

## I Will Find You

*“<sup>1</sup>Awake, awake, clothe yourself in your strength, Zion! Clothe yourself in beautiful garments, Jerusalem, the holy city, for the uncircumcised and the unclean will never invade you again. <sup>2</sup>Shake off the dust and arise! Be enthroned, Jerusalem. Loose the bonds off your neck, captive Daughter of Zion. (Isaiah 52:1-2)*

*“<sup>12</sup>Then you will call on Me, and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek Me and find Me, when you will search for Me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup>Then I will be found by you,” says Adonai, “and I will return you from exile, and gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,” says Adonai, “and I will bring you back to the place from which I removed you as captives into exile” (Jer. 29:12-14).*

*“<sup>1</sup>Sing, barren one, who has not given birth. burst into singing and shout, you who have not travailed. For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married one,” says Adonai...<sup>5</sup>For your Maker is your husband —Adonai-Tzva’ot is His Name— the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer. He will be called God of all the earth (Isaiah 54:1, 5).*

Sometimes a Scriptural song helps the Word go deeper into our spirit:

*♪ Awake, awake, oh Jerusalem,  
Rise up from the dust, captive daughter of Zion.  
You have forgotten, the Lord your maker,  
For I, even I, am He who comforts you.*

*You will seek me and you shall find me,  
When you search for me will all of your heart,  
You will come and pray to me, and I will listen to you,  
And I will be found by you,  
And I will restore your fortunes,  
And I will gather you from all the places where I have driven you.*

*Shout for joy oh barren one, you who have bore no child,  
For you husband is your maker, and you are My people*

*Awake, awake, oh Jerusalem,  
Rise up from the dust, captive daughter of Zion.  
You have forgotten, the Lord your maker,  
For I, even I, am He who comforts you.*

*Shout for joy oh barren one, you who have bore no child,  
For you husband is your maker, and you are My people,  
And you are my people, and you are my people, Jerusalem ♪*

(Song: *Awake Oh Jerusalem*, Joe Finkelstein, Kol Simcha, 1979)  
(See Isa. 52:1,2; Jer. 29:13,14; Isa. 54:1,5)

Without doubt we know we can seek the Almighty and we will find Him provided we seek for Him with all of our heart. We know that this is more palpable in the month of *Elul* as we approach the Fall High Holidays. Indeed, we can come and pray to Him and He will listen to us, restore our fortune and re-gather us. These are certainly great times of rejoicing and we will *shout for joy* unspeakable and full of glory.

We are entering into a time where the Lord is making it abundantly clear that we need intimacy with Him. In fact, more than a need, intimacy with Lord is THE only thing that will allow us to stay in tune with what He is doing and the times we live in. By intimacy I mean loving and serving Him out of a heart of love and gratitude while delighting in Him, not His system, not His religion, not His work – and to be sure, there is great pleasure and delight in doing the work of God.

*“<sup>23</sup>But an hour is coming – it is here now – when the true worshipers will worship the Father in **spirit and truth**, for the **Father is seeking such people as His worshipers**. <sup>24</sup>God is Spirit, and those who worship Him **must worship in spirit and truth**.” (John 4:23-24, emphasis mine)*

To be sought by the Father Himself is a better promise than the promise that we will find Him when we seek for Him with all of our heart. Both result in finding Him, but He has infinitely better resources at His disposal to accomplish the search. In fact: *“<sup>7</sup>Where can I go from Your Ruach? Where can I flee from Your presence? <sup>8</sup>If I go up to heaven, You are there, and if I make my bed in Sheol, look, You are there too. <sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the dawn and settle on the other side of the sea, <sup>10</sup>even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me. <sup>11</sup>If I say: “Surely darkness covers me, night keeps light at a distance from me,” <sup>12</sup>even darkness is not dark for You, and night is as bright as day— darkness and light are alike” (Psalm 139:7-12)* You see He is Omniscient, Omnipresent and Omnipotent. But rabbi, is it really possible that we can be sought by the Father? *Yeshua* said it very clearly and His words are trustworthy. We must become true worshippers who esteem and practice worshipping the Father in Spirit (the Holy Spirit) and in (with) truth. In fact, verse 24 states that to truly worship the Father we **MUST** do so in **Spirit and in Truth**.

I want to be sought by the Father. In fact, I want our congregation to be sought by the Father. I want to be “*found by Him*” practicing Holy Spirit worship and living an integral life of truth. This is so fundamental to our ministry and to *Kol Simcha* that I am compelled to remind us again today that: *“We shall know the truth and the truth shall make us free.” (John 8:32)*

Our world does not love truth, as perfectly predicted by Scripture. People love lies and refuse to learn the truth. The current Christian world is much like the Samaritan world in Scripture: *“You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews” (vs. 22)*. They do not really know their Messiah as the one who is from the Jews. Sad, don’t you think?

However, rest assured that in worshipping the Father with truth (and with His Holy Spirit), He WILL *‘seek us and He WILL find us.’* May we be “*found by Him*” rejoicing in Spirit and in Truth as we prepare to enter into His *High-Holiday-Season*. Amen!