



Dear Friends in Yeshua,

Rest More!

The Lord brought back a vivid memory from 1977 this month. It was July, and we had just taken a huge step of faith. God had given Jamie a vision of a large house on Ft. Lauderdale beach and told her that we would live in it with "His children." Through a very miraculous set of circumstances, with less than \$400.00 in the bank, we become owners of this 4 bedroom, 5 1/2 bath home. Then reality set in. How would we possibly pay the mortgage payments? How could we afford to eat? Jamie didn't have a job, and Neil was teaching at the local community college. Neil encouraged Jamie to find a teaching position. None were available. In desperation, Jamie took out the telephone book and began to call every elementary school in our area, beginning with the letter "A". No prospects. After the letter "S", Jamie began to seek the Lord diligently. He led her to Psalm 127:2, *"It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep"* (KJV). Jamie concluded from this verse that she was striving too much, and not resting in the Lord. She went to Neil's office at the college and sharing with his secretary said, "That's it. I'm not sleeping enough. I'm going to rest and let the Lord do the work!"

Jamie slept in the next morning (the first time in months). At around 10:30 AM, she was awakened by a phone call. It was Tropical Elementary school. Note: letter "T." Jamie had stopped at "S." A teacher would not be returning and there was an opening for a kindergarten teacher. Guess who got the job?

The late Jack Frost taught us a lot about rest. He once said, "If rest is difficult for you, somehow you are still trying to perform or control something." When Jamie realized that getting a teaching position was not in her control, God began to move. He wants to be the One in control of our lives. **Surrender brings rest!** Jack also said, "Waiting on God and entering into His rest are the most productive moments of your life." WOW—how contrary to our achievement, success-oriented, competitive society! The Lord God, the Holy One of Israel said: *"In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength"* (Isaiah 30:15). He also said: *"Blessed are all those who wait for Him"* (Isaiah 30:18).

God rested.

The first mention of someone resting in the Holy Scriptures is found in Genesis 2:2: *"And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done."* The Hebrew word for "rested" in this verse is (שָׁבַת) shabbat, a primary root meaning to repose, desist from exertion, cease, put away, be still and celebrate. Was God exhausted? No! The God of Israel never sleeps and never tires. He was establishing a pattern of reflection, a rhythm of life for His creation to follow. He was sanctifying time—as well as a people. *"Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and was refreshed."* (Exodus 31:16-17) The word for refreshed is *na-FAHSH*, a primary root which means to breathe, be refreshed as if by a current of air. As we follow the Lord, we need to stop,

take a deep breath, relax, rest in Him, and be refreshed!

The name of the seventh day of the week in Israel is Shabbat. All the other days of the week have number names, i.e. First Day, Second Day, etc. Shabbat in Spanish is *sábado*, in English, Saturday. God never changed the Sabbath. Man did. Enough said. God's major focus for you today is: **Rest in Him.**

As we focused this month on the weekly shabbat rest commanded by God, we were drawn to a marvelous truth from Deuteronomy 5:15. After the Lord tells His people to labor for six days and do all their work, and to cease from work on the seventh day, He makes a connection with slavery: *"And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day."* In other words, God is telling His people that because they are no longer slaves, they don't have to work seven days a week. They are now free people. They can rest. They can be refreshed. He has given them a gift: Shabbat.

We must ask ourselves. Are we still slaves to our jobs? Do we allow ourselves to rest? Do we feel guilty when we rest? Can we receive rest as a gift from a loving Father and give Him thanks for it? This month, God wants us to thank Him for giving us REST as a gift!

Rest in God's Presence

In Exodus chapter 33, we read about God's final instructions to Moses as he is about to leave Mt. Sinai and lead the people whom God has redeemed from Egyptian bondage into the land He has promised them. While we see the Lord speaking to Moses *"face to face, as a man speaks to his friend"* (vs. 11), we also see Moses being insecure and agitated at the prospect of bringing God's people into the Promised Land (vs. 12-13). Moses wanted more information from the Lord. He wanted to be reassured. He wanted to know more about God and His ways. At the end of verse 13, we can almost hear Moses saying, *"Look Lord, these are Your kids, not mine."* God answered the unrest in Moses' soul with a glorious promise: *"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest"* (Exodus 33:14). God promised Moses *nuach* (pronounced NOOach). This primary Hebrew root implies to rest, settle down, to dwell, stay, place, give comfort, be quiet, remain, etc. Isn't that what we all want? Our souls yearn for a home, a place of rest and comfort, where we can settle down and be secure—a nest. (Read Psalm 84:1-4.)

What we most long for can be found in the Presence of the Lord. We can find our rest in Him. Did God keep His promise to give His people rest in the Promised Land? Consider Joshua 21:43-45: *"So the Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. The Lord gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand. Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass."*

Laboring—to Enter Rest

Hebrews chapter 4 in the New Covenant has much to say about rest. *"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His."* (vs. 9-10) This rest is the rest that Messiah gives to people who come to Him. It is the rest of salvation, of Yeshua, which is not the result of our works, but of God's grace. None of us can get to Heaven by our good deeds. Yeshua paid the price through His atoning death on the tree—our Joshua (Yeshua) leads us to the Eternal Promised Land (Heaven) and gives us peace (rest) with God.

Yeshua promised this rest to all when He said: *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls"* (Matthew 11:28-29).

Verse 11 of Hebrews 4 in the KJV exhorts believers as follows, "*Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest...*" An apparent contradiction makes perfect sense when seen in the context of the generation that wandered forty years in the wilderness and did not get to enter the Promised Land. What kept them out? Their unbelief, hardness of heart, rebellious nature, and disobedience kept an entire generation from entering into God's rest. (See Psalm 95:10-11.) These same sins can keep us from entering His rest today. The "labor" involved in entering God's rest is not physical, but spiritual. We must be diligent in asking God for more faith, a softer heart, and forgiveness for our rebellion, disobedience and pride. As we embrace the promises of God, we are laboring to enter His rest. Consider Psalm 37:3-9. This psalm teaches us how to rest in the Lord. King David uses a series of verbs (action words) which indicate "labor" without any physical exertion.

For example, verse 3: trust

verse 4: delight

verse 5: commit; trust

verse 7: rest; wait; do not fret

verse 8: cease; forsake; do not fret

verse 9: wait, inherit

We come to Yeshua by faith (a gift from God, not self-effort). He lifts our burden of sin (pride being at the root), and our soul finds rest (forgiveness, peace with God our Father). As we grow in our knowledge of God, the only way to keep "resting" in Him on a daily basis is by continuing to seek God, obey Him, trust, wait, cease striving and worrying, believe God and His word, and receive the Love of God as a Father who longs to give us the Kingdom. (See Luke 12:32.)

Sabbath for the Soil!

The Jewish year that began on *Tishrei 1*, 5768 (September 12, 2007), is a sabbatical or *shemitah* year. This occurs every seven years on the biblical calendar. The origin of the sabbatical year is found in Exodus 23:10-11, "*Six years you shall sow your land and gather in its produce, but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat, and what they leave, the beasts of the field may eat. In like manner you shall do with your vineyard and your olive grove.*" This is the first aspect of the *shemitah* year: no cultivation of farmland on Israeli soil. A second aspect is mentioned in Deuteronomy 15:1-2, "*At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts. And this is the form of the release: Every creditor who has lent anything to his neighbor shall release it; he shall not require it of his neighbor or his brother, because it is called the Lord's release.*" Thus, the *shemitah* year is also a "year of remission."

By the time you receive this letter, we will have personally experienced the sabbatical year in Israel, and we'll give you the full report next month. We have been told by Israeli friends that the *shemitah* year is somewhat controversial in a predominantly secular society. One friend, a believer, in submitting to the biblical ordinance, must wait an entire year for the front lawn of his new house to have grass seed sown. In order not to be a stumbling block to his Orthodox neighbors, he puts up with his little ones covered in dirt.

Many non-religious Israelis do not observe the *shemitah* rules, but they are obligatory for many of the Orthodox who have figured out ways to observe the *shemitah* while still producing crops. How? They symbolically sell the land for one year to a non-Jew (much like selling *chametz* [leaven] to a non-Jew at Passover). This custom called *heter mechira* was actually instituted over 100 years ago by rabbis who saw the need to maintain a modern agricultural and commercial system even during a *shemitah* year. They maintained that only land owned by Jews must be left fallow. If the land is sold to non-Jews, it could be farmed. While this may have worked in 1951, 1958, 1965, 1972, 1979, 1986, 1993 and 2000, it no longer works today. Jews do not feel "comfortable" selling, even symbolically, their land to their Arab neighbors.

In many parts of Israel this year, grapes can be harvested, but not sold. They must be given away or consumed. Much produce will be grown in greenhouses (which is not considered "the land"). Produce will also come from the Arava, the regions in Southern Israel which are outside of the biblical borders of the country. Buying produce from the Palestinian Authority in Gaza or in Jericho or even East Jerusalem this year may not be an option, given the Arab-Israeli conflict.

While we understand the great difficulty in observing the sabbath of the land, we find it sobering that the seventy years of the Babylonian captivity were punishment for the seventy sabbatical years that Israel did not observe from the time they entered the Land to the destruction of the first Temple. (See 2 Chronicles 36:19-21, Jeremiah 25:9-12.) This would seem to be a propitious year to observe the biblical mandate to allow the land to rest!

While observing Shabbat every week indicates God's absolute ownership of us, it would seem that observing *Shemithah* every seven years would affirm God's absolute ownership of the Land! Everything, ultimately, belongs to God. Resting is difficult for modern man. But when we rest, we rely totally on God. When we rest, we let go and let God. When we rest, we trust God radically. Let's labor—to enter into His rest! If, as many believe, the earth will exist for 6,000 years followed by a time of rest in the 7th millennium, we're getting close. And if, as many believe, the Messiah will come (return) in a year following a *shemithah* year (i.e. a Jubilee year), 2008 is a good candidate! (No doctrine, just a nice thought about "new beginnings!").

Resting in the Beloved, by His Grace,

Heidi Jamieson

Hidden in the Secret Place - CD by Alyosha Ryabinov; beautiful spontaneous piano music; soaking and restful; this is your vehicle if peace and deep inner rest is needed

We Delight - CD by Steve McConnell; Messianic music in Hebrew and English; great for the Shabbat and every other day of the week; an absolute must have in your music collection

The Sabbath: Entering God's Rest - 46 page Messianic booklet; answers all your burning questions as Barry and Steffi Rubin share the meaning of the Sabbath for both Jews and Christians

Jewish Jewels Television Airtime Schedule - November 2007

LOCAL TV STATIONS

STATE:	CITY:	STATIONS:	AIRTIME:
AK	North Pole	KJNP TV 4	TUE 6:00 PM
CA	Sonora	PUBLIC ACCESS 8	MON 8:30 PM
FL	Tampa/St. Pete.	WCLF TV22	SUN 2:30 PM
FL	Orlando/Cocoa	WLCB TV 45	SUN 1:30 PM
FL	Miami/Ft. Laud.	WHFT TV 45	THU 11:30 AM
FL	West Palm Beach	WFGC TV 61	SAT 10:30 PM
IL	Peoria	FAITH ALIVE CH 20	FRI 6:00 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
OR	Salem	K21GX TV 21	SUN 12:00 PM
PA	Philadelphia	WFMZ TV 69	SUN 9:30 AM
SC	Greenville	WGGS TV 16	FRI 10:30 AM

SATELLITE NETWORKS

SKY ANGEL

Angel Two - SUN 2:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9702]

GTN - SUN 3:30 PM (EST) [Ch. 9707]

DirecTV

World Harvest TV (WHT) - SUN 3:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 321]

God TV - The GOD Channel

WED 4:30 AM (GMT) & 6:30 AM (Jerusalem)

Australian Christian Channel (ACC)

THU 8:00 AM (AEST)

Galaxy 16

World Harvest TV (WHT) - SUN 5:00 PM (EST) [Ch. 121]

Satellite Receiver

WHT- Galaxy 16- Transpondent 15 - SUN 3:00 PM (EST)



INTERNATIONAL Philippines - Shalom TV THU 6:00 PM

INTERNET www.jewishjewels.org www.acctv.com.au
