

December 23, 2023
Ephesians 2:11-22
Rejected or Accepted



I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament... but good players are really hard to find.

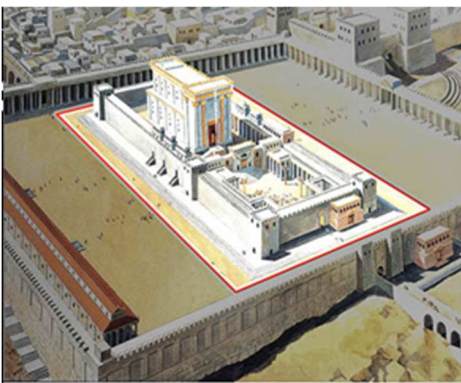
I got over my addiction to chocolate, marshmallows, and nuts. I won't lie, it was a rocky road.

What do you say to comfort a friend who's struggling with grammar? There, their, they're.

The Temple Mount in Jerusalem, aerial view with historic outlines ...



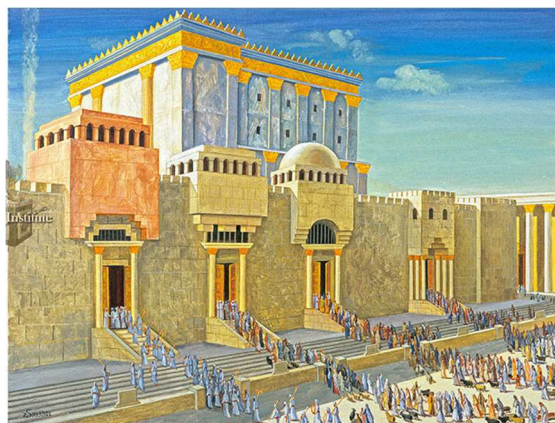
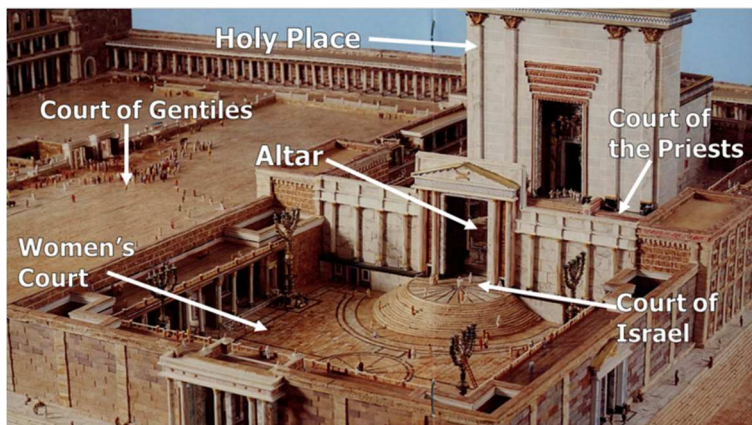
At the beginning of the Second Temple period, the area of the Temple Mount as you see in the green). During the time of Herod, the area was greatly expanded and reached its present day dimensions, approximately 36 acres (150,000 square meters). The Holy Temple and its courtyards were situated on the Temple Mount.



LEFT PICTURES: THE SOREG F

[Non-Jews, that is, Gentiles, and people ritually unclean, cannot go past the Soreg]

[https://external-content.duckduckgo.com/iu/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fi0.wp.com%2Fimages.slideplayer.com%2F28%2F9301957%2Fslides%2Fslide_12.jpg&f=1&nofb=1&ipt=5c80519cbe79056802dcd192fe2d7cb388dd200829731234b5868e29fc60e4e6&ipo=images]



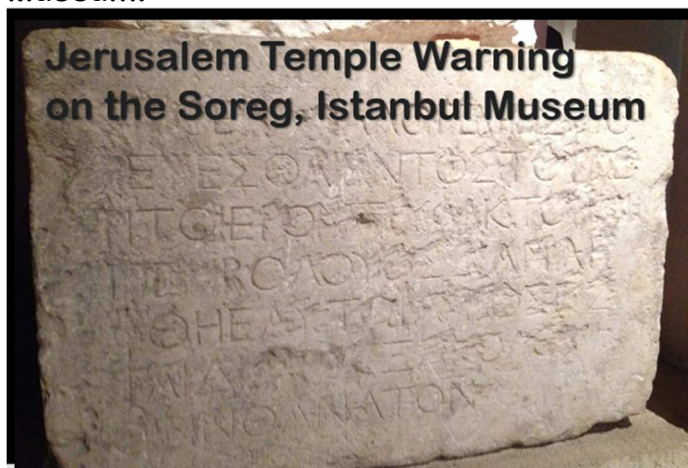
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Gentiles were permitted to enter the Temple Mount up until the Soreg fence. Large signs made of stone were placed along the Soreg with warnings engraved on them, forbidding entry to Gentiles and those who were ritually impure. Some of these signs have been found in archaeological excavations.

[<https://templeinstitute.org/illustrated-tour-the-temple-mount/>]

A complete tablet was discovered in 1871 by Charles Simon Clermont-Ganneau just outside the al-Atim Gate to the Temple Mount, and published by the Palestine Exploration Fund. Following the discovery of the inscription, it was taken by the Ottoman authorities, and it is currently in the Istanbul Archaeology Museums.

A partial fragment of a less well made version of the inscription was found in 1936 by J. H. Iliffe during the excavation of a new road outside Jerusalem's Lions' Gate; it is held in the Israel Museum.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_Warning_inscription#/media/File:Jerusalem_Temple_Warning_Inscription.jpg
Istanbul Archeology Museum]

Fragment of the Soreg inscription at the Israel Museum.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_Warning_inscription#/media/File:Samuel_and_Saidye_Bronfman_Archaeology_WingDSCN5007.JPG]

Jerusalem Temple Warning ΜΗΘΕΝΑΑΛΛΟΓΕΝΗΕΙΣΠΟ ΡΕΥΕΣΘΑΙΕΝΤΟΣΤΟΥΠΕ ΡΙΤΟΙΕΡΟΝΤΡΥΦΑΚΤΟΥΚΑΙ ΠΕΡΙΒΟΛΟΥΟΣΔΑΝΛΗ ΦΘΗΕΑΥΤΩΙΑΙΤΙΟΣΕΣ ΤΑΙΔΙΑΤΟΕΞΑΚΟΛΟΥ ΘΕΙΝΘΑΝΑΤΟΝ

Translation:

"Let no foreigner enter within the parapet [soreg] and the partition which surrounds the Temple precincts. Anyone caught [violating] will be held accountable for his ensuing death."

[Cheerful bit of instruction. This was the underlying mindset of the issue of Gentiles entering the Presence of the Living G-d. Enforced limitation!]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_Warning_inscription#/media/File:Jerusalem_Temple_Warning_Inscription.jpg



Alternatively: Included or Excluded

Ephesians 2.11-16 **Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth — called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised — at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God. But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood. For he himself is our shalom — he has made us both one and has broken down the m'chitzah which divided us by destroying in his own body the enmity occasioned by the Torah,**
[Hopefully you have a better visual image of that the m'chitzah or barrier was.]

Ephesians 2.11-16 **with its commands set forth in the form of ordinances. He did this in order to create in union with himself from the two groups a single new humanity and thus make shalom, and in order to reconcile to God both in a single body by being executed on a stake as a criminal and thus in himself killing that enmity.**

Accepted or Rejected

Ephesians 2:11-22
Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld

December 23, 2023 | 11th of Tevet, 5784
ד"ר שמעון וולקנפלד

OR HAOLAM
MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

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2. Negative description here.
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FIRST ^{Beresheet / Gen 7.13,16} Noah, along with Noah's sons Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah's wife and the three wives of Noah's sons with them, entered the ark... Those that came, male and female of all flesh, came just as God commanded him. Then **Adoni shut him in.** *[Pretty harsh judgment.]*

SECOND ^{Mt 25.1-4, 10-12} "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them

were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish ones took their lamps, they took no oil with them. But the wise ones took oil in jars along with their lamps ... But while they were going off to buy, the bridegroom came. And those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast, and the door was shut. Now later, the other virgins came, saying, 'Sir, Sir, open up for us!' "But he replied, 'Amen, **I tell you, I do not know you.**

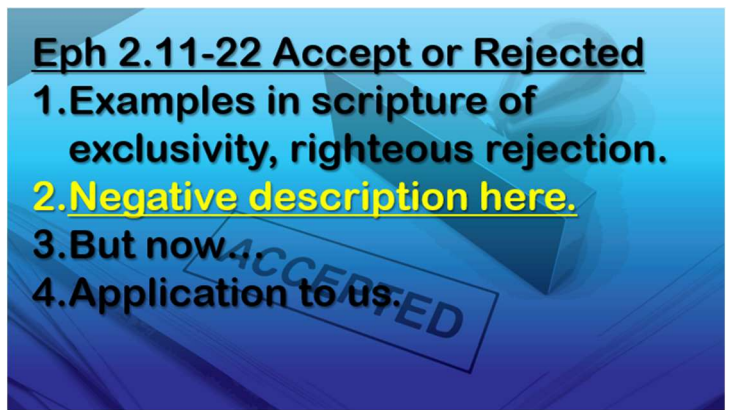
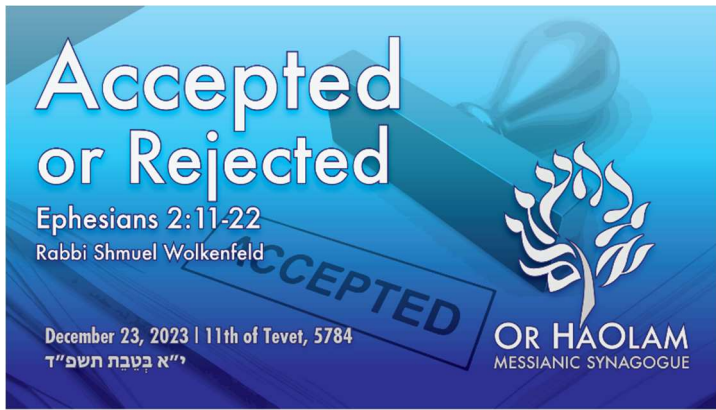
[Again, pretty harsh judgment. But this one from the lips of the Messiah Yeshua.]

THIRD ^{Mtt 25.31-34} "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, accompanied by all the angels, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The 'sheep' he will place at his right hand and the 'goats' at his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world... **They will go off to eternal punishment, but those who have done what God wants will go to eternal life.**"

[Again, pretty harsh judgment. But this one also from the lips of the Messiah Yeshua.]

FOURTH ^{Rev 20.11-15} Then I saw a great white throne, and the One seated on it. The earth and heaven fled from His presence, but no place was found for them. And I saw the dead — the great and the small—standing before the throne. The books were opened, and another book was opened — the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what was written in the books, according to their deeds. Then they were each judged, each one of them, according to their deeds. Then death and Sheol were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire. **And if anyone was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**

[This one absolute!]



First part of my text ...

Ephesians 2.11-12 Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth — called the **Uncircumcised** by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the **Circumcised** — at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra’el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God’s promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.

^{11a} “Gentiles by birth”

- Gentiles is not a negative or pejorative term in scripture thinking.
- Translation of Heb גוים *goyim* = nations ^{Ex 19.6} So as for you, you will be to Me a kingdom of *kohanim* priests and a holy nation.’ גוי קדוש

[In colloquial Jewish speech, goyim can be derogatory, but that’s NOT the biblical sense.]

Ephesians 2.11 Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth — called the **Uncircumcised** by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the **Circumcised**

[Term made the rounds “former Gentiles” not sound. People come up to me and say, “G-d showed me that I’m from the tribe of Naphtali.”

I never disrespect their sense from G-d, but I don’t take at face value either.

^{1 Yn 4.1} *Loved ones, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are from God. For many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

“OK, that is interesting. Needs to be tested. Do the work. Genealogy, DNA, family history. OK to be a Gentile. Spiritual condition at this writing was not OK ...]

^{11b} “called the Uncircumcised”

This can be a negative, pejorative term.

^{1 S 14.6} “Come on, let’s go across to the garrison of these uncircumcised people.

^{1 Sam 17.26} For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the ranks of the living God?”

Vayikra/Lev 26.41-42 At that time I will be going against them, bringing them into the lands of their enemies. But **if their uncircumcised hearts** will grow humble, and they are paid the punishment for their misdeeds; then I will remember my covenant with Ya’akov, also my covenant with Yitz’chak and my covenant with Avraham; and I will remember the land.

[Vayikra/Lev 26 about punishments on Israel for disobedience to Torah.]

^{12a} “At that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra’el.”

National life = *politeia* sort of commonwealth

You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. [Special promises.]

Forms of interactions of Gentiles with the Jewish people:

1. *Xenos* foreigners like נכרי *nokhri* Gentile visiting Israel
2. G-d fearers *Yireh HaShamiyim* יראי השמים drawn to the monotheism and ethics of Judaism, attend synagogue

[National life = *politeia* sort of commonwealth.]

3. *Ger* גר Alien

- *Ger Toshav*: גר תושב resident alien: subject to the 7 Noachide laws [Acts 15 crowd]
- *Ger Tsedek*: גר צדק Righteous, full convert, circumcised, full Torah

Ephesians 2.12b You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.

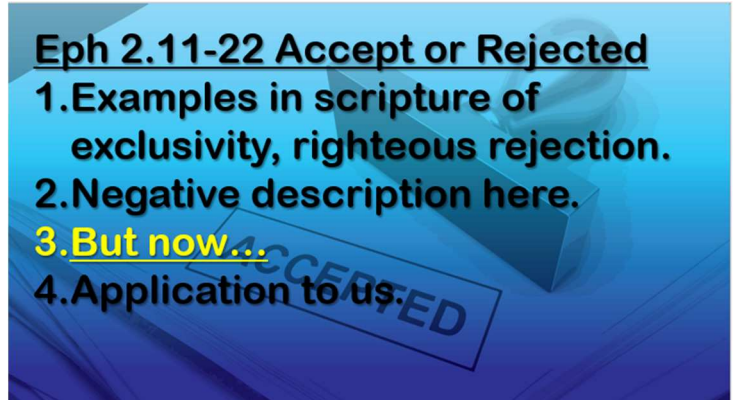
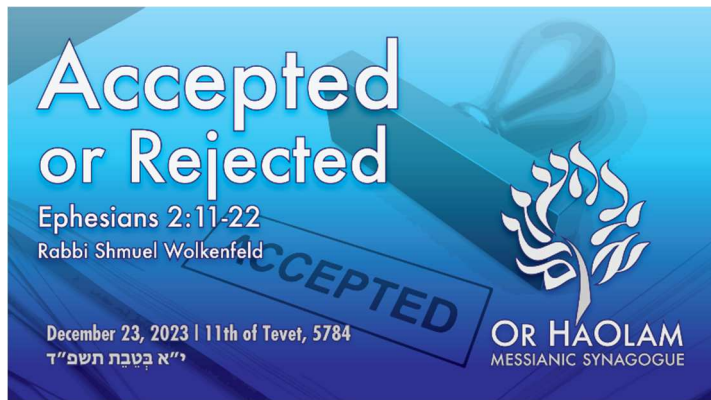
[Many gods, religious pluralism. No deep satisfaction with the history, theology, ethics and morals of their gods.]

Ro 9.4-5 The people of Isra'el! ¹They were made God's children, ²the Sh'khinah has been with them, ³the covenants are theirs, ⁴likewise the giving of the Torah, ⁵the Temple service and the ⁶promises; ⁷the Patriarchs are theirs; ⁸and from them, as far as his physical descent is concerned, came the Messiah, who is over all.

^{12c}You were in this world without hope and without God.

- No hope in distress, disease, difficulty.
- No hope beyond death.

[Hope or confidence in gods: in party, in pleasure.]



Ephesians 2.13-16 **But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood. For he himself is our shalom — he has made us both one and has broken down the m'chitzah which divided us by destroying in his own body the enmity occasioned by the Torah,**

^{13a} "But now"

Great sigh of relief.

Transformation.

^{13b} "you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood."

[Vision of our prophets!]

Dan 9.24 "Seventy weeks are decreed concerning your people and your holy city, to put an end to transgression to bring sin to an end, to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Holy of Holies.

Yeshayahu/Is 53.10 **Yet it pleased ADONI to bruise Him. He caused Him to suffer. If He makes His soul a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the will of ADONI will succeed by His hand.**

Gentiles are welcomed into the kingdom as Gentiles. No need for conversion to Judaism. Acts 15 Jerusalem Counsel decision: ^{Acts 15.19-21} I judge not to trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God— but to write to them to abstain from the contamination of idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what is strangled, and from blood. For Moshe from ancient generations has had in every city those who proclaim him, since he is read in all the synagogues every Shabbat.”

[Two interpretations of that last line about Moshe read every week

- 1. Read every week, and they'll get it.*
- 2. Read every week, and no sense pushing the issue. Not getting it.]*

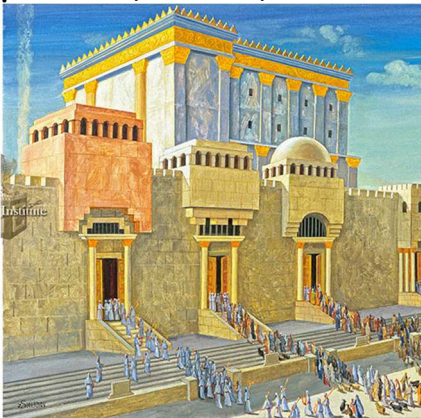
^{1 Cor 7.17-18} Only let each person live the life the Lord has assigned him and live it in the condition he was in when God called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the congregations. Was someone already circumcised when he was called? Then he should not try to remove the marks of his circumcision. Was someone uncircumcised when he was called? He shouldn't undergo b'rit-milah. *[Jerusalem Council II now in the works: Allow Jews to serve Messiah as Jews. Reciprocity.]*

^{2.14} For he himself is our shalom — **he has made us both one and has broken down the m'chitzah** which divided us
[Shaul/Paul uses our, us.]

^{T'hilim/Ps 24.7-10} Lift up your heads, you gates! Lift them up, **everlasting doors**, so that the glorious king can enter! Who is he, this glorious king? Adoni, strong and mighty, Adoni, mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, you gates! Lift them up, **everlasting doors**, so that the glorious king can enter! Who is he, this glorious king? Adoni -Tzva'ot — he is the glorious king. (Selah)

m'khitsah מַחֲצֵה

partition, divider, bulkhead; screen; barrier; septum;



The Temple m'khitsah, wall. soreg.


[You can now enter as Gentiles. Not waltz on in with sin, either a Gentile or Jewish person. Blood atonement of Messiah.

MJ/Heb 9.13-14 For if sprinkling ceremonially unclean persons with the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer restores their outward purity; then how much more the blood of the Messiah, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered himself to God as a sacrifice without blemish, will purify our conscience from works that lead to death, so that we can serve the living God!]

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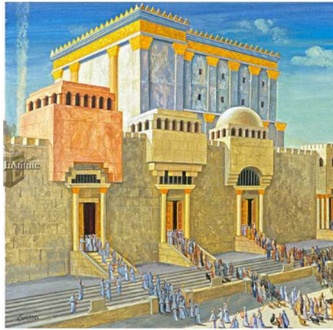
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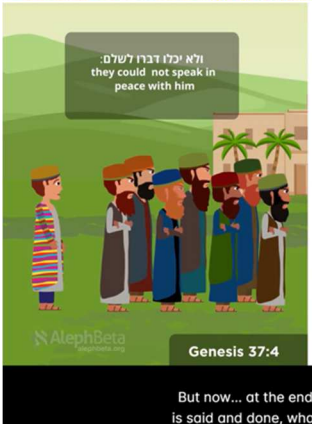
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The temple, m'khitsah, wall.
But what other walls are there?

Ber/ Gen 37.3-4 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his other sons because he was the son of his old age. So he had made him a long-sleeved tunic. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, **they hated him and could not speak to him in shalom.** [Insight of Rabbi Forman]



Ber/Gen 45.14-15 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept while Benjamin wept upon his neck, and he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. Finally after this, **his brothers talked with him.**

[<https://www.alephbeta.org/playlist/joseph-benjamin-save-the-family>]

Are there any walls between you and people?

Any history of rejection you are wrestling with?

Is there anyone you need to forgive?? Release?

Walls come down in Messiah.

Reverse wall. Torah had rejected Gentiles and Jews exacerbated, furthered it.

Now Gentiles, the world in general, are rejecting Jews.

Ben Shapiro:

51% of 18- to 24-year-olds think "the long term answer to the Israel-Palestinian dispute" is for **"Israel to be ended and given to Hamas and the Palestinians."**

[There is a wall to shalom, to harmony. Destroy Israel.]

<https://www.dailywire.com/news/the-most-disturbing-poll-in-recent-memory>

- 76% of young people think Hamas can be negotiated with to create peace, despite their stated and clear goal of Israel's destruction.

They claim that white people are oppressors and that non-white people are the oppressed young people. They support it. Not only do they support it, but they support it 79% to 21%. Eight to two. According to those same 18- to 24-year-olds, **Jews are part of the oppressor class. Some 67% — two thirds — agree that “Jews as a class are oppressors and should be treated as oppressors.”**

[<https://www.dailywire.com/news/the-most-disturbing-poll-in-recent-memory>]



In a shocking incident on Oct. 7, Natali Yohanan, a 38-year-old mother in Nir Oz, found her unlocked home invaded by a Gazan woman who proceeded to make herself at home for hours.

The trespasser entertained armed terrorists, turned off the safe room's electricity, and looted the house, leaving Yohanan and her family trapped in unbearable conditions.

The harrowing experience shattered Yohanan's belief in coexistence, reflecting a grim reality faced by many survivors of the surprise attack by Hamas from Gaza.

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XB7crOIEcgQ&t=487s>]

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XB7crOIEcgQ&t=487s>]

[<https://unitedwithisrael.org/watch-how-a-palestinian-woman-took-over-an-israeli-family-s-home-on-oct-7/>]



Daniel Pipes: To win the war of wills, Israel must break the Palestinian Arab will to continue fighting. It must understand that it has lost in its over 100-year-old war of violent rejectionism against Jewish sovereignty.

Some commentators claim that this war cannot be won, because it is a battle against an idea and not an army.

Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan during the Second World War had no less fanatical ideologies. These ideas were beaten and now these peoples no longer hold irredentist fantasies. Ideas can be beaten if they are deprived of hope.

The IDF must win on the battlefield, and defeat the command structure of Hamas. However, it must also take steps to ensure that the majorities who support Hamas, Fatah, Islamic Jihad, or any of the other terrorist organizations are also defeated, and they are forced to give up on their genocidal ideology.

This can only be achieved by convincing them that they have lost, and the Jews have won.

There is a better way.



Transformation involves surrender. Bassem Adranly, an Arab Christian from Jerusalem and dear friend of Tikkun Global, shared how God worked in his life to change his heart and give him a NEW kind of love that overcomes hate and produces fruit for God's glory. The struggle to love in his own strength was hopeless. He had to YIELD to the strength of God's love:

- For His own people,
- For the Jewish people.

Romans 8:6 - For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

MOST IMPORTANT: CONCLUSION—the way for the walls of fear, suspicion, anger, woundedness, revenge to come down, is worship and surrender to the King of Israel and the Saviour of the world, the Lord Yeshua the Messiah.

Hebrew Arabic worship revival
With SOLU (Shilo Ben Hod)

<https://youtu.be/R0gkTvCRSw?list=PLr-nPP5zgSA-yGbg6D4xtcBJNXptstmb>



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1. Do you KNOW Yeshua and entered the Temple?
2. Are you hearing daily from His Word?
3. How are you applying what you heard?
4. Are you offering that water of life to anyone?