

Jerusalem, the navel of the world

It is easy to lose sight of this biblical truth when the world's powerful leaders in Washington, Beijing, and – hard to believe – Tehran sign agreements intended to divide the world in terms of power and influence. It is significant in this context that, in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 of all places – which describe the great end-time war of Gog of Magog – the Father reminds us of the Jewish people and Jerusalem: *“against a people gathered from the nations, ... people who dwell in the center of the earth.”* (Ezek. 38:12)

What today appears to be reaching a climax in the oil sector, global trade and the Strait of Hormuz began with the horrific pogrom against the Jews on October 7, 2023. Behind each of these bloody acts committed by Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, the Houthis and whatever else they may be called, stands Iran with its goal of destroying Israel and the Jewish people and turning Jerusalem into an Islamic site. Consequently, this war has been called the “Al-Aqsa Flood” on “their side” from day one until today.

Al-Aqsa means “distant place of worship”; it is an Arabic word from the Quran and for Muslims synonymous with Jerusalem. Mohammed Deif, the now-deceased terrorist and commander-in-chief of the Qasam Brigades, said the following to Qatar News at the start of the assault on Israel: “The time has come for all Arab and Islamic forces to unite to sweep the occupation away from our holy sites and our land.” In other words: Jews out of Jerusalem.

Amid the current flood of attempts to influence public opinion, we would do well to remember what this is really about: Jerusalem is to be cleansed of Jews and turned into an Islamic sanctuary.

The image on the front cover of our newsletter depicts this navel or center of the world: the summit of Mount Moriah, where Abraham was to sacrifice his son Isaac; the site that David later acquired to build the Temple; the place where the Ark of the Covenant stood in the Holy of Holies. Today, this site is covered by the Dome of the Rock.

It was not until 1962 that the dome, originally with a black lead roof, became golden. King Hussein I had it recovered with gold-plated aluminium panels in 1993. The Jordanian ruler, under whose supervision the Temple Mount and the Waqf Authority in Jerusalem fall, thereby unmistakably expressed – in the symbolic language of the East – his claim to Jerusalem, the Bride.

During my – Martin's – prayer walk on the Temple Mount in April, it was clear even up close that the golden sheen had suffered greatly from the sun and the weather. Numerous piles of trash and dilapidated tool sheds also “adorn” the Temple Mount, which looks neglected and dirty in various places.

WIR SIND ZUERST LIEBHABER VON JESUS UND STAUNENDE ÜBER SEINE GNADE. WIR LIEBEN DEN HEILIGEN GEIST. MIT DEN BRÜCHEN IN UNSEREM LEBEN UND UNSERER SEHNSUCHT NACH GOTT HAT ER

It's not a pretty sight. How must God feel when He looks upon this place, which He has chosen for Himself to dwell in the midst of His people? And how do you feel when you read all this about this place? Do you feel love in your heart for this place, for the land of Israel, for the Jewish people?

God's Word teaches us that tensions surrounding Jerusalem will continue to escalate. The Jews, whom God has chosen to prepare a dwelling place for Him in this city, remain caught in the midst of these conflicts between light and darkness. Their election comes at a high price for them. That is why our Father in heaven calls every person to stand by their side. They continue to need our love and our help!

This kingdom is growing inexorably, yet God's Word also teaches that



this place is the seat of government of the Messiah, Jesus, who is coming soon to establish His kingdom of peace. *“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David; and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”* (Luke 1:32–33)

This kingdom is growing inexorably, every minute, every day. The little grain of wheat that sprouted between the stone slabs of the temple courtyard reminds us of this. It has been sown, it is growing, it is coming. God has promised it; everyone will see it, and the righteous will rejoice!

Seminar „Not without my brother“

We are deeply grateful for the Israel seminar held at the Zwickau House of Prayer in early June. About 20 people accepted the invitation, and the brothers and sisters lovingly created an atmosphere where we could listen attentively, share our thoughts, and enjoy fellowship.

Ezekiel 37, the biblical chapter that forms the basis for the seminar, reveals in a special way God's nature and how He acts.

UNS
AUF EINEN WEG
DES GEBETES UND ZUM
VATER GEFÜHRT. UNSER HERZ
SCHLÄGT FÜR HEILUNG UND EINHEIT
IN DER FAMILIE GOTTES UND BESONDERS FÜR
ISRAEL. IM MITTELPUNKT UNSERES DIENSTES STEHEN GE-
MEINSCHAFT MIT GOTT UND SEINE ANBETUNG. DARÜBER HINAUS
LADEN WIR MIT UNSEREN LIEDERN MENSCHEN EIN, IHM IM GEBET ZU
BEGEGNEN. DAFÜR UND ZU VERKÜNDIGUNGSDIENSTEN KÖNNEN WIR
EINGELADEN WERDEN.

This seminar provides insights into what Jesus is doing in the Middle East today and what He intends to do. It helps us understand what Israel's role is in all of this, why and how it affects us – the church – and how it all relates to Jesus' return.

Many of them told us afterward that the seminar was a real help in gaining a better understanding of the Father's intentions. One of the participants told us that it helped him understand things that had never been clear to him before. It was moving to see the role that the characters from Ezekiel 38 play in today's world events. We have all been strengthened and encouraged by reflecting on God's prophetic Word.

Feel free to contact us to see if the seminar might be a good fit for your church!

Worship journeys

It was completely unclear until just a few days before departure whether the **trip to Jerusalem in April** would even be able to take place. Due to Iran's rocket attacks, Israeli airspace had to remain closed for a long time. So in the end, there were only three of us on this trip! So unusual on the one hand, yet so special on the other. These two courageous women (pictured above) hadn't let anything deter them; they rebooked canceled flights and overcame all their reservations, just to worship the God of Israel in His city. How precious!



In addition to the precious times of prayer at the Father's House on the Mount of Olives, spent in inner peace and outward tranquility, our encounters repeatedly showed us just how welcome we – as Christians from Germany – were during this difficult time for Israel.

It saddened us that not only are tourists absent, but many Christians and friends of Israel are also avoiding travel to the country right now. Despite all the understandable reasons for this, it would be especially important today to stand alongside our Jewish brothers and sisters and in the land itself. We also heard that quite a few Messianic ministries are facing significant financial challenges due to these dynamics. Donations are drying up because Christians no longer want to support "an Israel like this".



The group was particularly large at **Auschwitz a month later**; pictured here are the 12 trip participants along with those we met there in Birkenau.

At Auschwitz, we received various confirmations from brothers and sisters regarding the vision behind the trips and the healing that flows from worship. This strengthened us to continue facing all the challenges these trips entail.

Erik shared how he came to join the trip: "During a fasting retreat in March, I saw the Father's heart during a time of worship and said, 'Lord, draw me closer to Your heart!' Then, around 2 a.m., the Holy Spirit woke me up and asked, 'You want to be closer to My heart?' I said, 'Yes.'"

Then the Lord said to me, 'Come to Auschwitz if you want to be closer to My heart.' I saw a vision in the Spirit of Yeshua in the gas chamber against a gray wall, hanging on the cross with a hole in His heart and a large tear running through it. ... In the Spirit, He showed me a gate between Auschwitz and Israel, connected by a rainbow."

And he directed me right to you, telling me to travel with you, and said that he had already revealed this to you. When I read what you wrote in your letter about the trip, it was almost exactly what I had heard from the Lord. What a confirmation."

At the end of one of the worship sessions, Jay shared what he had sensed from God: "Auschwitz is still an open wound that bleeds. But I sensed that Jerusalem is the same. The wound of the destruction of the city and the temple in A.D. 70... is a wound that has been passed down through the generations to this very day. During the worship, I saw salt from the worship entering this wound in Auschwitz. Salt cleanses a wound; salt is for healing this wound. But I also saw that the wound of Jerusalem was touched by salt in the same way."

Thank you for all your support



The figure "Mother, this is your son – Son, this is your mother" from Fountain of Tears (pictured left) reflects this wound through the burden of memory, which she carries on her shoulders like a heavy blanket.

It is a privilege that, through what you have made possible with your prayers, your donations, and your solidarity, we can contribute to having this

wound healed by the Father. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

There is much of what God has granted us in grace – and what we have been allowed to do – that we could not possibly mention in this letter. This includes the hours spent in the house of prayer, the preaching ministries in churches, and the weekly worship before the altar in Niederwiera. We were kept safe over so many miles and the Lord provided us with a new car just as the old one was on its last legs due to engine failure. God is good! And He is faithful. He keeps His promises. We too thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your love!

*"But what is foolish in the sight of the world, that God has chosen, ...
and what is weak in the sight of the world, that God has chosen, ...
and that which is lowly in the sight of the world,
and that which is despised, God hath chosen
that which is nothing..."*

*That no man should boast before God."
(1 Cor 1:27-29)*

From our Hearts to Yours, Your Martin & Ines
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