

March 9, 2024
Ephesians 4.7-10
Battlefield Liberation Gifts



Greatest Jewish Jokes of All Time
[<https://www.instagram.com/p/C4Eg7GDPSKd/>]



**BATTLEFIELD
GIFTS**

Ephesians 4:7-10
Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld

March 9, 2024 | 29th of Adar I, 5784
כ"ט באדר א' תשפ"ד

OR HAOLAM
MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

Last Shabbat: UNITY

Eph 4.2-6 You were called to one hope. And there is one Lord, one trust, one immersion, and one God, the Father of all, who rules over all, works through all and is in all. **Unity of heart and spirit.**

[So, to maintain unity ...]

Ephesians 4.7-10 But to each one of us grace was given in keeping with the measure of Messiah's gift. Therefore it says, "When He went up on high, He led captive a troop of captives and gave gifts to his people."

[Who are these captives?

Where were they in captivity?

How were they rescued?

What gifts?]

Ephesians 4.7-10 Now what does “He went up” mean, except that He first went down to the lower regions of the earth? The One who came down is the same One who went up far above all the heavens, in order to fill all things.



*[Liberation of captives is a GREAT thing
Building on the last topic: It takes battle to keep unity.]*



On June 27, 1976, a routine commercial flight on Air France made its way from Tel Aviv to Paris. It was hijacked by the German Baader–Meinhof Gang and taken to Entebbe, Uganda, On July 4, a week after the plane was hijacked, Israeli forces landed in Entebbe during the dead of night.

[\[https://youtu.be/GXkGNZEikPU\]](https://youtu.be/GXkGNZEikPU)

They had a car like Idi Amin’s. Interpol interviewed under hypnosis the French passengers released. Israeli contractor had built the terminal. They knew exactly where to go. Key word DOWN or שכבו



Killed anyone standing. A Holocaust survivor hearing orders given with a German accent ... again was transported back 35 years.]



[\[https://youtu.be/4bnUn6A3EII\]](https://youtu.be/4bnUn6A3EII)

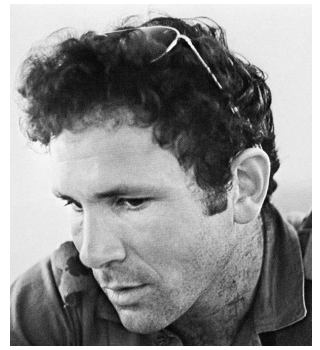
At 100-ft altitude to avoid Saudi and Egyptian radar. Permission from Kenya. Thank you, Kenyans.]

Once the smoke cleared, every single one of the hijackers and 20 Ugandan soldiers supporting them were dead. **The hostages were guided into the waiting C-130 aircraft. Liberated 102 hostages.** Of the Israelis four were either dead or missing.

Among the dead was the commander of Operation Entebbe, Yonatan [Yoni/ Jonathan] Netanyahu, older brother of Benjamin Netanyahu. He had been shot within minutes of the first aircraft landing.

[<https://allthatsinteresting.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/yonatan-netanyahu.jpg>]

The family had thought that Yoni had the political leadership future. That all fell on younger brother Benjamin or Bibi.]



*[https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/2604/4866/files/11709608_946144722117310_3944984713459818311_n_1024x1024.jpg?v=1553715785]
[Of 106 hostages, 102 were rescued and returned to Israel]*



[<https://spotterup.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Entebbe.jpg>]

GREAT liberation of captives!!

Gift to them of survival, freedom, restoration to family and home.

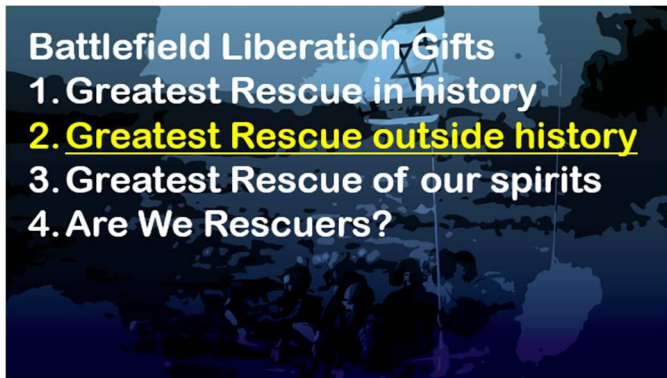
Operation Entebbe was considered a stunning success and would be later taught and studied by armies around the globe.

Whole movie:

<https://youtu.be/Qww8rwtWTO0>

[<https://allthatsinteresting.com/operation-entebbe>]

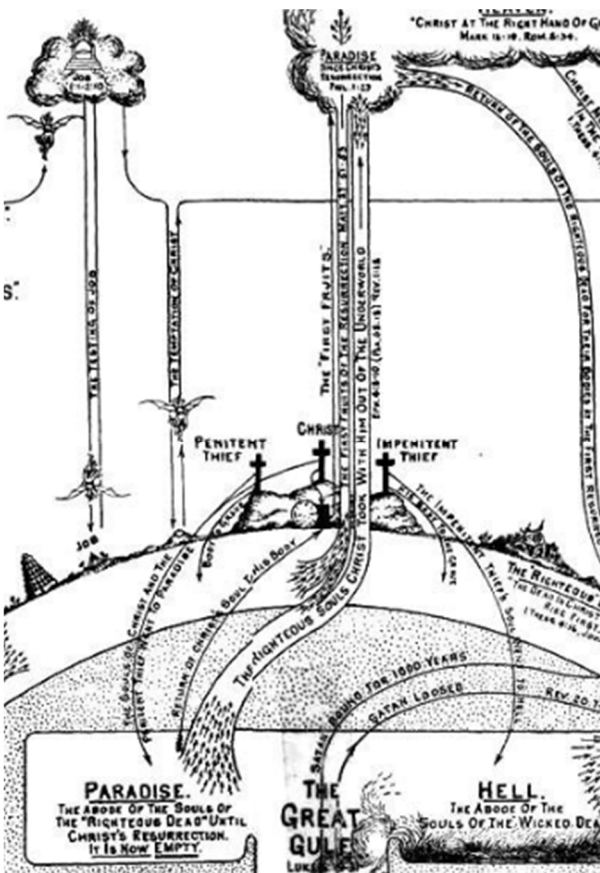
As great as that homecoming of these rescued captives is, there are greater homecoming celebrations coming.]



[We are rescued, and we are to be rescuers]

Ephesians 4.7-10 But to each one of us grace was given in keeping with the measure of Messiah’s gift. Therefore it says, “When He went up on high, He led captive a troop of captives and gave gifts to his people.” Now what does “He went up” mean, except that He first went down to the lower regions of the earth? The One who came down is the same One who went up far above all the heavens, in order to fill all things.

Who are these captives?
 Where were they in captivity?
 How were they rescued?
 What gifts?



One meaning of who are the captives: The deceased in Paradise before Messiah’s death and resurrection.
[So this is a cosmic, eternal rescue by Messiah.]

Before Messiah’s atoning death and resurrection the righteous deceased clearly went to Paradise, but NOT to G-d’s immediate presence.

After Yeshua’s death and resurrection, He brought them from Paradise, to G-d’s presence, captivity captive.

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/96/05/d2/9605d23c0af65c52372ce7d3cc6f915c.jpg>



T'hillim / Ps 68.18-22 The chariots of God are thousands and thousands—my Lord is among them as at Sinai, in holiness. You went up on high. You led captivity captive. You received gifts from humanity, even from the rebellious—so that God might dwell there. Blessed be my Lord! Day by day He bears our burdens—the God of our salvation! Selah God is for us—a God of

deliverance. Adoni my Lord has escape from death. Surely God crushes the head of His foes. *[Warfare and contention to bring the righteous deceased into G-d's presence.]*

T'hillim/Ps 24 7-10 Lift up your heads, O gates, and be lifted up, you everlasting doors: that the King of glory may come in. "Who is this King of glory?" Adoni strong and mighty, Adoni mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, *[Warfare in eternal, unseen realms.]*

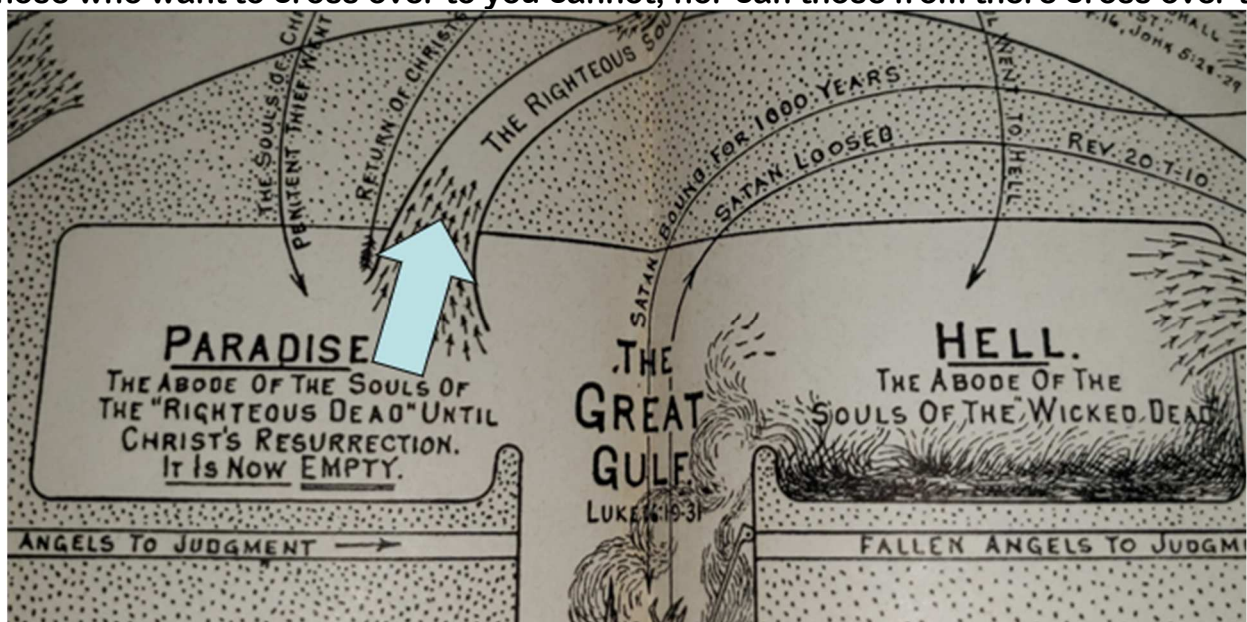
T'hillim/Ps 24 7-10 O gates, and lift them up, you everlasting doors: that the King of glory may come in. "Who is this King of glory?" Adoni -Tzva'ot—He is the King of glory!

Lk 16.20-26 "Now there was a rich man dressed in purple and fine linen, living it up in luxury every day. But a poor man named Lazarus had been laid at his gate, covered with sores and longing to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Besides, even the dogs were coming to lick his sores. *[Doesn't say, but implies that the man in luxury was corrupt, and sickly Lazarus was righteous. NOT implying that the riches were inherently evil. This rich guy apparently was defiled.]*

Lk 16.20-26 "It happened that the poor man died and was carried by the angels to Avraham's side. *[Doesn't say "heaven" or "G-d's presence." But a place of bliss and comfort. So Lazarus in Avraham's side, honored guest at Avraham's table.]*

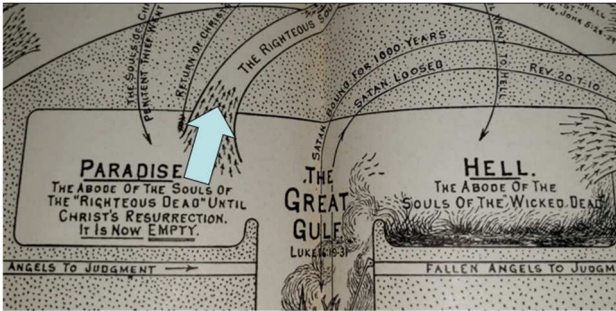
Lk 16.20-26 Then the rich man also died and was buried. And from Sheol [Hell], as he was in torment, he raised his eyes. And he sees Abraham far off, and Lazarus at his side. *[Rich man in the place of punishment, died without G-d in his life and heart. Absence of G-d here implies absence of G-d in eternity! G-d doesn't have to send those separated from him to hell, they just continue to exist bereft of any comfort and blessings.]*

Lk 16.20-26 So he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me! And send Lazarus so he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, because I am suffering torment in this flame.' "But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your life you received your good things, even as Lazarus received the bad things. But now he is comforted here, and you are tormented. Besides all this, between us and you a great chasm is firmly set, so that those who want to cross over to you cannot, nor can those from there cross over to us.



Lk 23.32 Two other men, both criminals, were led out to be executed with Him [Yeshua]. When they came to the place called The Skull, they nailed him to a stake; and they nailed the criminals to stakes, one on the right and one on the left.

Lk 23.34- 43 ... One of the criminals hanging there was jeering at Him, saying, “Aren’t You the Messiah? Save Yourself—and us!” But the other one, rebuking him, replied, “Don’t you fear God, since you are under the same sentence? We’re getting what we deserve for our actions, and rightly so—but this One has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Yeshua, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” Yeshua said to him, “Amen, I tell you, today you shall be with Me in **Paradise.**”



Another source of info about “captivity captive”

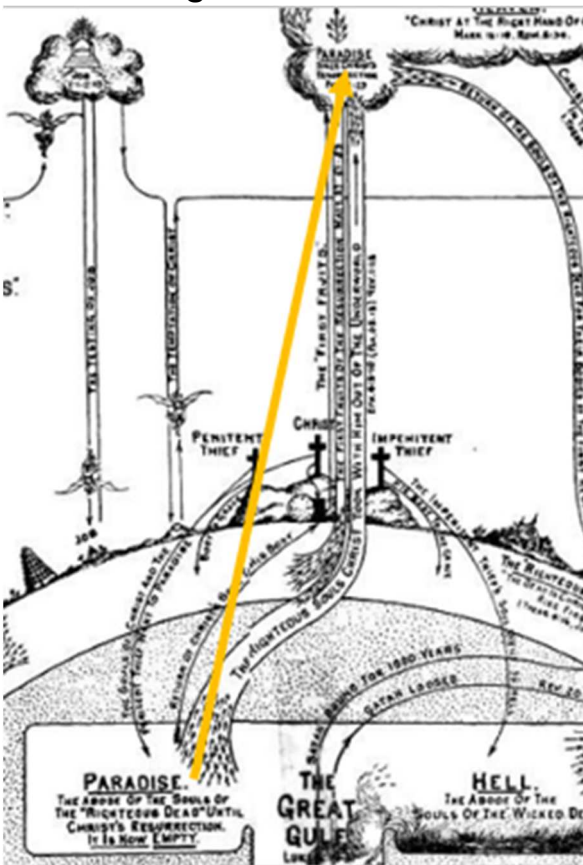
Dr. R.C. Sproul was founder of Ligonier of preaching and teaching at Saint Sanford, Fla., first president of Bible College



R.C. Sproul

Ministries, first minister Andrew’s Chapel in Reformation

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/teachers/rc-sproul>



The Apostles’ Creed is used as an integral form of worship in many believing bodies. Good and bad: [+]Clearly affirms deity and humanity of Messiah over some controversy.

[-] Makes NO reference to G-d’s covenants with Israel.

One of the more puzzling statements in that creed is:

“He [Messiah] descended into hell.” Most scholars that believe in an actual descent of Messiah into hell do not see him going to hell for further suffering because Yeshua declares “It is finished.” Rather, he goes to hell to liberate those spirits who, from antiquity, have been held in prison. His task in hell then is one of triumph, liberating Old Testament saints.

I personally think that the Bible is less than clear on that point because the lost spirits in prison could very well refer to lost people in this world. So now, “to be absent from the body is to be present with the L-rd.”²

Cor 5.8

[Warfare and contention to bring the righteous deceased into G-d's presence.]

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MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

Battlefield Liberation Gifts
1. Greatest Rescue in history
2. Greatest Rescue outside history
3. **Greatest Rescue of our spirits**
4. Are We Rescuers?

[Liberation of captives is a GREAT thing] [We are rescued, and we are to be rescuers.]

A third meaning of who are the captives is:
All who are guilty of sin.

Yokhanan/Jn 8.34-36 Yeshua answered them, “Yes, indeed! I tell you that everyone who practices sin is a slave of sin. Now a slave does not remain with a family forever, but a son does remain with it forever. So if the Son frees you, you will really be free!

*[Warfare and contention to bring the righteous deceased into G-d's presence.
Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.]*

Yeshuyahu/Isaiah 61.1-3 The Spirit of Adoni Elohim is upon me, because Adoni has anointed me to announce good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted; to proclaim **freedom to the captives, to let out into light those bound in the dark**; to proclaim the year of the favor of Adoni and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, yes, provide for those in Tziyon who mourn, giving them garlands instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a cloak of praise instead of a heavy spirit, so that they will be called oaks of righteousness planted by Adoni, in which he takes pride.

Synagogue reading from the scroll was part of the life of Yeshua.

Lk. 4. 16-22 Now when he went to Natzeret, where he had been brought up, on Shabbat he went to the synagogue as usual. He stood up to read, and he was given the scroll of the prophet Yesha'yahu Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of Adoni is upon me; therefore he has anointed me to announce Good News to the poor; he has sent me **to proclaim freedom for the imprisoned** and renewed sight for the blind, to release those who have been crushed, to proclaim a year of the favor of Adoni.” After closing the scroll and returning it to the *shammash*, he sat down; and the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. He started to speak to them: “Today, as you heard it read, this passage of the Tanakh was fulfilled!” Everyone was speaking well of him and marveling that such appealing words were coming from his mouth. They were even asking, “Can this be Yosef's son?”

Are we rescuers?

Lk. 4. 16-22 “The Spirit of Adoni is upon me; therefore he has anointed me to announce Good News to the poor; he has sent me to proclaim freedom for the imprisoned and renewed sight for the blind, to release those who have been crushed, to proclaim a year of the favor of Adoni.”

- Do we sense the reality and presence of the Spirit upon us in our lives?
 - Love, joy, peace
 - Evident?
- Do we labor to bring the Good News of Messiah to the poor?
 - Misloakh Manot in 2 weeks
- Do we
 - labor to loose those imprisoned?
 - help those who are blinded to Truth?
 - release the crushed? Pre-born?
- Are we warriors to preserve Israel, sign petitions, go to demonstrations?
- Do we fight against lies in the culture
 - about gender?
 - about Israel?
- Do we sacrifice to have unity and blessing and growth?

Valiant for truth on the home front:

According to the 2024 Match Singles in America report, which released on Wednesday, while 31% of singles in America have explored consensual non-monogamy (also known as ethical non-monogamy), 49% of singles say that traditional sexual monogamy is still their "ideal sexual relationship.

Of the one third of singles who had tried consensual non-monogamy, respondents reported participating in polyamory (where relationship partners agree that each may have a romantic relationship with other people), open relationships (a committed primary relationship that openly allows for romantic and/or sexual activity with others), swinging (expanding an exclusive romantic relationship to seek out other sexual partners together), and being monogamish (a committed relationship that allows for sexual variety with others, either together or individually).

[https://time.com/6568590/dating-non-monogamy-polyamory-match-singles-in-america/?et_rid=207180372&lctg=207180372

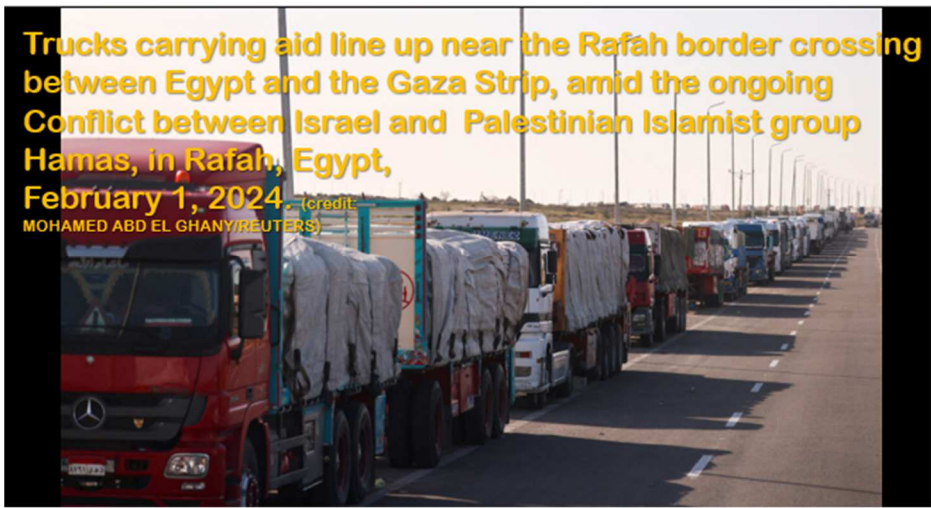
Sexual truth is simple: celibacy outside marriage.]

Contending for truth about Israel, from Sally Shiff, an Israeli guest speaker who has been here at Or HaOlam.



1 small note, this "not enough supplies" to Gaza? They are receiving 1.5 times the aid they did before Oct 7. It's a propaganda lie that is perpetrated by Hamas ... <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-790880>

Trucks carrying aid line up near the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Rafah, Egypt, February 1, 2024. (credit: MOHAMED ABD EL GHANY/REUTERS)



The negotiations are a standstill for good reasons. Hamas purposely kidnapped Israelis dead or alive to be used as a bargaining chip with Israel. Every terrorist who brought a hostage back received \$10,000 from Hamas.

Hamas has stripped the people financially, leaving them in abject poverty. Standard of living is about \$2 a day (for a family of 5). So when Hamas offers them \$200 a month to build a tunnel under their home or kidnap Israelis ...



Asher Intrater

<https://youtu.be/jNyrfO1d9Zk>

1. Destroying Hamas in Rafah
2. Moving Gazan citizens out of Rafah area
3. Defending the border with Lebanon
4. Allowing Ramadan celebrations
5. Humanitarian aid in Gaza
6. Release/Rescue of the hostages
7. Worldwide Anti-Zionism/ Antisemitism
8. Enlistment of Orthodox Jews into the army
9. Israel's budget deficit during war
10. Eurovision and "October Rain"

To be a liberator takes:

1. Courage (Speak the truth in love)
2. Sacrifice (Elevate others)
3. Humility (First to confess)
4. Love



Freed Israeli hostages Fernando Simon Marman (left) and Louis Har

Freed Israeli hostages Fernando Simon Marman (left) and Louis Har at Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, Israel. Also pictured kissing Marman is his sister, Gabriela Leimberg, and his other sister and Har's partner, Clara Marman, on Feb. 12, 2024. Source: X.

<https://www.jns.org/rescue-op-a-vital-mini-success-on-the-way-to-overall-victory-in-gaza/>

Every soldier who took part knew everything about Fernando Marman, 60, and Louis Har, 70, who were captured on Oct. 7 from their home in Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak near the Gaza Strip—their facial features, qualities and personalities. They also knew that the operation would be tough because it would take place in a Hamas stronghold that the IDF still hadn't targeted, full of

terrorists for whom Rafah is their last bastion. The unit trained non-stop during those weeks, with an emphasis on the fact that the difference between success and failure was measured in millimeters.

[https://www.israeltoday.co.il/read/i-dragged-him-toward-me-and-said-weve-come-to-take-you-home/?mc_cid=980484d9e6&mc_eid=9f06d9f262]

Q: You weren't afraid, when you killed the terrorists, that maybe you were mistakenly shooting at the hostages?

"The faces of Louis and Fernando have already been in my head for a long time. They were engraved in my mind, and I knew that if I wasn't sure then I wouldn't shoot."

Q: Even at the price of the terrorists shooting at you?

"I think we've all already made our peace with that."

[Physical rescue risky and costly. Spiritual rescue similar.]



[<https://youtu.be/AJLoO3jzxBA>]

Premiered Mar 7, 2024: A group of Israeli believers gathered from all over the Land, together with believers from the nations, for this song of prayer in the city of Sderot, located approximately one kilometer from the Gaza border.

Tell believers by raising hands.

Sign the "I pray #Isaiah61" petition at

<https://setthecaptivesfree.allisrael.com>

The believers gathered on the site of the former police station that was attacked by Hamas terrorists who took the lives of more than thirty policemen and civilians on October 7th.

Song: Ruach Adonai Alai - The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me

Music: Tony Sperandeo and Noam Waxman ©1987 [Messianic congregation leader]

Words: Isaiah 61:1-3

Recorded: 61 Herzl St, Sderot, Israel on Feb 26, 2024



Liberation of captives is a GREAT thing

Ephesians 4.7-10 But to each one of us grace was given in keeping with the measure of Messiah's gift. Therefore it says, "When He went up on high, He led captive a troop of captives and gave gifts to his people." Now what does "He went up" mean, except that He first went down to the lower regions of the earth? The One who came down is the same One who went up far above all the heavens, in order to fill all things.

1. Do you KNOW Yeshua and drinking the water of LIFE?
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?