

Message from the Rabbi & the Rebbetzin



Dear friends and Family in Moshiach, We hope all is well.

On May 11, the Pew report on Jewish Americans in 2020 was released. Given the eruption of violence in Israel and Gaza at that moment, it is no surprise it garnered less attention than it might normally have in a quieter hour. The headline of the report reads, “U.S. Jews are culturally engaged, increasingly diverse, politically polarized and worried about anti-Semitism.” Drilling down deeper in the report, we learn that of all the things essential to Jewish identity, remembering the Holocaust ranked the highest (76%) and living a moral and ethical life (72%) was a close second.

Yesterday afternoon we had the privilege to attend a Virtual Conference hosted by [HUC-JIR](#) on *Moral Injury and Soul Repair* as we do train ourselves as Messianic Rabbi and Messianic Counselors as Professionals in and beyond the Messianic Community, we MUST be continuously trained as Professionals to help Jews and Gentiles coming from all backgrounds as well. As part of the Conference Teaching, we learned from authoritative Jewish speakers about Moral Injury defined as “**the Trauma of Moral Conscience**”, when harm cannot be amended, and empathy yields only pain and self-condemnation. Moral injury means the existing core moral foundations or faith of a person or group are unable to justify, make sense of, and integrate traumatic experiences into a reliable personal identity that enables relationships and human flourishing. Like a missing limb, it is not a reversible injury, so survival is a process of learning to live with an experience that cannot be forgotten.” (Brock, 2017).

In the midst of war, soldiers do things that violate their core beliefs and the damage is such that at their very essence they don't feel worthy as human beings. Living becomes devoid of order and meaning leading to the experience of moral injury coupled with the incredibly hard work of soul repair.

Moral injury doesn't only occur in those who do unconscionable things in the line of duty or people who committed horrible crimes like one of the speakers at the conference, but also when societies and those in power inflict moral injury on groups and nations. As we think about the grief, despair, anger, and fear over these last three weeks between the eruption of violence in Israel and Palestine and the increase of antisemitism in our own countries, it feels time to truly reckon with the depth of the pain that lives in our people and the moral injury caused by the Holocaust, so much so that 76% of Jews surveyed deem that the most essential part of their Jewishness.

How can one integrate such a violation of morality, systematic dehumanization and the eradication of 6 million of our people and the instability of living with it and its source: antisemitism and much more? What about Israelis and Palestinians living in a constant state of war, terror, uncertainty, and fear for a century and more than 50 years of occupation? What does that do to the soul of a person, peoples?

The confluence of all these issues in the midst of a global pandemic, a destabilizing assault on our democratic institutions and the questions of its lasting impact, the reckoning on race in this country (or lack thereof) sometimes feels like too much to bear (and this is coming from people with all the privileges in the world) even as people of faith. Is there hope of finding our way through?

But here's what inspires us amid all the potentially destabilizing noise and moral injury happening in the world around us. On the one hand there are the ones which have been redeemed in the Moshiach from their past, as we are part of the body of Moshiach, as Jews in Moshiach, with the Gentiles believers in Yeshua. We know we all have

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been through and are still working our own ongoing process of soul repair and **teshuvah (repentance)** despite our redemption in Moshiach there is much to work on in our hearts, souls and mind. It gives us hope. On the other hand there are the members of the Parents Circle Families Forum of 600 Israeli and Palestinian bereaved families choosing a path of soul repair and reconciliation. Also this gives us faith and it gives must hope. And finally there is that statistic about what is essential to us Jews in these times. It's not only the remembrance of the greatest trauma of our people's history that has been ingrained in our souls, but that it is nearly equal to our unceasing desire to live a moral and ethical life, how much more as Messianic Jews. At our essence, we are not only a people who remember, but a people who aspire and witness the Jewish Redemption in the Last Days. We should never forget about it.

So, as we approach this Shabbat, please do not forget that we are not alone, we are many in Moshiach, we are an example of forgiveness above all sins, through the Redemption in Moshiach, for others to see as we have been redeemed by Hashem through His Redemption in Moshiach without deserving it, but only by His grace. Our purpose and identity in life is only in Hashem who is our Creator who gave us His only Son Yeshua the Moshiach as ultimate sacrifice for our redemption and the redemption of all Israel and the Gentiles which have not yet received Him as their Saviour yet. He is faithful with all of us Jews and Gentiles in Him. Let us be faithful to Him with no fear, as His People standing and proclaiming our belief to the world with no compromise.

We have been reconciled with Him through Moshiach as we have been reconciled first with others (Matthew 5:24), leaving our past behind, renouncing to Satan and our sinful ways, finally walking His ways in obedience and glorifying His Holy Name. This means that the redemption in Moshiach is not just the moment we accept Moshiach in our hearts but it is a lifelong journey of molding, breaking, cutting until we become His image on earth (*Michelangelo Buonarroti*) that He wants to reveal to the world. A lamp cannot be put under the bed, it must be placed in the high places to be seen, we cannot be afraid of His Torah of Truth and see ourselves as ants before the enemies while Hashem is calling us to fight spiritually to reach His People for His Name been glorified, we are called to share the Torah to be what Hashem is calling us to be in Spirit and in truth.

We are new creatures in His Moshiach Yeshua who gave His life for us and gives us His strength to forgive every sin (**70 times 7 Matthew 18:21-22**) and be forgiven for all our sins from whom we have hurt as we still keep sinning (different sins from the past but still called sins) everyday despite our redemption and reconciliation with Hashem through the Moshiach.

Brothers and Sisters in Moshiach, as we accept our inadequacy, weaknesses and fear of change that always leads us to wrong choices, and as we daily surrender ourselves to Him in prayer and supplication, fasting, gathering with other believers online and in person asking Hashem for the Fullness of His Redemption in us in every area of our lives, we are going to see a **change** (Zephaniah 3:17, Galatians 5:1, Isaiah 44:22, Yochanan (John) 8:36) in our lives, relationships, marriages, communities, cities, nations. Surrendering to Him makes us available for a miraculous change in our characters, behaviors, relationships that He wishes to see in us through His redemption (Psalms 34:19) as He is the Only One who can set us free from any sinful way we are still going through, He asks us to be at His presence no matter what is in front of us, since when we are at His presence nothing can disturb our intimacy and covenant with Him!



[He restores and resurrects our hearts and souls](#) (Isaiah 61:10, Psalms 23:3, Isaiah 61:3), He renews our minds (Romans 12:1-2) in His perfect work that no man can interrupt, no lie can stop, [no false doctrine can manipulate](#) (Romans 8:7), no persecution or tribulation [can annihilate](#) (Romans 8:35) as [He will complete His work in us](#) (Philippians 1:6) in His time and season until we will be with Him in His Kingdom of Heaven. So [keep fight the good fight](#) (1 Timothy 6:12), [keep knock at His door](#) (Matthew 7:7), [keep shout loud His Name](#) (Psalms 66:1-4) as

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He is always ready to forgive, He is always with us and none can separate us from Him (Romans 8:31-39). He is our Lover, our Bridegroom, our Redeemer, our Shield, our Counselor, our Provider, our Saviour, our Healer and Deliverer (Psalms 18:1-2). Mechamocha: There is none like Him (Psalms 71:23).



"אני לדודי ודודי לי" – ani ledodi vedodi li - I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine. Song of Songs 6:3

Hashem has a covenant with Israel (Genesis 50:24-25) that is eternal. His promises for Israel are valid and will never end. We are the apple of His eye, we are called to be [K'doshim \(Sanctified\)](#) as He is and this can be done [only](#) when [we surrender to His will in our lives](#) ("[redemption](#)" - "[ge'ulah](#)"). [Alone we cannot overcome our sins and struggles, our suffering and unforgiveness for what we have, we are and we will face in the future, but with Him we can do ALL THINGS](#) in the STRENGTH He has given us (Philippians 4:13)!

Blessings in HaShem, Beshem Yeshua, Amen
In Moshiach Yeshua,
Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Harel Frye & Rebbetzin Gavriela Frye
[Village of Hope & Justice Ministry](#)

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