the hotel. They're a business...they're like, what's going on? They didn't have it in them.

So knowing the Waller's like I do, it was very clear that they were not just going to say, "Oh well, that's that." And just close up shop. It's not them. As a matter of fact, I knew what they were going to do, which was use this as an opportunity to get more people to come to the event. Get a bigger venue. And they're reaching out to Congressmen and politicians and leaders, and I have zero doubt that they're looking for an even larger venue to go with us, even stronger.

But then, just hours later, I received a message from my travel agent, cause I got a travel agent because I travel so infrequently I forgot how to even book a ticket. So from the travel agent, the United Airlines cancelled my flight to the U.S. Not only my flight, but ALL flights to the U.S. And it's funny because I was just talking to Yishai Fleisher. I said, "Maybe we're on the same flight." He said, "Yeah, I'm flying El Al." He said, "I'm flying United." He said, "I never fly anything but El Al. Number one, when the time comes, El Al is the only one that's going to be flying. And I don't want to be stuck over there. And number two, they're my airlines."

And so, I felt a little bit guilty about that. I didn't really reflect on that. Anyways, the travel agent said that it doesn't appear that there are any tickets to get to Nashville in any way, through any country, even through other countries. All the flights are cancelled. And so that in summation...the barraging of the hotel, the hotel cancelling the event, my ticket being cancelled, that is what it is to be a Jew in the world today.

And I just can't help but see that there is a really strong connection to the Torah portion of the week called Kedoshim which starts with the words, "You shall be holy to HaShem, your God." And then the portion launches onto various commandments and guidelines and what it means to be holy. And the truth is...maybe it's an excuse, but if I had the normal time to immerse myself in the Torah portion this weekend over Shabbat, I would have much more to share. But the truth is, we don't really need to zoom in with such high resolution to see what this is all about right now. Because the sages teach us, what does it mean to be holy? One of the key features of holiness, if not the essence of it, is separateness. Those that speak biblical Hebrew know that when you mikadesh something, it means you set it aside. When you take a wife, it's called kidushim because she is now set aside, she's been sanctified...from all the other women in the world, she's sanctified to you. She's been separated from all the other men.

What I see happening now is that HaShem is telling us is "Kidoshim to you." Usually you read that as HaShem was telling us, this is what I expect of you, that you should be holy. But at this moment in history, it doesn't feel like this is a commandment from HaShem and something that we are supposed to do. It feels like HaShem is telling us what HE is doing to US right now. He's saying, "Kiddoshim to you. You, my people, my nation, you're holy. I'm setting you aside right

now. You're all alone." Never before in my lifetime has it felt like we are more isolated and alone, and it's only becoming more so and more so every single day.

And so that's what I see. Between October 7th and the coming of Mashiach, which I really believe to be soon. We're in those times right now, these are times of refinement. And it's a time of opportunity for those who see it. An opportunity, really in some ways, primarily for the nations of the world, to attach themselves to the House of Israel. Because there's no reason to attach yourself to the House of Israel. I think most people that are siding with Chamas, it's from one of those very, visceral, basic, playground types of things. You see a crazy, insane, vicious bully, beating the heck out of someone and now all the kids are like, "Yeah, I'm on his side," in hopes that the bully is not going to do that to them. People are just so terrified of this insane, virulent, global jihad that they're just siding with them in the hope that they'll be able to dodge that bullet. Not knowing that of course it's going to be coming for them.

But the only reason to stand with this small nation, the small nation of Israel, very often the nation of Israel that has people standing with us and then we turn and say, "I don't know. Are they trying to convert us? Are they our friends that are standing with us against all the nations of the world?" We don't even have the most basic survival instinct. You know, and so to stand with Israel now, there's only one reason to do it. Because you know that there is a truth in the world, you know there is a God in the world, and you fear God more than you fear man. And that's it.

And that's why the prophet Zechariah says "And the righteous of the nations will attach themselves to the house of Israel on that day and be for me a nation." I believe so many of you in this Fellowship who are not Jews, or I know all the titles are very confusing. But you know who you are. And what's happening now is you're very much, quite definitionally attaching yourselves to the House of Israel. And then God says, "You'll be for me like a nation." Meaning there is a joining and a merging of some sort that's happening.

And here we go into Yom HaZikaron now, as if we need more reasons to cry, more reasons to weep. But I know that so many of you are going to be doing what you can to participate, whether it's virtually or in any other way, with the families, and with the people of Israel who are mourning this year, so many mourning in a deeper way than I can ever remember us mourning before. For everyone whose died, not only the soldiers, but just if you died for being a Jew in the Land of Israel. We mourn them, we mourn those martyrs...you know in some ways, the word martyr, I feel like I don't like saying it. Because it's been so co-opted by Chamas to be associated with like a suicide bomber, with viciousness. But really it's not what it is. A martyr is someone who has given their life for the nation, for the people of Israel, and these are people who have not killed others, but who have been killed, who have been murdered just because they're Jews living in the Land of Israel, furthering the story of the nation of Israel.

And so we're going to have a Fellowship Connection right now. But I just want to say that afterwards...ok, so Tehila has a few more things to say. So Tehila is going to speak and then we are going to have a Fellowship Connection. And I hope that some of you can find it in your hearts some things that you would want to share. And then afterwards, for those of you that want to stay, there's a speech I gave a couple of years ago on Ammunition Hill, from very deep in my heart. I felt like God was really in many ways speaking through me. And so we're going to play that for those who want to connect in that way after the Fellowship Connection. But first, let me just give it over to Tehila.

Tehila

Hi guys again, I'm so stupid, I forgot one more thing I wanted to tell you. So, you know Jeremy said to me, as I said in the beginning, he said to me, "Oh no, it's Sunday. I have to get up and do the Fellowship." And then promptly fell back asleep. And so, I had the idea to go through his phone and I know that there's a section on his phone where he writes himself little written notes and voicemails of things he wants to talk with you guys about. And so a lot of them I don't really understand because it's just his shorthand of what he's planning. But then he left himself this little voice recording. And I thought that it was so timely, that I thought maybe I would...I hope that he doesn't get mad at me because it was just a note to himself, but I just asked Tabitha if she could play it. And this will be your message from Jeremy.

Jeremy (audio)

Mashiach now. The power of living in that expectation is like, if Mashiach is really coming tomorrow, like let's get our act together. Let's take our game up a notch. If that's really happening, can we believe that? Can we trust in that? Can we hope in that? Like expect that. That's what that question is, that's why Mashiach now is so important. Like the Rebbe was teaching us how to be. It didn't matter if Mashiach came. It matters that we believe that he was coming imminently and we lived our lives accordingly.

Tehila

Isn't that beautiful? And what was so remarkable is that, I know that's something that Jeremy wanted to share with you this week and he was saying it in the context of the Lubavitcher Rebbe would always talk about, "We want Mashiach now," and our sages always say, "No, when a person dies, what are they asked in heaven? Like did you expect Mashiach to be coming imminently?" Like what does that mean? Like why should you expect...like I'm sitting here right now talking to you guys, like the odds statistically of Mashiach showing up right now, like are we being realistic?

So I think what Jeremy was trying to say was, it's not about some sort of political analysis of like is the future king of Israel arriving at this moment? But what would it mean for Mashiach to come? What kind of person would I want to be in the times of Mashiach? Did you expect Mashiach now? Meaning, are you living right now...you can look at let's say, the state of Israel

or the state of the world and say, "We're so far from Mashiach." And so what are the sages teaching us? What is the Lubavitcher Rebbe teaching us? Saying, "No, no, no, don't look at just the world as it is in this exact moment. We're commanded, or ordered to expect Mashiach at every moment." Meaning to live our greatest selves to be as much as we can be in alignment with what we know that... everybody knows inside the little things they are doing that are not what HaShem really wants from them. When we're honest with ourselves, we all know, and it's not pleasant, and it's not pretty, and I'm the first person to know that. And you know, but we know that if Mashiach came, I would be amazing. I would totally not be doing that anymore.

And so he's saying, "Live like Mashiach is about to come, so that the Mashiach will be proud of you, so that HaShem will be proud of you in these upcoming times." And what was so remarkable with Jeremy leaving that message for you guys essentially...when I saw Jeremy on the ground, there was obviously a lot of fear, I'm not going to pretend that not. But at that same moment, I have to be honest, there was also a place of gratitude and of acceptance. And I said, "If HaShem, if this is it for them, I hope it's not, and please let it not be it for him, but if it is, then just gratitude. Because I know that he lived exactly...his life was, and please God continue to be, how he described it in that recording of just maximum giving, maximum giving of himself over maximum teaching." And I said like, "HaShem, if that's it, well played, well played for Jeremy. You did a good job. You lived like Mashiach was coming every single day. And please God, he will continue until 120 years to do that and we all do that together in good health."

And I was just so amazed that he kind of left that message that was just expressing my feelings about him. So it's coming straight from his heart of his message from himself of what he wanted to give over from himself. And so he maybe didn't give it over in person, but he gives it over in the way that he lives and in the strength that I know he's going to show in his recovery. And he just sort of left it there, buried, hidden for me to kind of uncover on his phone. So I hope you guys enjoyed hearing that little snippet from him. And now, now we can start the connection.