

January 7, 2023
Bringing my Brother part 2

Last week's parasha was
Vayigash / וַיִּגַּשׁ

Beresheet/Gen 44.18 **Then Y'hudah approached**

One of the MOST dramatic scenes in the Bible.

[Parashat Vayigash 5783 / וַיִּגַּשׁ תַּשְׁרַף]

In the parasha story, the brothers had betrayed and sold Yosef into slavery. Now their enslaved brother was [unbeknownst to them] their absolute master.

They didn't recognize him because Yosef looked so foreign. Similar to how the Jewish people don't recognize Yeshua because He looks so foreign.

He was their promised redeemer

[Just like Yeshua is the promised redeemer of Israel.]

He was their promised redeemer

- He looked Egyptian.
- He dressed Egyptian.
- He spoke Egyptian.
- He ate food ~Egyptian.
- He was an enemy foreigner.
- He was their brother!

[In all church history, Jews have been tormented and killed in the name of Christ. Jesus is an enemy name to many/most Jewish people.]

Ber/Gen 44.18-28 **Then Y'hudah approached** [Vayigash / וַיִּגַּשׁ]

Yosef and said, "Please, my lord! Let your servant say something to you privately; and don't be angry with your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself.

[Brother in extreme distress.]

Ber/Gen 44.18-28 **My lord asked his servants, 'Do you have a father? or a brother?' We answered my lord, 'We have a father who is an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one whose brother is dead;**

Ber/Gen 44.18-28 **so that of his mother's children he alone is left; and his father loves him.' But you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, so that I can see him.' We answered my lord, 'The boy can't leave his father; if he were to leave his father, his father would die.'**

Ber/Gen 44.18-28 **You said to your servants, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.' We went up to your servant my father and told him what my lord had said; but when our father said, 'Go again, and buy us some food,' we answered, 'We can't go down. Only if our youngest brother is with us will we go down, because we can't see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'**

Ber/Gen 44.18-28 Then your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two sons: the one went out from me, and I said, “Surely he has been torn to pieces,” and I haven’t seen him since.

[Yehuda’s humble acknowledging Yaakov/ Jacob said “My wife.” Not one of my wives.

Yehuda’s humble acknowledging Yaakov/Jacob said, only “two sons.” Extreme self-deprecation.]

Ber/Gen 44.29-34 Now if you take this one away from me too, and something happens to him, you will bring my gray hair down to Sh’ol with grief.’ So now if I go to your servant my father, and the boy isn’t with us — seeing how his heart is **bound up with the boy’s heart** — when he sees that the boy isn’t with us, *[w/o jealousy]*

Ber/Gen 44.29-34 he will die; and your servants will bring the gray hair of your servant our father down to Sh’ol with grief. For your servant himself guaranteed his safety; I said, ‘If I fail to bring him to you, then I will bear the blame before my father forever.’

[Total aside: note gray hair as mark of honor twice.]

Ber/Gen 44.29-34 Therefore, I beg you, let your servant stay as a slave to my lord instead of the boy, and let the boy go up with his brothers. For **how can I go up to my father if the boy isn’t with me?** I couldn’t bear to see my father so overwhelmed by anguish.”

[Yehuda was willing to take on vicarious atoning responsibility.

Yehuda could not bear to fail.]

Yehuda offered himself in place of endangered, incarcerated, Benjamin.

Sacrificial love compared to the jealous betrayal [contemplated murder, sale into slavery] of Yosef years previous.

Is there anything comparable in our duty to endangered neighbors.

- Jewish neighbors
- Gentile neighbors

How can I go up to my father if the boy isn’t with me?

How can we go up to the Eternal Father if we haven’t brought some of our neighbors?

[Who is my neighbor?]



Yosef said to his brothers, "I am Yosef! Is it true that my father is still alive?" His brothers couldn't answer him, they were so panicked at seeing him.

וַיֹּסֵף אֶל-אֶחָיו אֲבֹתָיו וַיֹּסֵף הָעוֹד אִמָּהּ ; וְלֹא-יָכְלוּ אֶחָיו לַעֲנוֹת אֹתוֹ, כִּי נִבְהָלוּ מִפְּנָיו.

[Has to be one of the MOST dramatic scenes in scripture!]

Song Am Yisrael Khi.

הַעוֹד אֶבְי חַי *Haod avi khi → Od avinu khi*

[עוֹד אֶבְיִנוּ חַי]

The brothers could now gasp to see that Yosef was their prophesied ruler and their flesh and blood.

The Jewish people will eventually see that Yeshua is their prophesied Messiah, and their own flesh and blood.

Zekh 12.9-10 "When that day comes, I will seek to destroy all nations attacking Yerushalayim; and I will pour out on the house of David and on those living in Yerushalayim a spirit of grace and prayer; and **they will look to me, whom they pierced.**" **They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only son;** *[Similar shocking recognition of the Messiah as their own brother. "That was YOU?!"]*

Acts 22.1-3 "Brothers and fathers! Listen to me as I make my defense before you now!" When they heard him speaking to them in Hebrew, they settled down more; so he continued: "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city and trained at the feet of Gamli'el in every detail of the Torah of our forefathers ..."

Revelation of Yosef ~ rev of Yeshua

Can we share the reality of the Jewish Messiah with our Jewish neighbors?

1. Do we need to? Jewish practice IS beautiful.
2. If so, how.

[Gentiles NOT excluded, but this is to the Jewish people first of all.]



1. Do we need to share Yeshua with Jewish people. Jewish practice IS beautiful.

First reason: Divine pattern "to the Jewish people first."

Lk.24.46-47 "Here is what it says: the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day; and in his name repentance leading to forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to people from all nations, **starting with Yerushalayim.**

Ro. 1.16 For I am not ashamed of the Good News, since it is God's powerful means of bringing salvation to everyone who keeps on trusting, **to the Jew especially,** but equally to the Gentile.

Matt 28.18-20 Yeshua came and talked with them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make people from **all nations** into talmidim [disciples], immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruakh HaKodesh, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember! **I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the age.**" *[Best way for Him to be "with us"]*



1. Do we need to share Yeshua with Jewish people. Jewish practice IS beautiful.

Second reason: Subtle but great spiritual need.

[I am about to share one of the trickiest things in all of Paul/Shaul's writings.]

Ro. 10.2-5 | I can testify to their zeal for God. But it is not based on correct understanding; for, since they are unaware of God's way of making people righteous and instead seek to set up their own, they have not submitted themselves to God's way of making people righteous. For the goal at which the Torah aims is the Messiah, who offers righteousness to everyone who trusts.

[Jewish worshipers look and seem so together familial-ly and spiritually.]

Ro. 10.2-5 For Moshe writes about the righteousness grounded in the Torah that the person who does these things will attain life through them.

Vayikra/Lev 18.5 You are to observe my laws and rulings; if a person does them, he will have life through them; I am Adoni. אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה אֹתָם הָאָדָם וְחַי בָּהֶם

[Contrasted to...]

Ro 11.6-10 Moreover, the righteousness grounded in trusting says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend to heaven?'" — that is, to bring the Messiah down — or, "'Who will descend into Sh'ol?'" — that is, to bring the Messiah up from the dead.,

Ro 11.6-10 What, then, does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart."— that is, the word about trust which we proclaim, namely, that if you acknowledge publicly with your mouth that Yeshua is Lord

Ro 11.6-10 and trust in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be delivered. For with the heart one goes on trusting and thus continues toward righteousness, while with the mouth one keeps on making public acknowledgement and thus continues toward deliverance. [D'varim/Dt 30:11-14]

Two systems of salvation in the Torah

1. Lev 18.5 "live by obedience."
2. Dt 30:11-14 "live by faith → imparted power to obey.
 - The two systems are intertwined, but Yeshua is the second.
 - No one can really succeed in the first.

[So, eternal issues are at stake here.]



1. Do we need to share Yeshua with Jewish people. Jewish practice IS beautiful.

Third reason: We are called to win people.

¹Thes 2.17-20 And as for us, brothers, when we were deprived of your company for a short time — in person, but not in thought — we missed you and tried hard to come and see you.

¹Thes 2.17-20 **I, Sha’ul, tried more than once — but the Adversary stopped us. For when our Lord Yeshua returns, what will be our hope, our joy, our crown to boast about? Won’t it be you? Yes, you are our glory and our joy!**

Ber./Gen 4.9 **Adoni said to Cain, “Where is Abel, your brother?”**

“I don’t know,” he said.

“Am I my brother’s keeper?”

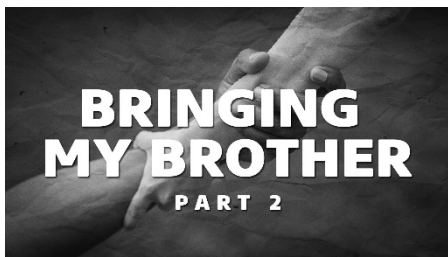
Gal 5.13-15 **For, brothers, you were called to be free [mature, empowered]. Only do not let that freedom become an excuse for allowing your old nature to have its way. Instead, serve one another in love. For the whole of the Torah is summed up in this one sentence: “Love your neighbor as yourself”; but if you go on snapping at each other and tearing each other to pieces, watch out, or you will be destroyed by each other!**

¹Yn 3.16 **The way that we have come to know love is through Yeshua the Messiah having laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters!**

¹Thes 2.13-14 **We also thank God constantly that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it truly is—the word of God, which does its work in you who believe. For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God’s communities in Messiah Yeshua that are in Judea—for you suffered the same things.**

Phil. 4.1 **Therefore, my brothers and sisters whom I love and long for, my joy and crown—stand firm in the Lord in this way, my loved ones.**

¹Thes 1.4-6 **We know, brothers, that God has loved and chosen you; that the Good News we brought did not become for you a matter only of words, but also one of power, the *Ruakh HaKodesh* and total conviction — just as you know how we lived for your sakes when we were with you. You, indeed, became imitators of us and of the Lord; so that even though you were going through severe troubles, you received the Word with joy from the *Ruakh HaKodesh*.**



**2. How can we Jewishly share that Yeshua is the Jewish Messiah?
[Not obscured by Egyptian costume.**

The prophet Yeshayahu/Isaiah has the answer...]

Yeshayahu/Is 40.3-8 **A voice cries out: “Clear a road through the desert for Adoni! Level a highway in the ‘Aravah for our God! Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill lowered, the bumpy places made**

level and the crags become a plain.

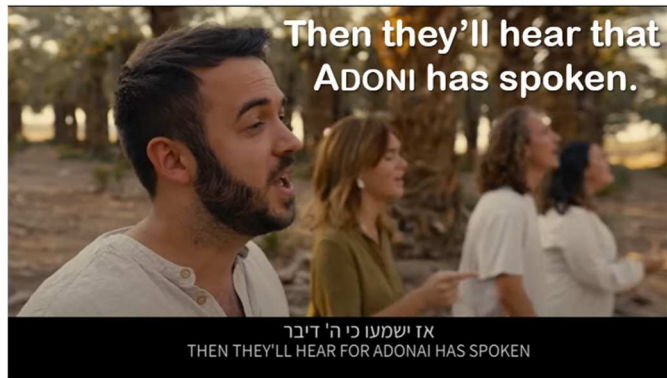
Yeshayahu/Is 40.3-8 **Then the glory of Adoni will be revealed; all mankind together will see it, for the mouth of Adoni has spoken.”**

Yeshayahu/Is 40.3-8 **A voice says, “Proclaim!” And I answer, “What should I proclaim?”**

Yeshayahu/Is 40.3-8 **“All humanity is merely grass, all its kindness like wildflowers: the grass dries up, the flower fades, when a wind from Adoni blows on it. Surely the people are grass! The grass dries up, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.”**



[These are Jewish Israeli kids, living out the redemption, and communicating it with their peers and the world. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwrUbyRp2w>]



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHn1POJovZA>
Especially 0:21-1.31

G-d of the heavens, He will give us success.
We are His servants.
We will arise and build. There is no place for fear.
There is no time to waste. A voice cries out here in the desert.

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHn1POJovZA>

This is EXACTLY what we are doing, and about to do more!!]

Build up a highway.
Straighten for Him a path.
Remove every obstacle.
Behold He is coming.
Awaken every sleeper.
It's time to arise.

A voice cries out here in the desert.

**We are all awaiting in anticipation for the fullness of your glory to be revealed to us.
Then they'll hear for Adoni has spoken.**

2 Cor. 4.6 For it is the God who once said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has made his light shine in our hearts, the light of the knowledge of God's glory shining in the face of the Messiah Yeshua.

[This is what we have to offer, ideally, to the Jewish and Gentile world. This is what broke into my debauched secular heart in 1969. The method hasn't changed. The revelation of GLORY has gotten antiquated, obsolete, passe, dated. How do we do that?]

Yeshayau / Is 57. 15 For thus says the High, Exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy: "I live in the high and holy place but also with the broken and humble, in order to revive the spirit of the humble and revive the hearts of the broken ones.



3. Methods and events to do this?

The following outreach events are in the works, this afternoon a detailed planner:



1. **Mishloakh Manot: Saturday, March 4 (prep day February 25)**
2. Tuesday, May 9: A Different Lag B'Omer
3. Sunday, May 28: Shavu'ot/Memorial Day Music Festival on our property with band stand back facing the street.
4. Sunday, October 1: Sukkot Music Festival on our property

Esther 9. 20-22 Mordekhi recorded these events and sent letters to all the Jews in all the provinces of King Akhashverosh, both near and far, instructing them to observe the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and the fifteenth day, every year, [to commemorate] the days on which the Jews obtained rest from their enemies and the month which for them was turned from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; they were to make them days of celebrating and rejoicing, sending portions [of food] to each other and giving gifts to the poor.

sending portions [of food] to each other

Mishloakh manot מְשַׁלַּח מְנוֹת אִישׁ לְרֵעֵהוּ
or shalakh manos

- Need teams to pack.
- Teams to distribute.
- Mike will make up neighborhood zones.
- Sunday option.



Gaily wrapped baskets of sweets, drinks and other foodstuffs given as mishloach manot on Purim day

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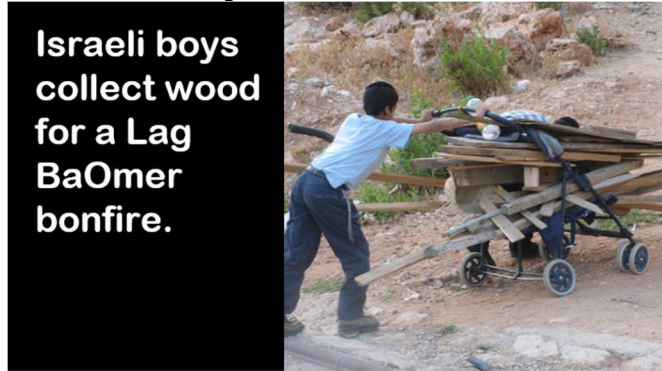
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Lag BaOmer **ליל בַּעוֹמֶר** is a Jewish religious holiday celebrated on the 33rd day of the Counting of the Omer, which occurs on the 18th day of the Hebrew month of Iyar. This year Tues., May 9, 2023
 According to some, it is the day on which the plague that killed Rabbi Akiva's 24,000 disciples came to an end, and for this reason the mourning period of Sefirat HaOmer concludes on Lag BaOmer in many communities.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lag_BaOmer Because of disrespect.]

Others suggest that the deaths of Rabbi Akiva's students was a veiled reference to the defeat of "Akiva's soldiers" by the Romans, and that Lag BaOmer was the day on which Bar Kokhba enjoyed a brief victory. ~130

The most well-known custom of Lag BaOmer is the lighting of bonfires, possible signal fires of Bar Kokhba's army.



Israeli boys collect wood for a Lag BaOmer bonfire.



Children watch Lag BaOmer bonfire in Tel Aviv, Israel

[by Roi Boshi - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16923216]

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Meeting at 1:30 today to do this!

A voice cries out here in the desert.



במדבר, קול קורא כאן במדבר
THERE IS A VOICE CALLING HERE IN THE DESERT

How can I go up to my father if the boy isn't with me?

How can we go up to the Eternal Father if we haven't brought some of our neighbors?

[Who is my neighbor?]



1. Do you **KNOW** Yeshua the Messiah and King?
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?