



Dear Family in Yeshua,

God wants you covered!

The topic for this month's love letter to you was birthed in Jamie's heart as she prepared to teach a ladies' retreat on *b'rachot* (blessings) for our local congregation. One of the new resources that Jamie came upon is a book by Aaron Fröh, **The Forgotten Blessing**, in which Pastor Fröh connected the concepts of generational blessing and cursing with **covering**. We highly recommend this book and believe that it has a life-changing message. It is rare that we find a book that we underline as much as we have this one! The topic of **covering**, while a sub-topic of the book, is God's focus for us as summer draws to a close and we look forward to the final harvest.

We all know that we live in a fatherless generation. Fatherlessness is a curse. It is being uncovered. God's best is generational blessing, but since the "iniquity of the fathers" is passed from generation to generation, each new generation is stripped of its protective covering. Bruises and rejection continue.

Fatherlessness, not having the spirit of a father, is nothing new. The Apostle Paul spoke about it two thousand years ago when he said, *"For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ (Messiah), yet you do have many fathers..."* (1 Corinthians 4:15). A father covers, protects and nurtures.

Love covers.

The essence of the Father heart of God is love. Love covers.

"...love covers all sins." (Proverbs 10:12)

"He who covers a transgression seeks love..." (Proverbs 17:9)

"...his banner over me was love." (Song of Songs 2:4)

"He shall cover you with His feathers..." (Psalm 91:4)

"...You have covered me in my mother's womb." (Psalm 139:13)

"O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation, you have covered my head in the day of battle."
(Psalm 140:7)

We have childhood memories of going to bed on very cold nights, crawling under heavy covers, and being tucked in by our father or mother. Can you feel it? Safe. Secure. Warm. Loved. In the spiritual realm, that is what we have from our Heavenly Father through His son Yeshua.

Throughout the Holy Scriptures we read about God covering nakedness—always an act of love. In Ezekiel 16:8, He expresses His Bridegroom Love for His People, *"When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed our time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore on oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord God.*

God covered Israel with His wing (Hebrew: *kanaf*), literally His *talit*, in much the same way that Boaz in the Book of Ruth covered Ruth when she said to him, *"...Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a near kinsman"* (Ruth 3:9).

The imagery of bridegrooms covering brides, and God covering His people, abounds in the Word of God. Consider Isaiah 61:10, *"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."* In Bible times, the bride was led to the groom's tent or chamber where the marriage was consummated. The Biblical word for this tent is *huppah*, which literally means "a covering." Most Jewish marriages today are performed under this bridal covering. We even took one to Jamaica last month where we officiated at the wedding of a Jewish Jamaican bride.

The Wrong Covering

Pastor Früh points out some verses from Ezekiel 28:14-15 that we had never really focused on as they pertain to 'covering.' *"You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you."* This verse refers to satan, *hasatan*, the arch enemy of God. God originally created Lucifer as a "covering cherub." His main role was to cover and protect the other angels under his charge. In his rebellion, he took one third of the angels with him. He was their "father"—the wrong kind of covering! Yeshua spoke to the Pharisees about satan as their "father" in John 8:44: *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."*

If the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob covers with love, what does His enemy cover with? As Pastor Früh points out, satan's was a self-made covering of self-sufficiency. This abusive father's covering is one of self-promotion and self-exaltation. Self. Self. Self.

Consider what happened in the Garden of Eden as expressed by Pastor Früh on p. 58 of his book, "There Satan approached Eve with the enticing idea that if she ate of the forbidden fruit she would 'be like God' (Genesis 3:5). This proposition was the original cornerstone in the tower-like prison of self-sufficiency that man has been building ever since. We generally blame Eve for the Fall, but tell me: Where was her husband during her conversation with the enemy? Adam failed to cover his wife spiritually and protect her from temptation by reminding her of what God had actually said. Alone and uncovered, Eve fell and Adam soon followed. What happened next was remarkable: *'Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings'*" (Genesis 3:7).

Adam and Eve stepped out from under God's covering, and made their own. Most people today are still covered with fig leaves. Like Adam and Eve, they are hiding from God (mostly without knowing it). The "shame of their nakedness" is their sin.

Covered by the Blood

Did God leave Adam and Eve in this state? No. Our Loving Father made them another covering. To do it, He had to shed blood. We read in Genesis 3:21, *"Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them."* It was probably a lamb that was sacrificed to provide an acceptable covering for God's first two children. This foreshadowed a greater blood covering that would be provided one day by The Lamb of God, Yeshua. When the Messiah stood before Pontius Pilate, before He was released to be crucified, Pilate proclaimed that he was innocent of the blood of the One he called a "just Person." *"And all the people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children.'"* (Matthew 27:25) We can look at this in a negative way, or believe God that the blood of Yeshua will become the covering of His People Israel.

Psalms 32:1 and Romans 4:7 say, *"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."* Even before the time of Yeshua, the Lord made provision for forgiveness of sin through

a covering of blood. An actual "cover" or lid was involved in the covering. This cover, (In Hebrew: *kapporet*), was the lid that covered the Ark of God in the Holy of Holies. In English it is translated as "mercy seat." *Kapporet* comes from the primary Hebrew root *ka FAR* which means "to cover." From this we get *Yom Kippur*, the "day of covering," and *kippa* or "head covering." *Kippur* in Hebrew literally means atonement, or a divinely provided protective covering from Divine judgment upon sin and lawlessness.

Once a year the High Priest would enter into the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, acting as a mediator between God and the people. He would sprinkle the blood of atonement upon and in front of the Ark (cover). A holy, gracious, merciful God provided covering for sinful, fallen man. This was acceptable to Him until He provided the final and eternal blood atonement through the death of the Messiah Yeshua.

Uncovered People

1 Corinthians 11:3 in the Jewish New Testament reads, *"But I want you to understand that the head of every man is the Messiah, and the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of the Messiah is God."* God is a God of order. He is also a God who establishes coverings. It is a widely accepted fact that the Bible teaches that a husband is to be a protective covering for his wife. She is to submit to him, as unto the Lord (Ephesians 5:22). He is to value and cherish her as himself (Ephesians 5:28), and be her spiritual covering. What about single women (unmarried, widowed, or divorced). Do they have a covering? We did not realize that this was a very controversial subject until we "googled" 'spiritual covering.' WOW. We never knew that something so good could be seen as so bad! For years, we have felt protective of single women believers. Over sixty of them lived with us in our home on the beach from 1977–1988. We taught a Singles' Fellowship for a while. One of the first things we did upon assuming the leadership position of Temple Aron HaKodesh was to have a "Queen for a Day" service in which all women were called forward to be blessed, with special blessings for single women. We have always believed that 1 Corinthians 11:10 referred especially to women without a husband, *"For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels."* What angels? The fallen ones! For years Neil functioned as a "covering," in a fatherly, pastoral way for single women, sensing that they were vulnerable to the attack of demon spirits when left uncovered spiritually. This **never** involved control, manipulation or coercion and was completely voluntary and usually unspoken. Jamie was in complete agreement, and always vigilant. Now as a Messianic Rabbi, Neil (and Jamie) feel protective of our ladies. We cover them with our prayers for good judgment, discernment, hearing from God, being led by the Holy Spirit, self-control and wisdom. We hope they will ask our advice on matters of the heart, home and business world—that is up to them. They are free agents. To us "spiritual covering" is all about loving, caring, and relationship. It is submitting to one another as much as recognizing God-given authority.

Pastor Früh, in pointing out how fathers have abdicated their role of covering daughters, believes that this results in women struggling with issues of vulnerability: "My point here, in the light of a fatherless culture, is that much of the anger and bitterness women feel and pass to the next generation comes as a result of lost biblical covering" (p. 56). He also explains how children, who are left uncovered by their parents, naturally cover themselves by building a tower of self-preservation and self-protection. Our son Jonathan is experiencing this 'reality' again this summer as he ministers daily to 14–17 year old boys at a youth camp. So many feel uncovered!

A final summary of "uncovered people" is found on p. 57 of **The Forgotten Blessing**, "When we are scarred and bruised by the baggage of a previous generation, our natural defense is to find some kind of covering to place over our wounds. But no matter how we try to cover ourselves, we will never gain enough security. Our self-made covering is just too small. Uncovered people often believe in the subtle lie that if they can stand on their own, their self-sufficiency will cover and protect them. Isaiah

28 talks about the inadequacy of people who trust in themselves and not in God. Verse 20 is a fitting commentary on our generation: *'For the bed is too short to stretch out on, and the covering so narrow that one cannot wrap himself in it.'* A self-made covering is actually the mantle of the adversary himself, who falsely promises to protect us and satisfy our every need."

Covered by the Ruach

"Woe to the rebellious children, saith the Lord, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin." (Isaiah 30:1) KJV

God wants us to be covered by His Holy Spirit, the *Ruach HaKodesh*. This does not mean, however, that we are "lone rangers," submitted to no one but God, doing our own thing, under no authority but our own. New believers, especially, need someone to nurture and guide them and teach them how to follow the Holy Spirit themselves. This is called discipleship. God has also placed elders (pastors, congregational leaders, rabbis) in the Body of Believers to be spiritual guides and examples to His flock: *"Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you"* (Hebrews 13:7, 17).

God gives authority in the Body for edification and not for destruction (see 2 Corinthians 10:8), for protection and not for domination or control. Servant leadership is **not** incompatible with authority structure within a local congregation, as many of the websites on the internet would insist. Godly rabbis and pastors **can** indeed provide "spiritual covering" without being hyper-authoritarian. Believers need to be mentored before they can mentor. Men and women need to be spiritually fathered and mothered before they can effectively do the same for others. Mutual submission and humility are keys to Godly spiritual covering. People will always fall short—but God's grace covers all our shortcomings.

Covered by His *Ruach* and by the blood of the Lamb,

Neil & Jamie

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CA	Sonora	PUBLIC ACCESS 8	MON 8:30 PM
FL	Tampa/St. Pete.	WCLF TV 22	SUN 2:30 PM
FL	Orlando/Cocoa	WTGL TV 45	SUN 1:30 PM
FL	Miami/Ft. Laud.	WHFT TV 45	THU 11:30 AM
FL	Tallahassee	WVUP TV 45	SUN 1:30 PM
FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61	SAT 10:30 PM
GA	Columbus	WYBU TV 16	SUN 2:30 PM
IA	Dubuque	KFXB TV 40	SUN 1:30 PM
IL	Peoria	FAITH ALIVE CH 20	FRI 6:00 PM
MO	New Bloomfield	KNLJ TV 25	SUN 1:30 PM
NJ/NY	NJ/New York	WMBC TV 63	SUN 4:00 PM
OH	Columbus	WSFJ TV 51	SUN 3:30 PM
OR	Portland	K26GJ TV 26	SUN 12:00 PM
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SC	Greenville	WGGS TV 16	FRI 10:30 AM

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