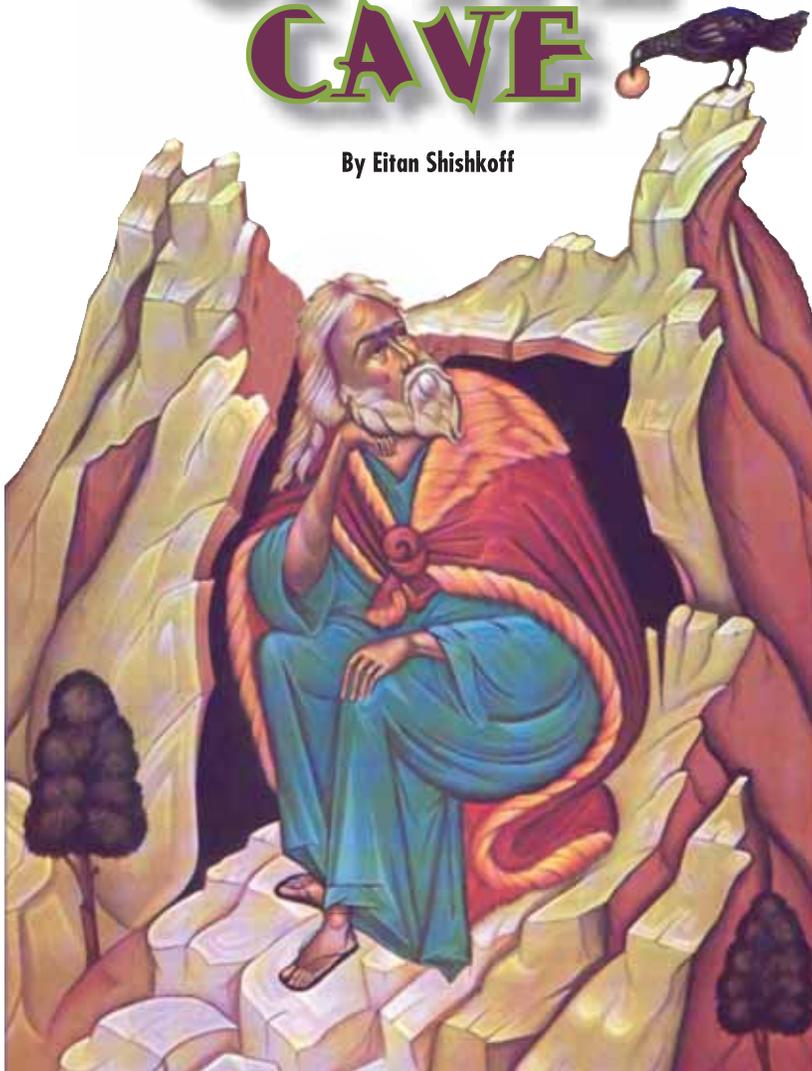




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COME OUT OF THE CAVE

By Eitan Shishkoff



We live in the shadow of Mt. Carmel, the scene of Elijah's epic confrontation with the prophets of Baal. That seems pretty relevant today, in light of the battle for true worship in an increasingly secular nation. Seeing the mountain every day of our lives, the story of Elijah feels close and current.

In Elijah's story I see a striking parallel to our situation as Yeshua's followers within Israel. After his incredible victory over the prophets of Baal, Elijah flees from Jezebel and locks himself inside a cave in the wilderness of Horev. I can well identify with his state of mind. This led me to ponder the question "what brought Elijah out of the cave?" More importantly, when so much poverty, sickness, family conflict and culture clash crowds in upon us, what will bring us out of our caves to live out our destiny as Yeshua's disciples in Israel?

BREAKTHROUGH FROM HEAVEN

Elijah experienced an incredible victory in 1Kings 18. Fire fell from heaven consuming a water-drenched sacrifice. This reintroduced the supernatural workings of God on the heels of the drought brought on by Ahab and Jezebel. Our parallel is that Yeshua saved us and brought us back to our covenant land. By the grace of God we have broken through the barrier of two millennia separating the Jews of the exile from their ancient homeland, and the barrier separating Yeshua from His physical relatives, the children of Israel. What a pair of victories! These two together constitute a "fire from heaven" breakthrough of earth-shaking proportions and prepare the way for the Lord's return.

WE'VE ANGERED THE ENEMY

But both Elijah's victory and ours have angered the enemy. Jezebel threatened to kill Elijah. Despite his dramatic breakthrough, Elijah still needed to overcome her. We have the same challenge. God has answered our cries and brought us back to the Promised Land. Possessing that land and dealing with the wicked

Continued on page 6

powers aroused by our return? That's another issue.

What's Jezebel's technique? Usurpation, intimidation, accusation, insecurity. It's the same with us. The enemy hates that we're here as Messianic Jews, because it's his death knell. Jews are back in the land and returning to Yeshua! Not a good sign for Satan. So, the Enemy is pouring out his brew of discouragement and intimidation. God brought us here to take back territory too long in the wrong hands. We shouldn't be surprised that our presence provokes a ferocious conflict.

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

The prophet did the one thing that made sense to him in his tired, mentally embattled state; he high tailed it out of town. He was freaked out: "Kill me, Lord. I want to die. I'm no better than my fathers" (1Kings 19:4 paraphrase) As immigrants we wonder how we'll ever fully function as normal adults in our new land. "Our fathers had it better in the Diaspora. Take us back to Egypt [New York, Moscow, Chicago, Odessa]." Often we are tempted to run and hide; anything but face the brutal reality of the struggle for the soul of this nation. Yet God is ever ready to strengthen us.

When Elijah lay down to sleep, an angel provided fresh baked goods and water. After more rest, he told the drained out prophet to get up and eat "because the journey is too great for you." Man, can I ever agree with that statement. Most of us Jewish believers in Israel would say a hearty "Amen!" to the angel's assessment. But that's good, because it means that God knows full well that our journey is too great. This is the concern of a God who is aware of our condition. He is ready to give us heaven's rest and refreshing in our need.

THE CAVE

Refreshed and strengthened our hero travels for 40 days and nights all the way to

Mt. Horev, site of Moses' encounter with the Living God. There Elijah hides out in a cave. What is the cave about? For us, the cave represents frustration, anger, inferiority, outsider label, lost career track, and the inabilities that we struggle with as immigrants.

In the midst of this depression (yes, Elijah suffered from it) the Lord spoke to him inside the cave, "**WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ELIJAH?**" (1Kings 19:9) God's prophet replies "I've been zealous for you, Lord. Our people are covenant-breakers and now they're trying to kill me. I'm all alone and about to die." At this point, the Lord told him "Go out and stand before me." A parade of daunting natural phenomena ensues, but the Lord is "not in them." As Elijah stood at the entrance to the cave he heard a still small voice repeating the same exact question. "What are you doing here?" Again, the man with passions and vulnerabilities like ours (James 5:17) gives God the same answer. Do I hear the trace of a whining tone in his voice? Ah, yes, he is so much like me.

TWO REASONS TO COME OUT OF THE CAVE

Here is the turning point. Please listen carefully. The Lord gave him two key reasons to come out of the cave. The first was "Go, return on your way." (1 Kings 19:15) Go back to the calling I gave you. Why did you first yield your life to me and begin to serve in bold devotion? Return to that foundational inspiration. Why did God bring us to Israel? Was it merely to survive, or was this part of His larger plan to make Yeshua known to His lost but still chosen people? Go back to the mandate that validates and energizes your existence. You were brought to the kingdom for such a time as this.

Secondly, the Lord told him to anoint two men as kings and one as a prophet. I want to focus on the anointing of Elisha,

the prophet chosen to take Elijah's place. Whether we know it or not, this is why we came to the land, to launch the next generation into their destiny. God brought him out of the cave to fulfill his role as equipper/launcher of the prophet who was to have a "double portion" of Elijah's anointing. This is what I want for my four natural Israeli children and for all of my spiritual children in the land. My life calling will be gloriously fulfilled if I can pass the baton to them and see them finish the race their parents awkwardly began. I am certain that, having grown up here with the language/culture/Messianic faith, they will be the generation of workers and leaders in the final harvest.

This does not in any way marginalize us as mothers and fathers in the faith. Rather, it accentuates our value as mentors. In the Torah priests were required to shift their focus at age 50 (Num 8:25-26). There's something healthy in that. Elisha wound up doing twice the miracles of Elijah. He really did get a double portion. To see my kids and their Israeli believing friends move in that kind of anointing - I'd come out of the cave any day!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

Are you in a cave? Come to the entrance of the cave and listen for the wind, earthquake and fire. Then, hear the still small voice saying: "Go, return to your way." Go back to the excitement and idealism that launched you on this path with Yeshua. Go back to your original calling. "Go, anoint Elisha as prophet in your place." Find and father the young person who is appointed to receive your mantle. Obeying these two instructions will bring us out of the cave and put us back in action.

Why was Elijah chosen? To restore the nation to God. Why are we in Israel? Same purpose. To live in Israel without a sense of calling is brutal. But to live in Israel with a sure knowledge of that calling is the highest assignment on earth. ✨

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Our Vision:

Tents of Mercy - to participate in today's historic exodus by assisting Israel's returning exiles.

No spectators in the Kingdom - to be a worshiping, sharing community based in homes, equipping each one for service.

Come back Yeshua - to welcome Yeshua home to Israel, by restoring the Jewish roots of New Covenant faith.

Kehilat Poriya Update

By Eric Morey

One of the main vision points of Kehilat Poriya is the idea of community. The Hebrew word “Kehilah,” which can be translated “Congregation,” also means “Community.” Seeing people regularly during the week as well as at our Shabbat meetings makes things very intimate and keeps us in touch with those we care and pray for. This makes it possible to have deeper fellowship with the family of God. We want to “...**break bread from house to house,**” as they did in the Book of Acts (2:46b), not only be together once or twice a week at meetings.

Since the majority of our members live in the same small village (Poriya Illit in the Lower Galilee), we are in a unique position to do this. Most of us can walk to each other’s homes in a few minutes, enjoy regular fellowship and interaction, and be involved in each other’s lives. This is not always easy, but we believe it is the best way to grow in maturity and in relationship with the “living stones,” the true congregation.

Another way we express this community element is that our meetings are based on an “active, active” model, rather than an “active, passive” model. Many get opportunities to bring messages to our congregation, and during the typical meeting several others bring a word from the Lord; a testimony; a Scripture that adds to what we are learning; or a prayer request. It is the community in action with almost everyone taking part.



This is possible partly because we are, by design and vision, home-based. We want to continue meeting in a home, even as we grow, so that we can maintain the intimacy of a small, family-style congregation. As the Lord increases our numbers, our strategy is to help plant other home-based congregations in the area.

not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mat. 20:28b) If He, the only begotten Son of God and the creator of the universe, had this attitude of Servanthood, how much more should we, His disciples, have it?

There are many ways this takes place in our midst. Here are a number of examples of what God is doing among us:

A Helping Hand

We are helping provide food for a large believing family with nine children, whose father is a very talented craftsman and hard worker, but who struggles constantly to make ends meet. We are also helping to raise money to purchase a newer and larger vehicle for this family, whose old station wagon is falling apart.

The Lord has used us to help a widow, whose husband passed away a few months ago and who has 4 young children and another on the way. Funds have been provided



Part of being a community is to be aware of each other’s needs and to help each other whenever and however we are able. We want to be servants to each other. Paul exhorted us to be those who “... **look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.**” (Phil. 2:4b) Yeshua Himself said: “... **the Son of Man did**



to help pay household expenses and acquire much needed furniture (from a donor in another city). To help the 3 older boys (ages 5, 7 and 12) get through their first summer without their father, we arranged a membership at a local kibbutz swimming pool, and took them ourselves twice a week. Others took them other days. On the last day of summer, Eric took them to the local water park for their “Grande Finale” of the summer, a day on the water slides and wave pool. Their grandmother said it was “The best summer they have ever had.”

Released from Bondage

We also minister almost daily to a prisoner in one of the larger prisons in the center of the country, who has become a strong believer. Our prisoner has, in turn, been able to minister to many fellow prisoners, leading some to the Lord, and discipling others in Hebrew, Russian, Romanian and English. He is taking a Bible study course, and will soon be allowed to teach Bible classes, including the New Testament, in this Israeli institution!

A young man who was trapped in a lifestyle of alcoholism, and also in trouble with the police, received the Lord a few months ago, and is now in a believing rehabilitation center in Haifa. He is doing so well that other students there call him “The Preacher.”

We are ministering to several others in the same disadvantaged neighborhood in Tiberias, who are trapped in similar addictive lifestyles. One of them received the Lord in a recent Shabbat meeting. We are discipling another new believer in the same building.

New Life

Recently, a Jewish Israeli friend of ours, who is not yet a believer, asked Eric to immerse (“baptize”) her sister from the U.S. In an interview before the immersion in the Jordan River, we realized the sister had not yet fully accepted Yeshua as her savior and Lord, and were able to lead her in a prayer of commitment on the spot. Last month we immersed another woman who had not been walking with Him, and she re-committed her life at the baptism site.

One of the families in leadership in Kehilat Poriya has a healing outreach to individuals and families all over Israel, with their “Be in Health” teaching and seminars.

Aliyah

We greatly desire to assist people from the nations connect more strongly with Israel, and help Jews who want to obey the Lord’s call to return Home (“Aliyah”). People we know from America, both Jews and Gentiles, have asked if it is possible for a person who does not live in Israel to open a bank account in Israel. They are concerned at what they see developing and would like to get some of their financial assets out of the U.S. We have investigated and found out how this is possible, even without coming here. If you would like step-by-step instructions on how to do this directly with one of Israel’s largest banks, you can request them at our e-Mail address: ericandterri@bezeqint.net. Also we have a website. Please check us out online at kehilatporiya.org.

As we get ready to celebrate together, and with our people Israel, the wonderful and awesome Fall Feasts, we wish you holiday blessings!

May the LORD who made Heaven and Earth BLESS YOU from ZION! (Psalm 134:3)

Eric and Terri Morey and the Leadership Team at Kehilat Poriya. ✡

ROSH HASHANAH BASKETS!

On Tuesday, September 15th, people from all across the community lined up to receive 500 holiday food baskets given out by Tents of Mercy. This is part of our continuing mandate to reach the needy. Thank you for partnering with us to bless the people of Israel in the name of the Lord.

