



# Newsletter

## 11 March 2024

### From the President's Pen by David Isaacson

Shalom! with Purim and Passover coming up soon, we can be encouraged that as Israel deals with yet another existential threat to its existence in the current war with Hamas, a proxy of Iran, both of these holidays commemorate deliverance and confirm that “He who watches Israel does not slumber nor sleep.” (Ps. 121:4).

Every atrocity and every death on either side is a tragedy, yet people forget that Israel did not choose or start this war. The ‘occupier’ narrative that has unfortunately taken root both in secular and church environments, makes Israel a nation that can ‘do no right’ and therefore every atrocity, murder and kidnapping is justified. At the root of this immoral and irrational ideology is the denial of Israel’s God-given right to its ancient homeland.

Purim is about God’s deliverance of Israel’s from the murderous intent of Haman, a high-ranking official in the Persian Kingdom under King Ahasuerus in the 5th Century BCE. Is it just a coincidence that modern Iran is the same country as ancient Persia, where similar irrational hatred of Israel has arisen in modern times? In the Megillah (the book of Esther) we learn that Haman manipulated the king into issuing a royal decree, that could not

be rescinded, to kill the Jews.

Brave young Esther, whom God raised up from being an orphan to becoming the Persian queen, risked her life to advocate for her people. This resulted in the king issuing a counter decree that permitted the Jewish people to defend themselves as Haman’s murderous legislation was carried out. Esther 9:1 says, “On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them.”

As we remember this ancient deliverance, it causes us to reflect on who will be the modern “Esthers”, advocating for Israel in the world forum at this time? While some have taken a stand, sadly we see churches sitting on the fence or siding more and more with Israel’s enemies, coming under the manipulative spell of powers that seek Israel’s annihilation. We also see the hypocrisy of people who rage against Israel, but have no equivalency of rage about the suffering of millions in other middle east nations or Christians oppressed by Islamic extremists.

A recent TV interview spun a story saying Israel’s “mass slaughter of innocent Gazans” will raise a

generation of people who hate Israel. The gigantic hole in this smug propagandist assertion is that the systematic teaching and training of children by Hamas to hate Israel, both at home and at school, that has raised up this toxic generation.

We must ask with every allegation, “Is this truth, or an assertion based on an outright rejection of Israel’s ownership of the land and right to sovereign self-rule?”

If anything, the destruction that Hamas has brought on its own people should cause Gazans to stand up and throw off the yoke of poverty, deprivation and oppression placed on them by a terrorist government that has demonstrated no loyalty to its own people, but sacrifices them as pawns to service an extremist ideology. It is shameful to see huge piles of money discovered in tunnels, meant to feed and provide care for the Gazan people, but instead used to build up the regime of oppression that robs people of their future as a prosperous nation.

Passover is about deliverance through a spectacular show of God intervention in nature. He caused wonders in the form of plagues in preparation for delivering the Israelites out of Egypt, including included protection from death through the blood of the lamb applied to the lintel and doorposts of Israelite houses. The blood was the identifying marker for the angel of death to “pass over” Israelites, saving them from death of their firstborn. Then as the Israelites fled, God’s perfect timing caused the waters to close over Pharaoh’s army as they raged in hot pursuit of the Israelites who had just crossed the Red Sea (Ex.14:19-31). Purim and Passover show us that by whatever means, human advocacy or direct intervention, it is God’s intent for Israel

to survive. This is written into the very DNA of scripture and is based on His covenant, His love for His people and His sovereign plan to fulfill His purposes in the world.

We know that Jerusalem is God’s dwelling place on earth (Ps. 9:11; 132:13; Joel 3:17; Zechariah 8:3) and we also know that Yeshua, our Messiah will return to Jerusalem (Zech. 14:4-11), in the land of Israel where God promised to re-gather His people from the corners of the earth.

Is Israel a political fabrication? It is astonishing how the Hebrew language was revived as the ‘lingua franca’ of Israel during the late 1800s. It was one man, Eliezer Ben Yehuda, who had the vision to revive the language that had been dead for centuries. Without a common language to support modern statehood, how could Israel have been established? The dozens of languages spoken amongst the people whom God drew back to the land represented a veritable “Babel” of languages spoken tongues. Instead, we see Hebrew spoken by nearly 10 million people.

At the season of Purim and Passover, we praise God for His keeping power and marvel that He intervenes in history and geography to accomplish His purposes. We rejoice that He provided the Passover lamb - Yeshua, “who takes away the sins of the world.” (John 1:29). Let us keep praying for the salvation of Israel and the peace of Jerusalem and for all who are suffering during this war.

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## Special Online Guest from Israel

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It was good to have a special guest (Igal) from Israel in our Tuesday online prayer and fellowship meeting last week. Let's pray for encouragement, health and blessing for Igal's family and the people of the Modi'in Messianic congregation.

We are planning to have some online webinars where Israeli Messianic believers can provide updates to MJAA members and friends, to answer questions and hear direct news from Israel. This will also enable us to pray and intercede more specifically for brothers and sisters in Israel through this time of trouble.

### Messianic Jewish Art Forum\NEST WEEK!!

The Messianic Jewish Art Forum will meet on Wednesday 20th March from 8 - 9.15pm. Elisheva and Roni Mechanic will talk about their recently published book **Messianic Jewish Art: A New Perspective** (available on Amazon).

The forum has attracted international interest from artists who are exploring the genre of Messianic Jewish art, which highlights aspects of the redemptive work of Yeshua as the Jewish Messiah, yet differing from Christian, Jewish and Religious art.

Artists and those interested in Messianic studies are welcome to attend. Register on the [mjaa.org.au](http://mjaa.org.au) website.

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## New Messianic Fellowship in Melbourne

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We have been meeting in Melbourne for about two years under the temporary name of 'Havdalah', the name of the traditional post-Shabbat service. The leadership team has adopted the official name of **Tikvat Shalom** as we seek to become more permanently established. Please pray for the Lord to be "mighty in our midst" (Zeph. 3:17) in fellowship and sharing the gospel with Jewish people.



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## Israel News and Information

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There are many excellent sources of information about Israel, evangelism and the Jewish people.

Here are some recommendations for staying up to date and increasing your knowledge:

- [oneforisrael.org](http://oneforisrael.org) (evangelism)
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/TBNI> srael (daily war update by Yair Pinto, TBN)
- [timesofisrael.com](http://timesofisrael.com) (news)
- [netivyah.org](http://netivyah.org) (congregation and humanitarian aid)
- <https://jewishassociation.org.au/> (Jewish news)
- <https://firmisrael.org/local-partners/reach-initiative-international/>

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## Dr Ashley Crane - Ministry Tour, WA

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Dr Ashley Crane is heading to Perth for his second ministry tour from 24 March - 7 April. Please contact Ashley if you would like him to do a seminar on what is happening in Israel, to preach at your congregation or to lead a Passover Seder (wherever you are located). Ashley's calendar is filling up fast, so if you've missed the opportunity to have him teach in your congregation this time, please reach out to book him for another occasion. You are sure to be blessed by Ashley's scholarship, scriptural and historical insights, and stories about his regular work as a guide at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem.  
**ashley.crane@gmail.com**

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## Planned MJAA Conference 2024

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We have started planning for the 2024 MJAA conference which will be held toward the end of the year. We are still confirming venues, dates and speakers. This is a heads-up to look forward to a feast of fellowship, teaching, prayer, worship and Israeli dance.

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## MJAA Academy

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Over the next month or two we will be launching the MJAA Academy, which will be a web portal with online teaching and training on Messianic topics of interest.

More information to come.

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## Weekly Prayer Meetings, Tuesdays @5.30pm (Melb. time)

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Our weekly online prayer and fellowship meeting continues to thrive and we have been blessed to meet with people from across Australia, New Zealand, UK, Israel and Ghana to pray and intercede for Israel and for the needs and growth of the MJAA in Australia.

Over the next few weeks we are planning to expand the prayer meeting by 15 minutes (5.15pm start) to introduce a teaching (drash) on the weekly Torah portion, haftarah and Brit Chadashah (New Testament).

This expanded time of fellowship and prayer will enable members and friends of the MJAA who are not close to a Messianic congregation to participate in live teaching and enjoy meeting others from around Australia and the world.

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## Donate to the MJAA

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Thank you to all of you who support the work of the MJAA.

We are a volunteer organisation and rely on membership fees and donations to grow.

Will you consider supporting the MJAA so we may expand our ministry?

You can donate via our website at **[mjaa.org.au/payments](https://mjaa.org.au/payments)**

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## The Joseph Project

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While I was in Israel I visited the Joseph Project, a large humanitarian organisations run by the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America. The project brings 40 ft. containers of medical, food and clothing supplies to distribute throughout Israel. To find out more about this worthwhile humanitarian project or to make a donation, go to:  
<https://www.josephproject.org/>

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## Church-based Israelophobia

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If you are in a church that practices replacement theology, two recommended books are: 1. “Why Israel?” by Derek Prince and 2. Christian Antisemitism by Michael L. Brown. Purchase links:  
<https://www.derekprince.com/books/why-israel> and  
<https://www.amazon.com.au/Christian-Antisemitism-Confrontng-Todays-Church/dp/1629997609>

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## Daily Nosh

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Our International Director, Joel Chernoff, writes this meditation in his book *The Daily Nosh* (11 March).

Deut 1:41-44. (41) Then you answered me, “We have sinned against the Lord. We ourselves will go up and fight, just as the Lord commanded us.” And every one of you fastened on his weapons of war and thought it easy to go up into the hill country. (42) And the Lord said to me, “Say to them, do not go up or fight, for I am not in your midst, lest you be defeated by your enemies.” (43) So I spoke to you, and you would not listen; but you rebelled against the command of the Lord and presumptuously went up into the hill country. (44). Then the Amorites who lived in that hill country came out against you and chased you as bees do and beat you down in Seir as far as Hormah (ESV).

**Nosh:** Pursuing something that we know is not God’s will, even if we think we have good reason to do it, is a recipe for heartache and failure. Being patient to wait for God’s direction and timing is a recipe for success.

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## Art Work by Baruch Maayan

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This powerful Messianic art work by depicts Yeshua at the head of the festival table, although His presence may be unrecognised by many. Beyond every tradition and celebration we see the fullness of God’s redemption through Yeshua our Messiah.