

Yeshua in the Parashah – Balak (Destroyer)

Numbers 22:2-25:9, Micah 5:6-6:8, Romans 11:25-32

‘How can I curse those whom God has blessed?’

THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH IS IN THE TONGUE

As a tribute to the unique character of the nation of Israel, a foreigner named Balaam, speaking against his own intention and self-interest, under the compulsion of the Spirit of God, speaks a blessing over Israel rather than a curse. He proclaims that all attempts on the part of man to foil the purposes of God in regards to His people, Israel are utterly futile. Despite repeated attempts throughout history to destroy this unique nation, each attempt has failed. God’s word promises that a glorious future yet awaits Israel.

Balaam is a contradiction in character. On the one hand, he is a self-proclaimed worshiper of the one true God, Yehovah, and a prophet, but on the other hand, he is also a heathen sorcerer who, in the end, attempts to bring about the ruin of Israel. Balaam demonstrates the complexity of the character of man, fickle and changeable in loyalty. No wonder the Word says, **“The heart is deceitful above all things...”** (Jeremiah 17:9),

It is better to place our trust in the Lord, who is absolutely trustworthy, than to place our confidence in princes! (Psalm 118:8-9)

Of significance is the fact that Balaam’s proclamation of blessing over Israel has now become the opening sentence of every synagogue service. **“How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, thy dwellings O Israel.”** (Numbers 24:4) “Ma tovu ohaleha Yaacov mishkenotechah Yisrael”



PHOTO OF AVI'S CLASS VISITING ITALIAN SYNAGOGUE MUSEUM IN JERUSALEM

The Power of the tongue

Balak, King of Moab, dreaded Israel because of their victory over the Amorites. He therefore sent for Balaam, son of Beor, to curse Israel. Balaam, well-known throughout the East as a soothsayer whose curse was to be feared, lived in P'torah a town in Mesopotamia, mentioned in Babylonian and Egyptian inscriptions. It was from this land of magic and sorcery that the ‘great magician’ was to come. At this time, the whole ancient world believed in the very real power of blessings and curses. The bible also speaks of the tremendous power of the tongue to bring either life or death.

“The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”(Proverbs 18:21)

This is why the patriarchal blessing was so significant in ancient days, and why, even today, we must be careful to speak blessing and not cursing over people, especially our loved ones. Our words are so powerful! When the Israelites complained in the wilderness and said (speaking their fears rather than faith) that surely they were going to die in the wilderness, God basically said, “Okay, you will have what you have said.” Selah. Pause and think on this. What are we saying out loud?

We can thank God for all the negative things He doesn't bring upon us that we speak out of our mouths in times of fear, anger or distress. It was through **His words** that God spoke the world into existence. We also have creative power in our words, having been created in the image of God. Therefore we must learn, as the Word exhorts us, to guard our mouths, praying that the Holy Spirit will put a guard at the entrance of our lips, that we may speak forth life and blessings over our own lives and the lives of others.

How often do we say such foolish words as, "I'm just *dying* to go there"...or..."I'm so sick and tired of this...". By saying these and other negative things, we bring destruction into our lives. We have the power to bring forth life and blessing or death and cursing just with the words we speak! God sets before us life or death, blessing or cursing, and then tells us to **CHOOSE LIFE!**

Like the rudder on a large ship, our tongues are small but can change the entire course of our lives. (James 3:4) If we wonder why we seem to be experiencing the curses instead of the blessings, perhaps the answer is right under our nose! In our own strength, we cannot tame our tongue.

"No man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the image of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so." (James 3:8-10)
How true.

Unclean lips touched by holy coals

So if no one can tame the tongue, does that mean we don't try? That we just let any foolish and destructive thing come out of our mouth? Has v'halila (God forbid!). Sometimes I am appalled at the things that come out of my mouth; but then this only demonstrates the defilement that yet resides in the dark recesses of my own heart – areas that still cry out for redemption and healing. What is in our heart will eventually come out of our mouth.

One of the primary changes that needs to happen after we get saved and have a desire for the Lord to use us is for our mouth to get saved! Before I came to faith in Yeshua, I will admit to having 'unclean lips'. I grew up in a good home but as a teenager, began to hang out with a peer group that used curse words just as a matter of course in normal daily conversation. For me, it became a habit, something I didn't even think about – it was just the way I spoke. But a curious thing happened after I got saved. I just stopped cursing. I don't know how it happened; I didn't try to change how I spoke or struggle with the strength of my will to break this bad habit and refrain from using curse words in my conversation. It just stopped as soon as I received the Lord. Suddenly. By His Spirit, God supernaturally delivered my mouth.

When the Prophet Isaiah saw a vision of the Lord and looked upon His holiness, what was his response? **"Woe is me, for I am undone!"** What was it that caused Isaiah such despair in the Light of God's holiness? It was the state of uncleanness of his lips: **"Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;"** (Isaiah 6:1-5)

It was his mouth that convicted the great prophet. So one of the **seraphim** (a word which means 'burning' in Hebrew) flew to him with a hot live coal from the altar and touched Isaiah's mouth with it, saying, **"Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away and your sin purged."** (Isaiah 6:6-7)

Only now that God touched Isaiah's lips was he fit for God's service. Now God was able to ask, **"Who will go for us and whom shall I send?"**

Isaiah answered, **“Hineini Adonai” “Here I am Lord, send me.”**
And God said, **“Go, and tell this people....”**

Really, we have nothing much to tell anyone if behind closed doors we are using our mouth in a wrong way for evil purposes, to tear down rather than build up, to divide rather than unify, to dishearten rather than encourage. We cannot be ‘mixed messengers’, bringing forth bitter and sweet waters out of the same mouth. Because the Lord is coming back for a spotless Bride, He is now dealing strongly with the words we speak.

“Let no corrupt word come out of our mouth but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” (Ephesians 4:29)

Before we speak, we need to consider whether or not our words are imparting grace and mercy to the one who hears it, or judgment and condemnation. If we truly want to be used by God we need to deal with the way we speak; to speak blessing over people (including ourselves) and not cursing.

We must continually seek for the help of the Holy Spirit to control our tongue, otherwise all of our religiosity and supposed spirituality is useless. **“If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own hear, this one’s religion is useless.”** (James 1:26)

Let Them Curse but God will Bless

Balak, King of Moab, enemies of Israel, sent messengers to Balaam, asking him to curse Israel, but God forbade Balaam from going with the men to curse Israel, saying, **“Thou shalt not curse the people, for they are blessed.”** (Numbers 22:12)

As Believers in Yeshua Hamashiach, we are a people whom God has blessed and no man can reverse it. **The blessing of the Lord makes one rich and He adds no sorrow with it.** (Proverbs 10:22)

Whereas some worldly blessings can bring with them trouble and sorrow, God’s blessings are not like these. When He blesses us, no man can turn it into a source of sorrow. Is it possible that we are too concerned with what people may be saying about us behind our backs or what people may be doing to harm or cheat us? If God has blessed us, then we are blessed; we are His segulah – His special treasure.

“Let them curse, but God will bless!”

Beware Greed & Begging God

Now Balak ups the stakes – he promises Balaam heaps of riches and honor if he will comply with the King’s request to curse Israel. But again, Balak affirms that even if Balak was to give him a house full of silver and gold, he still could not go beyond the word of the Lord. (Numbers 22:18)

If only more people possessed this attitude towards God’s people, Israel. Instead, some - disregarding the Word of God that these people are blessed – choose to curse them instead. Balaam should have quit while he was ahead. God had made His will very clear – He did not want Balaam to go with these men and did not permit him to curse Israel.

Why then, did Balaam ask the men to stay the night – just in case the Lord had something more to say? Was the temptation of riches and fame too great for Balaam to give up so easily? Did he hope against all hope that maybe God would give in and change His mind? How often are we like Balaam – we don’t really like

the answer to our prayer, so we hang around with it a while longer, hoping that maybe God will give in and give us what our hearts desire.

In the night, God did come again to Balaam and say that he could go with the men but could only speak the words God speaks to him. (Numbers 22:20) Curiously, when Balaam rose up in the morning and went with the princes of Moab, God's anger was kindled against him. Why? Is it not unfair for God to be angry with Balaam after giving him permission to go? It is because God is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of our hearts. God saw the double-mindedness of Balaam and knew that he wanted to curse Israel for his own personal gain.

We must make sure that the intentions of our hearts are pure, even those things which are permissible. We must always beware of greed. Even if God prospers and blesses us, we must never make the riches the motive of our hearts. Riches will never deliver us in the day of God's wrath, but only righteousness delivers from death. (Proverbs 11:4)

Balaam was greedy for riches; he erred in running after profit:

“Woe to them! For they ...have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit...” (Jude 1:11)

The word links Balaam's sin with that of Cain (who murdered his brother) and Korach (who led the rebellion against Moses). Balaam knew that it wasn't God's will for him to go with Balak's shlichim (messengers), but he went anyways, perhaps hoping to return a rich man.

“He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house..” (Proverbs 15:27)

We can keep begging and begging God for something that is not in His perfect will and God may even grant our request, but it may not be God's best for our life. This happened with Israel when they kept asking for an earthly King; they ended up with King Saul. We can do this by continually begging God for a husband or wife when it may not be in our best interests at that particular time or for this particular situation. Having the Lord our Maker as our only husband (ishi) can be better than getting an earthly husband we have begged God for if the man we choose is in the flesh and out of God's perfect will.

When the Israelites kept begging God for meat, He gave in to their request but sent a 'leanness to their soul.' (Psalm 106:15) Sometimes the very thing we want so badly, if we were to receive it, may bring starvation to our soul. An unbalanced love of the world and the things in it can crowd out our love for God.

Angels & Donkeys

An angel of Yehovah **יהוה** placed himself in Balaam's pathway as an adversary against him. In the Hebrew, it is called a *satan* to him. Satan is not really the devil's name. In Hebrew he doesn't even have a name but a title – **the adversary**. We often blame 'the devil' for frustrating our plans and standing in the way of the path we wish to take, but we must keep in mind that this adversary (satan) may be a messenger sent from God to keep us from following our chosen pathway leading to destruction.



Balaam and the angel, painting from [Gustav Jaeger](#), 1836.

Balaam's donkey, seeing the angel standing with his sword drawn, at first turned aside from the path and went into the field. Balaam struck his donkey in anger. The donkey then thrust herself against the wall, crushing Balaam's foot. Balaam struck his donkey again.



Sometimes God will frustrate our plans in order to save us from our own foolishness. We must not be stubborn and strike out at the 'ass' trying to save us! If we happen to be the ones trying to rescue someone from their own foolishness, we must realize that often all we will receive for all our efforts is a big bruise from where the person we were trying to help has kicked us.

“He who rebukes a scorner heaps upon himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man gets for himself bruises.” (Proverbs 9:7)

We can spend years and years out of our life being the donkey for some fool's abuse, trying to convince a scorner to turn from his or her wickedness. A futile waste of words, time, and energy indeed. There comes a point where we say enough is enough – I've said my piece and paid the price; I have received enough bruises to last me a lifetime trying to help this person. I'm going to shut my mouth and let this person go their own way if they continue to refuse correction. A good test of whether or not a person is wise and righteous or wicked and foolish is to see how they take instruction and correction.

The Lord opened the donkey's mouth to speak to Balaam, and then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he too saw the angel of the Lord. Balaam realized his error and prostrated himself in repentance. The angel of the Lord asks Balaam, **“Why have you beaten your donkey, since I am come as a ‘satan’ unto you, since thy way is contrary unto me.”** (Numbers 22:32)

We must ask ourselves, when everything seems to block our way and frustration overtakes us, *‘Is this really the enemy or could it be possible that my way is contrary to the Lord's?’*

Balaam now comes to Balak, proclaiming that he has no power to speak anything except what God puts into his mouth. Balaam says, **“How shall I curse whom God has not cursed?”** (Numbers 23:8)

God is unchangeable in his purpose to bless His people, Israel. The unconditional covenant God sealed with Abraham remains unbroken. Those of faith in Messiah are also the seed of Abraham, whether we be Jew or Gentile. We are blessed through Yeshua. Although Israel has many enemies that wish to curse us, God is our defense; therefore we are certain to be victorious.

Blessing our enemies

Every morning that the Orthodox Jews say their prayers, a curse is pronounced over Jews who believe in and follow Jesus. But how can they curse those whom God has not cursed?

An undeserved curse will not come to rest upon us.

What is to be our response to those who do curse us? Yeshua told us **to bless those who curse us** and despitefully use us or treat us with injustice. I see this in a new way lately. I used to have such trouble with this scripture: was the Lord asking me to roll over and be a doormat for anyone who tries to abuse me? God forbid! But I believe that in returning blessings for cursing, the power of this blessing can then overcome the evil of the curse they are directing towards us.

This is how we overcome evil with good. Light overcomes the darkness; we can't beat the darkness with a stick and expect it to go away. Only by turning on the light will the darkness dissipate. We must go beyond forgiveness to actually blessing our enemies and praying for them.

Jumping off the Fence!

Balak finally resigns himself to the fact that Balaam will not curse Israel, so he asks if at least he would not bless them! **“Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all.”** (Numbers 23:25)

This is the stance that some people take with regards to Israel. They know enough to realize that they had better not be ‘cursing’ God’s people, but they do not want to go so far as to actively bless them either. And so, they sit on the fence, neither cursing, nor blessing either. But Balaam saw that **“it pleased the Lord to bless Israel.”** (Numbers 24:1)

When he did so, the spirit of God came upon him. We all want to please the Lord; we all want to be filled with His Spirit. Perhaps we need to get down off that fence and ask ourselves how we can actually bless Israel?

While living in Ariel, a town in Biblical Samaria in 1999, a Christian group from Denver, Colorado, Faith Bible Chapel, brought a group of singer called ‘The Internationals’ to bless Israel with their musical talents. They sang (mostly in Hebrew) encouragement to the Jewish people here through hope and trust in our God. It was absolutely wonderful and the Spirit of God definitely came upon them, touching the hearts of the people of Israel in the audience.

The leader of this group also presented the leader of the city of Ariel with a cheque for \$30,000 U.S. for programs to assist new immigrants integrate into Israeli society. Faith Bible Chapel also supports and maintains a kindergarten center for handicapped and disabled Israeli children. What a powerful example of people who have taken seriously the exhortation to bless Israel!

Not everyone can fly to Israel and sing in Hebrew, nor raise \$30,000, but the Lord was pleased even with the widows’ mite. If you ask with a sincere heart, I am certain that He will be faithful to show you how you too can bless Israel; but do not forget that our priority in giving is to be towards the household of faith - the Believers in Yeshua.

I am also certain that God will bless you in return, for in this parashah, God’s promise to Abraham is re-affirmed to his descendants through Jacob, **“Blessed be every one that bless thee, and cursed be every one that curseth thee.”** (Numbers 24:9, Genesis 12:3)

Mocking the Jews is a form of Cursing

I recently attended a children’s service at a Christian Church where the teacher instructed the children through the story of Rahab and the Israelite spies in Jericho. All was well until the teacher identified himself a one of the Israelite spies, telling the children that since he was a Jew, you could tell by his ‘weird-looking and crooked nose’.

I could feel my body beginning to tremble in what I perceived as righteous anger of the Lord. Such stereotyping of Jewish people or any other racial or ethnic group is disgraceful in the house of God. I

confronted him for teaching the children such false things about the Jewish people and reminded him that Yeshua, our Lord and Saviour is also a Jew; therefore by mocking the Jews' appearance, he also dishonored the Lord.

It also re-builds that dividing wall of hostility standing between Yeshua the Messiah and his Jewish brethren when His followers say such things. Christians especially must be careful what comes out of their mouths about the Jewish people, remembering that those who teach others will be judged even more harshly. May the Lord have mercy on those who revile (mock) God's chosen.

Yeshua revealed in Messianic Prophecies

This parashah also contains several Messianic references: **"There shall step forth a star out of Jacob,"**(24:17) The fulfillment of this prophecy is found in Matthew 2:2:

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship Him."

Bar Cozeba, leader of the last Jewish War of Independence, changed his name to Bar Cochba, which translates as 'son of star', referring to this prophecy, and thus proclaiming himself a messiah. Although he had many followers, he was proven to be a false messiah, when he was slain in 135 A.C.E. This war split those who followed Yeshua from the rest of the Jewish community, since the believers in Yeshua knew that Bar Cochba was not a true Messiah and therefore refused to take part in the rebellion and fled to the mountains, while those who followed Bar Cochba perished. The Messianic Jewish believers were therefore perceived as traitors.

Another Messianic reference is the next line, **"and a scepter shall rise out of Israel."**

In Genesis 49:10 the word says, **"The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his."**

This is clearly referring to the Messiah, the son of God, who has already come as the lamb of God in order to die as atonement for our sins (Isaiah 53) and will come again as the Lion of Yehudah to defeat the enemies of God and Israel and to rule the nations with justice and righteousness.

The Psalms also refer to this Messiah, the Son, who will rule the nations: **"You are my son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."** (Psalm 2:7-9)

A warning to revere God's son, the Messiah, and a promise of blessing to those who take refuge in Him follows these verses. **"Kiss the son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him."** (Psalm 2:12).

If you have not yet taken refuge in the true Messiah of Israel, I urge you to do so now, as the time is short until his second coming.

Prophecies against Edom

In the last parashah, Chukkat, we discussed Edom (Adom means 'red' in Hebrew and is the 'nickname for Esau') and their territory is Mt. Seir. This parashah promises that **"Edom shall be a possession of Israel and Seir also... while Israel doeth valiantly."** (Numbers 24:18)

It may look as though it is all over for Israel, surrounded by enemies, but it is through our God, that we shall do valiantly. It is He who will strike down our enemies (Psalm 60:12)

Of Israel, the word says **“he shall eat up the nations that are his adversaries.”**(Numbers 24:8)

This stands as a warning to all nations today who will come against Israel in the future, especially Jerusalem. **“On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.”** (Zech. 12:3)



Knowing that all the nations are prophesied to come against Jerusalem and be destroyed by the Lord Himself (Zech. 14) should serve as a challenge to the people of God within these nations to pray for mercy as never before. There are many people whose pride prevents them from acknowledging Israel as the prophesied leader amongst the nations, but the word of God states,

“For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish; it will be utterly ruined.” (Isaiah 60:12)

Cursed by our own sins

At the end of this parashah, we see that it was not Balaam who cursed Israel, but their own compromise with the heathen nations. They took on the ways of the nations around them, sacrificing and bowing down to their gods, thus evoking the wrath of God. It was Balaam, however, who counseled the Midianites to ruin Israel (Num 31:16). He couldn't curse Israel directly, so he instructed Moab and Midian to entice Israel to commit sexual immorality with their women, thereby bring destruction upon themselves.

A plague descended upon Israel killing 24,000 Israelites before Phinehas stopped it with his radical action. We will discuss more about Pinchas stopping the plague in the next parashah. The relevant point for us is that even when someone cannot curse us directly, if we willingly break God's commandments, this removes the hedge of God's protection from our lives so that the enemy can gain access.

In the end, Balaam did not enjoy his reward, as he was killed when the Israelites defeated the people of Balaam – the Midianites. (Numbers 31:9) Although Balaam was not allowed to curse Israel directly, he did not have Israel's best interests at heart. Even if people seem to be blessing us, we must discern the true motives of their heart – do they really have our best interests at heart or are they just covering up their evil intentions? For this we need the discernment of the Holy Spirit.

Balaam, probably the only Gentile prophet mentioned in the Tanach, suffered a terrible death in the end for his sins against Israel. “Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.” It was Balaam's counsel that caused the children of Israel to self destruct. Whose counsel are we receiving? We must be careful that,

after escaping from someone's evil intentions against us, by God's grace, we don't bring a curse upon ourselves by our own fall into sin.

HAFTORAH BALAK MICAHA 5:6-6:8

In Micah 5:11 God says **“I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy hand; And thou shalt have no more soothsayers;”** Israel, in this respect no different than other nations, is full of witchcraft, divination, New Age religions and philosophies. Isaiah spoke of this same sinful condition of Israel in ancient times.

“They are full of superstitions from the East; they practice divination like the Philistines.”(Isaiah 2:6)

Today in Israel, almost every home, car, and shop contains some form of a hand with a representation of the ‘eye of God’ as an amulet to protect them against the evil one.



hamsa



Photo: Hannah standing in front of shop in Israel selling demonic masks & costumes on Purim

The prevalence of using the hamsa as an amulet is one example of ‘superstitions from the East’ that Israel is full of. Kabbalistic sects of Judaism focus on the mystical and its center, Tzfat, even offers courses on Jewish mysticism and astrology. One day, God will cleanse the land of this spiritual defilement – it is His promise.

God actually pleads with His people, Israel, reminding them of how He redeemed them from Egypt and how He caused Balaam to foil the evil that Balak, king of Moab had devised. The people turn to the Prophet Micah with the question, **“What does God really require of us?”**

Many of us, at times, struggle with this question as well – what is it that God really wants from us? Some who believe in the sacrifice of Yeshua consider this enough – that their behavior makes no difference to God whatsoever. ‘I’m saved by the blood of Jesus. Period. End of story.’ Yes, we need to always depend upon the grace of God demonstrated in the sacrifice of His Son, Yeshua, to atone for our sins, but there is more that God requires of us than this faith.

Jewish people are often criticized for their emphasis on ‘works’ – doing good deeds or mitzvot in order to please God. Christians are often criticized for their attitude that their ‘deeds’ don’t count, and that they can therefore sin and not be penalized. We must, however, mature into a balance of faith and deeds that harmonize one with another. Even the New Testament proclaims that **“faith without works is dead.”**(James 2:17)

What is true religion?

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” (James 1:27)

In this parashah, we find the same answer. The Old and New Testaments must harmonize if they are inspired by the same God. The prophet Micah answers the people in the same spirit as James. **“It has been told to you, Adam (Man), what is good, and what the Lord requires of you; Only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”**(v. 8)

In Hebrew, mercy is translated as ‘Chessed’, meaning “kindness to the lowly, needy and miserable, as shown in all charitable acts, especially such as go with personal service.” (Soncino, p.685)

In case anyone considering himself or herself a ‘New Testament Believer’ thinks this kind of religion belongs only to the Jews of the Old Testament, compare this scripture to the 25th chapter of Matthew. The Lord, in his own words, describes the criteria for judging the sheep from the goats in the final judgment. Who will be directed to the Lord’s right-hand side, to take his or her inheritance, which is eternal life? Who will be declared righteous? Those who practiced ‘chessed’ towards the poor, the hungry, the sick, the stranger, and those imprisoned – the least of the brethren of the Lord.

Who will be sent to the left, cursed, to eternal punishment? Those who refused to answer the call of what the Lord requires of us – to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. A more correct translation of the Hebrew ‘walking humbly’ is to walk in personal holiness or purity. What a challenge for us to strive to live up to the Lord’s requirements. Thankfully, He has given us His grace that enables us to do so by His Spirit.

A beautiful example of someone walking in this justice, mercy and humility that God requires of us is Linda. Directed by the Holy Spirit to come to the mountains of Israel to pray for Israel, I met Linda in the settlement of Ariel several years ago. I often noticed her, not only in prayer, but also in acts of personal service towards the people of Israel. She actively sought out ways to do ‘good deeds’ such as cleaning the apartment of elderly people after a break-in, and acting as chauffeur to a woman when her husband, the driver in the family, was away for a month. I once caught her on her knees, in rubber gloves, scrubbing the toilet in the home of a working Mom who lacked the time to properly clean it herself.

What a beautiful testimony she is of a ‘righteous Gentile’, one who truly loves justice and mercy, and walks in personal holiness and purity. It was at least partially because of Linda’s faithfulness in prayer and intercession that my daughter, Liat, was born in Ariel after several miscarriages before her birth. She also initiated a day per week devoted to fasting and prayer for victory in our battle for Israeli citizenship after making aliyah (immigrating to Israel). It was Linda to suggested the strategy of planting copies of our documents which proved our Jewishness in the actual land of Israel and claiming God’s promises to give us the Land of our forefathers.

Thank you to Linda, and to the many, many righteous Gentiles who have sacrificed so much to be a blessing to Israel and especially to the household of faith. Thank you to all the intercessors who lift us up in prayer; to all the volunteers who come to serve in the Land, to those who help Jewish people come home.

Todah rabah (thank you so much) to all our ministry partners who give so generously in order that the Word will continue to go forth from Zion to the nations. We love and appreciate you so very much! May you receive your full reward from the God of Israel under whose wings you have taken refuge.

Shabbat Shalom & Love in Yeshua,

Hannah Nesher

About the Author:

Hannah Nesher grew up in an Orthodox Jewish home and received her education in a religious Hebrew school in Canada. During a crisis pregnancy, she came to know Jesus (Yeshua) as her Messiah and Savior. She now lives in Israel with her children and grandchildren, teaching Christians about the Jewish roots of their faith.



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“For out of Zion shall go forth the Torah, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 2:3)

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