



*Jewish Believers and Christians working together for Israel's salvation since 1963*



**Kevin Geoffrey**  
President, MJMI

**A** month ago, there appeared to be no end in sight for the daily bombardment of our Israeli brothers and sisters by the terrorist forces in Gaza. After two months of near-constant attack, even our friends in the Land seemed to have settled in for the “new normal” of life in the midst of war. But then, as suddenly as it began, the bombing ceased, and Israelis have now enjoyed a thirty-day respite from the sirens and stress. Let us press in to God for how we can help and pray for the people of Israel during these turbulent and troubling times.

Meanwhile, by the time you receive this letter, we will once again be in the middle of the Fall appointed times (*mo'adiym*) for Israel. Leviticus 23:23-44 outlines these special days which cover a 22-day time period on Israel's annual calendar.

## Memorial Day

The season begins on the first day of the seventh Hebrew month with what the Scriptures call *Yom T'ruah* (Numbers 29:1)—meaning Day of Loud Blasts of Sound. Though this day has traditionally become associated with the blowing of the *shofar* (ram's horn), and is considered in Judaism to be the new year (*Rosh HaShanah*), in Scripture, the sound of *t'ruah* can be made by many things—not the least of which are clashing cymbals (Psalm 150:5), and the shouting of people, as when the walls of Jericho fell (Joshua 6:5,20).

The Scriptures also call this day *Zikbron T'ruah* (Memorial with Loud Blasts of Sound), which suggests that the loud sounds are meant to jog Israel's collective memory, reminding her of important things as they relate to God. Given this day's position on the calendar, it may be that

God intends for us to remember our sins and the sacrificial means by which He provides atonement for them.

## Covering Day

After Israel rests and remembers on *Yom T'ruah*, ten days later comes the holiest day on Israel's calendar. From the evening after the ninth day of the month and throughout the tenth day, Israel is to observe *Yom HaKipuriym*—Day of the Atonements. Traditionally known as just *Yom Kipur*, this is the day when the High Priest alone would enter the Tabernacle/Temple and perform the atonement rites for all Israel. The day was so holy that no one else was permitted to go

inside the Tabernacle until the atonement was done (Leviticus 16:17). Israel was to participate in accomplishing their atonement by doing *nothing*.

This goes to the command for the day: *deny yourself*, which is also the life-call of all who are in the Messiah. Yeshua

fulfilled *Yom HaKipuriym* by becoming not only our sacrifice, but the High Priest who administered that sacrifice once and for all (Hebrews 9:11-12). On *Yom HaKipuriym*, we deny ourselves the basic necessities of food and sustenance, but we also receive our atonement anew by recognizing the need to empty ourselves of *our selves*—to fulfill the command of our Master, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his [execution stake] and

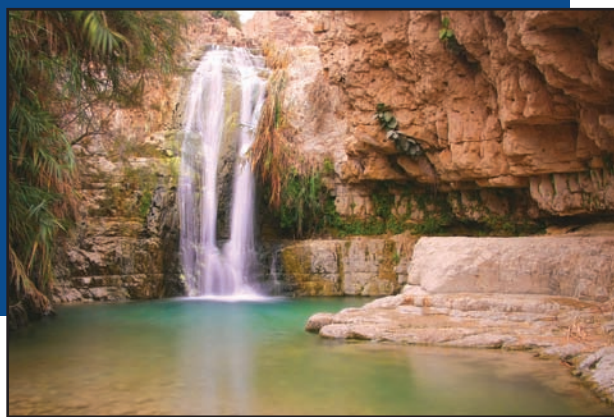
follow Me” (Matthew 16:24, cf. Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23).

*Kipur* means to “cover over,” and comes from the word *kofer*, meaning “ransom”—that is, the price or cost to redeem a life. As followers of Messiah, *Yom HaKipuriym* is the annual opportunity to recall the eternal covering of our sins, and to recommit ourselves to living a life worthy of the hefty price Yeshua paid.

## Hut Week

Israel's annual calendar goes out with a bang, and the seven-day Feast of Sukot. A *sukah* is a makeshift, tempo-

At the end of this season, many Jewish people around the world will participate in a ceremony petitioning God to bring salvation by providing rain. May their eyes be opened to see the Salvation that has already been provided through Yeshua, the only source of Living Water!  
[Photo: The David Waterfalls at En Gedi in the Negev]



rary shelter—a hut of sorts. According to the Scriptures, beginning on the fifteenth day of the seventh Hebrew month, the people of Israel are to use the various trees and flora surrounding Jerusalem to make such flimsy structures in which to live, feast and celebrate for an entire week. This is “so that your generations may know that I [ADONAI] had the sons of Israel live in *sukot* when I brought them out of the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 23:43).

After an exhausting week of joyful celebration, thanking God for the bountiful harvest of the year, Israel celebrates one final rest day—the Eighth Day Assembly—to recuperate and prepare for the season ahead.

Over time, the Jewish people added the extrabiblical ceremony of *Hoshana Rabba* on the seventh day of Sukot. This prayer for rain for the coming year’s crops is, in essence, a plea to God for salvation. It is no coincidence, then, that it was during the traditional water libation ceremony that the Master Yeshua boldly stood up among His people and shouted above the religious pomp and circumstance, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water’” (John 7:37-38).

## Salvation for Israel

Like so many of the Jewish people of Yeshua’s time, most Jewish people today look for God in invented, religious ways, and not the ways of their own Scriptures. The annual *mo’adiym* remind us that God has a simple way to remember and reach Him, and that all Israel needs to do is follow the way of His Word. Our job as Believers is to point Jewish people to the simple truth that they don’t have to beg God to save them, but that Salvation has already come! They only need to drink from the rivers of living water, and in Yeshua, they will never be thirsty again!

Dear friend, your support is vitally important, and we cannot do this work without you. Your donation of **\$10, \$25, \$100 or more** will help MJMI accomplish its mission and vision to see all Israel know their Messiah, Yeshua. You can use the enclosed card and envelope, or visit [www.mjmi.org](http://www.mjmi.org) to send your much-needed donation today. And if you aren’t already, please consider becoming

## Update from Israel

I recently received a post-war update from our ministry friends Israel P. and Aviel, sharing briefly about the work God did through them in Ashdod during this season. They wrote:

“We are so grateful for all your prayers and concern during these last two months. Your help and love has been so precious to us and carried us through this very challenging time. We woke up to the sounds of sirens and explosions and went to bed to the same sound. It was a very long, difficult season, and we are thankful to be finally enjoying some peace and quiet.

“One beautiful wartime testimony comes from an elderly lady, Nina (pictured left with Aviel). She serves as the director of a WWII veterans’ organization, and she coordinated the humanitarian aid and work we did with that group (photo left). She is a very fiery lady who actually served as a fighter pilot and helped fight the Nazis in her youth.

“For five years we worked very closely with her, she knew that we were believers in Yeshua, and she heard the

gospel many times. At first she was very standoffish to the point of aggressive when the issue of our faith arose, but after a while she really warmed up to us, and we began building a very warm friendship. Then, during these two months of war, something happened in her heart, and one day when we visited her, she actually received the Lord Yeshua into her heart and was finally reconciled to God!”

Thank you so much for lifting up our ministry friends in Israel over the past months as the bombs were falling, and please continue to remember them with your prayers during this next season. Although the physical war is now over, the spiritual war continues to rage, and these friends are still on the front lines of the battle!

a ministry partner today, so that I will know we can count on your support each month.

I pray that this season of appointed times is both meaningful and fruitful for you, and that it will cause you to remember your unbelieving Jewish friends and family in a unique way, as you also uniquely remember the salvation that the Master provided for *you*.

For the sake of the Messiah,



Kevin Geoffrey, President, MJMI

