

# RABBI TED SIMON

Favor Zion Ministries

July-August 2006

Tamuz/Av 5766

Shalom Havairim,  
Blessings to you, my friends:

Since my last newsletter, Diane and I have become grandparents for the first time. Our 7 lb. 15 oz. granddaughter, Keira, was born July 15 to our second oldest daughter, Pasha, and our son-in-law, Dan. Our thoughts have been preoccupied with the new baby. All other events seem to fade in the background with the excitement and joy of grandparenthood (is that really a word?).

Other events are now pulling at our attention. The newscasts proclaim wars and rumors of war, particularly in the 10-40 Window. This area of the world has neither heard, or it has not responded to the gospel.

The war in Iraq has been the center of the war wheel with other countries like Afghanistan, North Korea, Iran, Palestine and Israel making up the spokes to the wheel. The perception is that hatred, jealousy and rage are being shaken over the entire region, much like shaking dirt out of a rug. Intense disdain is directed at Christians and the Jewish people.

The most recent conflict between Israel and Lebanon is our focus at this time. Rocket attacks on Israel by Hamas from its southern Palestinian border, and then from Hezbollah from the northern border in Lebanon has put Israel in the crosshairs of two terrorist groups-- with one satanic conductor. Israel had pulled their soldiers out of both Gaza a year ago, and out of south Lebanon in 2000. Israel gave the Land to those living there, so now it is obvious that this is not about Palestinian sovereignty – it is about Israel's destruction. There is a fire from hell that is never satisfied. (Proverbs 30:16c)

Half of Lebanon supports the Hezbollah and the other half is Christian Orthodox according to Rabbi Asher Intrater of **Revive Israel**. Asher was addressing the El Shaddai Congregation in Frederick MD on July 14. (Diane and I served the people of El Shaddai for 12 years as both Asher's assistants and as Sr. Pastor) We know Asher to be balanced and insightful, a man of prayer. Asher lives full-time in Israel. His oldest son is a career officer in the Israeli Defense Forces and his second son is in the reserves.

Diane and I spent an afternoon with Asher and his wife, Betty. While we walked down the gorge at Seven Locks on the Potomac River, we pressed in to hear their hearts and to discern the situation in the heavenly realm – where a war is raging. “For we do not fight against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

In the public meeting Asher requested our prayers center on 1). Binding the power of loud, prideful voices used by radical Islam, and requesting that the Arab world would not respond. 2) Ask Yeshua to change hearts to be open to the gospel in the Middle East. 3) Pray for Messianic

believers in the army for safety and for success in winning. 4) Prayer and praise will change nations and their governments.

Rabbi Intrater also stated that God is not afraid of conflict, pain, discomfort or confrontation. God is in control of governments, military and every other situation. We need the moral courage to stand up to evil, to confront and not to back down. He illustrated this point with the story of Daniel, who made a choice not to bow down to worship the governor instead of God. The angel of the Lord protected Daniel from being destroyed in the fiery furnace.

The month of Av begins on July 26, this year. Tish B' Av (or the ninth day of Av) is a day of spiritual infamy. On that day, **both** the first **and** second Temples were destroyed. On that day, the forced expulsion of the Jewish people from Spain was carried out along with very horrible atrocities that began in Nazi Germany. I am not *superstitious*, but there seems to be a culmination of evil that rises up in mid-summer and that is not abated until after the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement. Let those of you who have ears to hear, use this time to intercede by fasting and praying and by speaking the truth in love concerning the Biblical calling on Israel, and the plan of Yeshua for both Jews and Arabs. His plan is simple: That none would perish, but all would come to eternal life in Jesus.

Another significant event that happened during July was the picture-perfect landing of the Discovery shuttle. Watching that huge ship drop down out of the heavens and land where it was expected reminds us Yeshua will one day descend out of the heavens and land where He is anticipated – on the Temple Mount in Israel. Questions arise such as, “Does the war in the Middle East signal the beginning of Armageddon and the return of Yeshua?” Certainly animosity toward Israel is growing among the nations, but the exact time of Yeshua’s touchdown is in our Heavenly Father’s timetable.

Favor Zion Ministries is a conduit of blessings to the Messianic believers in Israel-both Jew and Arab! The outreach ministries in Israel that you help us support reach people through their native language. As you give financial support, pray that both the Arabs and Jewish people might be saved; for wisdom and righteousness within the government; for the Messianic Jewish remnant –for unity, glory and purity.

These are momentous times, but friends we would not have you ignorant! Know that what is done now will have eternal significance. Together we fulfill prophecy! There is intense longing in our Spirits – longing for the souls of people and for the King to come and establish His Kingdom. When Yeshua rules – then all peoples, both great and small, shall know the Lord, including those living in the 10/40 window.

Thank you for rejoicing with us as we celebrate new life in our family.

We love you and appreciate you.

Ted

