

NEWSLETTER FOR the MONTH of IYAR, 5783 By Sherry Lush



Shalom to All,

We at Alpha and Omega Ministries pray that this month finds each one of you thriving in the Lord and spreading His Light everywhere you go.

***Isaiah 48:3** says: "I declared the former things long ago
And they went forth from My mouth, and I proclaimed them.

Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass.

It certainly does appear that G-d is bringing things that we may never have dreamed to see, suddenly upon the earth. Governments are acting without the normal and expected rules and procedures, freedoms are being removed, there are shortages, there is lawlessness, and the list could go on. You all probably watch the news. And amazingly, these things are happening world-wide; no geographical area is being left out. But we are not discouraged, as the Lord told us that when these things begin to happen, we are to lift our heads. We know these are all signs that our Messiah is coming, and He is coming soon. What a blessing and what a responsibility to be alive today. He has trusted us to bring as many people with us as possible into His kingdom, in this time! May we all be strengthened and blessed as we do the work He called us to do.

Well, we are leaving the month of Nisan, a month of miracles, a month of salvation, deliverance and redemption! Nisan is the month the Israelites walked through the parted waters of the Red Sea. And the month when our Savior was crucified, buried and rose again to ever-lasting life. The events of Nisan are life-giving and miraculous for sure.



From the crossing of the Red Sea, there was a journey lasting three days. Then the Israelites reached Marah.

Exodus 15:23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) During the year of the Exodus, this occurred in the month of Iyar. They had just crossed through an ocean of water, but now they had no water! Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree which he threw into the bitter waters. Miraculously, then the waters were made sweet. When you think about what the Israelites had just seen as the LORD made plagues on the idols of nature that the Egyptians worshiped, this surely would not have surprised them. Once again, their G-d was the G-d who could turn bitter waters to sweet waters. But why use a tree? Was this a prophetic picture of the sin that would be attached to a tree on a mount in Jerusalem? Was this a picture of their Messiah that would take all the bitterness of sin and forgive it, giving new, sweet life to the one who accepted His forgiveness?

*** John 7:37-39** Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

Yeshua was referred to as a branch. ***Isaiah 11:1-2** Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a **Branch [netzer] from his roots will bear fruit**. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the spirit of **counsel** and **strength**, the spirit of **knowledge** and the **fear** of the LORD.

***Isaiah 4:2a** In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious;

***Jeremiah 23:5-6** "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD "When **I will raise up for David a righteous Branch**; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, 'The LORD Our Righteousness.'" Could G-d have been foreshadowing this Righteous Branch when he told Moses to throw the tree or some versions say branch into the bitter waters?



It was during the month of Iyar that manna came to be the food supply from heaven while Israel was in the wilderness. This caused not only a day-by-day reliance on G-d, but also a vivid knowledge of His faithfulness. They never went hungry! Again, was manna a foreshadowing of what Yeshua would say about Himself?

***John 6:26** Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

***John 6:35** Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

In John:6:35 Yeshua becomes both our daily bread and the life sustaining water that will literally flow from us!



Also, in Iyar a holiday called Lag BaOmer is celebrated. Lag BaOmer is the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer. During this holiday people get married, there are picnics and bon fires - it is a day of celebration. Why all the celebration? One of Israel's greatest rabbis by the name of Rabbi Akiva, had a large yeshiva where he accented the necessity of being kind and respectful to one another. However, the students became so disrespectful to one another that a plague broke out, and 24,000 of them died. Only five students remained alive. Lag BaOmer is the very day the plague stopped; therefore, there is great reason for joy and celebration.

Also, Josephus records that Lag BaOmer was also a time when the Jewish resistance against Rome began. There was great victory on that day. It is possible that the bonfires of today commemorate the bonfires that were lit in triumph and celebration of the success of the Jewish resistance to their oppressors.

May we all celebrate the Love and Victory that we have every day in Yeshua our Messiah! Please know that you are loved and prayed for.

Luke 21:28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."