

June 2006

Let your spirit revive!

*Beloved friends,
dear brothers and sisters, shalom!*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus...

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord!



"When they told him all the words of Joseph that he had spoken to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, **the spirit of their father Jacob revived.** Then Israel said, 'It is enough; **my son Joseph is still alive.** I will go and see him before I die.'

So Israel set out with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, 'Jacob, Jacob.' And he said, 'Here I am'.

He said, 'I am God, the God of your father; **do not be afraid to go down to Egypt,** for I will make you a great nation there. **I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes.**'" (Genesis 45:27-46:4)

In the character and life of Joseph, we see a picture of Jesus (we call Him Yeshua): When Jacob realized that Joseph was alive, all he wanted was to see him - thus his spirit was revived.

Before Joseph could fill up the storehouses and provide great blessing for his family, he had to walk on his own Via Dolorosa road - into the very pit of Egypt, the heart of the world of his time - with much shame and humiliation.

Joseph's brothers had to meet the one whom they had sinned against, whom they had wanted to kill; they had to repent, return to their father and walk on the same path along which they had sent their young brother - all the way down to Egypt. To be saved from starvation they needed to come to Joseph with repentant hearts, otherwise they would die. This applies also to us. Once we were dead in our sin with wicked hearts, opposing God and taking Him to the cross. As God sent Joseph before his brothers to supply their needs, so He sent Yeshua into the world to be our bread of life and save us. Joseph was so dearly loved by his father, that Jacob had clothed him in a richly ornamented robe. Likewise, Yeshua has clothed us with the **"garments of salvation"** and **"a robe of righteousness."** (Isaiah 61:10)

God, our Father, sent Yeshua to conquer our hearts with His loving kindness, leading us to repentance and calling us to follow Him on His narrow path, which leads to the cross. We will remain poor, blind, naked and die from hunger if we are not willing to obey His call to go down to 'Egypt' and meet with Him daily on the Via Dolorosa God has prepared for us.

The children of Israel had to go down to Egypt - to slavery, shame and humiliation. They had to come to the very end of their rope, and beseech God to rescue them, so that He would be glorified as He delivered them with His mighty hand. In their Passover deliverance, we see foreshadowed the ultimate deliverance of all mankind by the sacrifice of Yeshua, the Lamb of God. The Israelites were led into the Promised Land. Now in our time, God is leading more and more of them into His promised Kingdom. All who are grafted into the household of Israel by faith, He receives into His Kingdom.

Beloved of God, only a revived spirit can bear the shame and humiliation of the cross and has the power to go down to the Egypt of this world. Jacob's spirit was revived when he realized that Joseph was alive. He began his journey to Egypt from Hebron. (Hebron is where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are buried.) It took him two days to reach Beersheba where he offered sacrifices of thanksgiving to God because Joseph was alive! On the third night, the Lord appeared to Jacob with the words, ***“Do not be afraid...”***

Jacob must have been fearful about going down to Egypt. As you well know, Egypt is a symbol of the world with all of its sin, idols, darkness and evil. May we all be fearful about going down to 'Egypt' - the playground of sin - but may we never be afraid of going into the world in order to bring souls out of death into life, out of darkness to light, from the lies of this world to the truth of the Gospel.

We are called to be light and salt in this corrupt world. We are the answer of God to this decaying world. Nothing can bring more glory to God and joy to our hearts than going down to 'Egypt' to seek the lost and proclaim the salvation of our Lord. God sent Joseph down to Egypt ahead of his brothers, and now, before the coming day of the Lord, Yeshua speaks loudly and clearly into the hearts of those who believe, to go down to His Jewish brothers and sisters, ahead of Him.

We are to meet them in their everyday life in Israel - their 'Egypt'! He urges us to provoke them to jealousy by our lives, and with a revived spirit, proclaim that Yeshua lives!

For over 25 years, I have been going down to the 'Egypt' of my people Israel. In the light of some harsh persecution, bloodshed, deep hatred and constant rejections which I have experienced over the years, there is still fear in my heart every time I go out. I never know what might happen, whom I might run into or how each outreach might end up.

Dearly beloved, just as Jacob heard, ***“Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt... I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again;”*** so you and I must hear and believe this truth, knowing that Yeshua Himself will close our eyes once we finish our earthly race.

Life consists of many choices. Every time I choose to obey and go down to Egypt, when I preach, share the Gospel and sing to the glory of God, like the first believers who went out into the Egypt of their time, all fear disappears and I am filled with great joy.

Beloved, only when we put our feet into the water, will God go with us and provide His strength in our weakness. Only as we examine our hearts in repentance and meet with our compassionate Lord who is weeping over the wandering, lost souls in the Egypt of this world, will we see Him clearly and our spirits be truly revived.

The Apostles saw, heard and felt deep in their hearts Yeshua's humility, love, compassion, boldness, authority and zeal for God the Father. They were moved by the way He loved and served them, washing their feet and giving them a great example of what it is to be a faithful disciple. They dearly loved Him, but when He was crucified and buried, their entire faith with all the hope they had in Him was completely shattered. However, this changed when they saw Him risen from the dead and alive, as He appeared to them over a period of 40 days, and spoke of the Kingdom of God.

Then when they received the Holy Spirit at Shavuot (Pentecost) it dawned on them who He really was, the One who had walked with them and died for them, calling them to be His witnesses to the end of the world. Finally, the Kingdom promised to them as the chosen people of God became a reality, and in this reality they began a new life.

All the parables and teachings of the Lord concerning the promised Kingdom were not a matter of theology and doctrine to debate, but a way of life - life filled with love, hope and faith to see His will done and His Kingdom come. Every dream, ambition and wish was focused on the Kingdom. The Apostles lived what they believed, in unity of hearts and minds, thus their spirits were revived.

As I study and consider men and women who are used by God, I see a pattern of brokenness, of painful hearts and lives in those who have experienced the true joy of union with our Lord. These believers have learnt not to seek the approval of men but of God. They know that fullness of life is all about bringing glory to Him. The early church understood the truth of God - Yeshua! They were committed to the truth - Yeshua! They were willing to pay the price to be true to the sin-cleansing truth!

When our spirits are revived with the faith and knowledge of our risen Lord, then our deepest wish and heart's desire is to see Yeshua as Jacob wanted to see Joseph. When we come to the point of truly longing to see Him reigning as King, His plan becomes the preoccupation of our prayer and our lives. When we go down to the 'Egypt' of this world, God revives our spirits. Then we are fit for the battle, heaven is open before us and the sky is the limit.

Our faith might be small, but if our heart's desire is to see Yeshua seated on His throne, and our heart's cry is to see the kingdom of this world become the Kingdom of our God -no matter how many tears we shed or poisoned arrows are directed at us - we shall see God's kingdom advancing and His power will continue to revive our spirits. Regardless of how weak and fearful we are, if we only start making our way to 'Egypt', God will meet with us, strengthen us with His Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with confidence and joy - in fact, revive us! But we must begin! We must step out of our familiar life so that God can meet with us as He met with Jacob.

Many believers are praying and hoping for revival. But there will be no revival without true repentance, loving and serving one another, and going down to 'Egypt' with the Gospel, which is ***"the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first..."*** (Romans 1:16).

Wherever God has placed us, we are called to obey the great commission in our daily lives.

If we desire to please and honour our Lord, who redeemed us with His precious blood, then we must love and obey Him with all our hearts and be zealous for souls. Zeal draws its power from obedience to the Holy Spirit - zeal must lead the march - and God will provide all that we need to spread the Good News. In order to see Joseph, ***"Israel set out with all that he had."***

Are you willing to set out with all that you have in order to see Yeshua and bring others to see Him?

*With much love, hope and faith to see you
during Trumpet's summer campaigns 'to the Jew first',
Jacob & Elisheva Damkani*