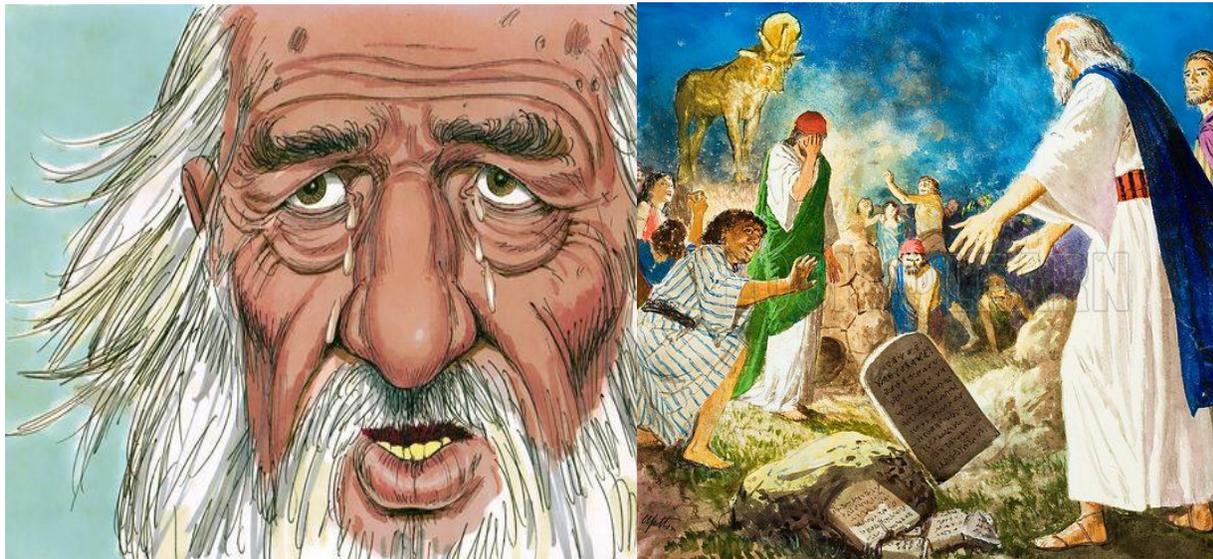


Newsletter for the Month of Tammuz by Sherry Lush

Shalom Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We at Alpha and Omega Ministries pray that you are all well and living in the joy of the Lord every day. Even in these crazy times as everything seems to be changing before our eyes, we have endless opportunities to praise our great G-d every day. As we praise Him, and work for His kingdom, He strengthens us and opens doors giving us opportunities to share the good news and give others hope. As we strengthen others with hope in Him, He strengthens us! ***Romans 15:13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. And now we turn the calendar to the month of Tammuz.

Many events in the month of Tammuz, though not identical to our circumstances, still echo the concerns and difficulties of the days we are living in. Human suffering in times of calamity is something all people can relate to. The following are some of the painful events we remember in the month of Tammuz



1. Moses smashed the first set of tablets when he found the people worshipping the golden calf. Moses had just come down from being in the very presence of G-d. Imagine Moses' heart ache and anger as he sees people worshipping an idol.

2. In the second Temple period, the Romans breached the walls of Jerusalem on the 17th of Tammuz. After this the battles in the city grew in intensity and hunger and pestilence raged throughout the city. Josephus reports that a Roman soldier threw a lit torch onto tapestry curtains which Herod had made. This began the fire that raged, burning the entire temple and killing thousands of Jews.



3. Apostomes publicly burned a Tora scroll. The identity of Apostomes is unclear, but Jewish history notes that whether Greek or Roman, he was an enemy of the Jewish people. Though he burned a Torah scroll, the light of the Torah still shines today and always will. No war, no political upheaval, no person and no evil will ever stomp out the light of Torah!



4. An idol was placed in the holy Temple by King Menassah.



In ***Kings II, chapter 21** we see in detail what Menashe did.

"Menashe did all what offended HaShem: he practiced the abominable idolatrous practices of the nations which HaShem had cast out before the Israelites. He rebuilt the pagan altars that his father Hizqiyahu had destroyed. He erected altars in honor of Baal and made an image of the goddess Asherah. He prostrated himself before all the stars of heaven and worshiped them ... In both courtyards of the Temple of HaShem he built altars in honor of the stars of heaven. He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced magic and sorcery, and consulted necromancers and spiritualists. He continually did what offended the Lord, thus provoking His wrath."

5. Also during the first temple period, they ran out of sheep to offer for the daily sacrifice. This was the offering that was suppose to burn continually.

On the 17th of Tammuz, there is a fast, and we begin a three week period of mourning over the destruction of both the first and second temples. Both temples were destroyed on the 9th of Av. This time period of three weeks is referred to as: "between the straits." ***Lamentations 1:3** says: Judah has gone into captivity, under affliction and hard servitude; she dwells among the nations, she finds no rest; all her persecutors overtake her in dire straits. **Dire straits** means to be forced into a position of danger surrounded on both sides with no place to turn for safety. You might picture a ship going between an extremely narrow pass with mountains and sharp rocks jutting out on either side. A shipwreck is almost inevitable. We mourn dire circumstances for three weeks.

Right now, the times that we are living in feel can seem hard and difficult, and as the days get closer and closer to [Tisha b'Av](#), the mourning, and the tightening, intensifies. But these very painful moments are the times which the sages refer to as *chevlei Moshiach*, or the birth pangs of Messiah. Why? Because in birth, a woman might be in pain, but if she can concentrate past the pain and stay focused on her baby, her anguish and the suffering is minimized. And finally, what happens? A baby is born! Suddenly, new life and joy, hope, and dreams are realized. Imagine the jubilation, rejoicing and exaltation His people will experience when the Messiah returns! **This is the day we keep our attention focused on.**

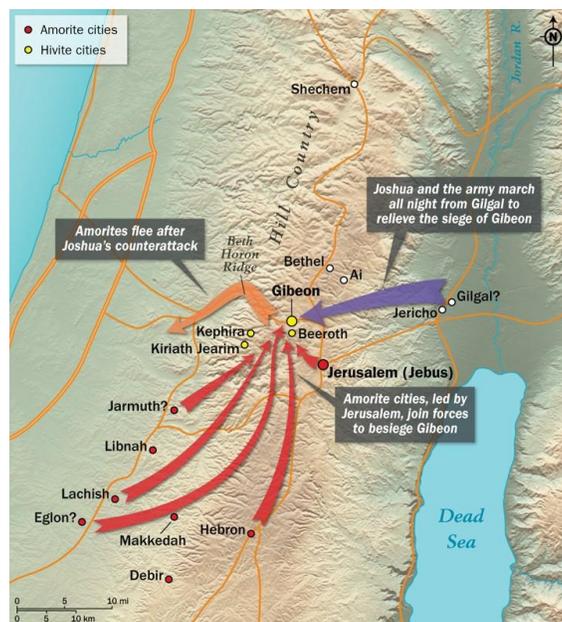


There is always hope in the Lord, and we see Joshua experienced an amazing miracle that shows us the incredible power of G-d, and reminds us that He is with His people. This miracle began when G-d told Joshua to go in and take the land He had given the children of Israel. ***Joshua 1:5-8** God said to Joshua, No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. **I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage**, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

The king of Jerusalem named Adonai-Zedek, was nervous that Joshua and his army would try to conquer him after the victories he knew Joshua had already accomplished. King Zedek gathered their forces together and encamped against Gibeon and made war with it. ***Joshua 10:6** And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up

to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us.

***Joshua 10:9-11** Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal. So the Lord routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the Lord cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.



G-d was in the battle with them. When G-d told them He had given them the land, have you ever wondered why they had to go in and fight for it? This battle shows us that G-d wants to work with His people. Of course, G-d could do it all, but then the people do not get to see G-d working on their behalf. If you are not part of the battle, you will not appreciate the strength and faith it took to fight to battle, and you will not have the thrill of seeing G-d create miracles on your behalf. And the battle ended with a miracle we all still marvel at.

***Joshua 10:12-15** Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of

heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded. Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

***John 1:5** The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. We can take courage as light always overcomes darkness, and our God is light. God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE RESOURCES ON OUR WEBSITE FREE TO YOU.

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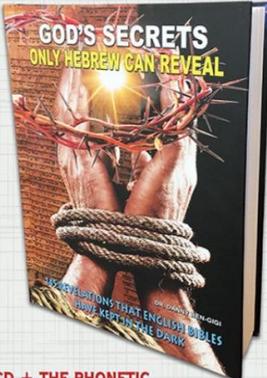
While you are on our site, please visit our Store. We have new resources that will enrich your studies in the Word and in the Hebrew language! Jump in and get started today!

GOD'S SECRETS ONLY HEBREW CAN REVEAL
AMAZING, SHOCKING, ENLIGHTENING!

(SEE 'CHILDREN OF LIGHT' PAGE 146-147) (SEE 'JOT AND TITTLE' ON PAGE 14)

organization and discusses strategy for a future war. Having been in Christendom for the phrase that is mentioned several times in the New Testament: 'the light'. 'Ephraim 5:8, it may be connected to another scroll named 'The War of the Messiah' which sounds like the conclusion of the genuine scroll. Because this is the true light by which we understand these verses. 'Then therefore said to them, 'I sit a little while the light is with you, which shall you have the light, that darkness doesn't overtake you. He who walks in the darkness doesn't know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become children of light.' John 12:36.

Note: an early Christian scroll, identical to that of the Dead Sea's War of the Sons of Light Against the Sons of Darkness' was discovered in Nag Hammadi, Egypt in 1945. It speaks about Jesus (I) leading the Sons of Light in that war.



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The Alpha Omega Ministries

Special Summer Upcoming Events!

We have a special guest coming....

June 24th, Peter Thalhofer will be teaching.

We are so grateful that you have taken the time to visit our site and pray you have a blessed month of Tammuz! Keep your light shining....we are in the days of the footsteps of the Messiah!

Psalm 46:11

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.