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This letter comes in the course of present travels in the US. In the coming months we shall endeavor to maintain our regular schedule but cannot always ensure success.

**Trends and Tensions**

Israel's Deputy Chief of Staff, General Yair Golan, addressed the army on Holocaust Remembrance Day and expressed his concern over the emergence in Israel of trends which are reminiscent of aspects of German society prior to the rise of Nazism. He was pulled over the racks by senior right-wing politicians, particularly by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Golan was not comparing the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) with the Nazis, nor was he drawing a comparison between Israeli society and Nazi Germany. His reference was to trends evident among some in Israel, including politicians such as Knesset Member Smotrich, who have called for revenge attacks against the Palestinian populace, declined to have their wives treated in the same hospital rooms in which Arab women are treated and increasingly expressed what can legitimately be described by no other term than stark racism. Netanyahu had little to say with regard to these trends; he merely criticized one of Israel's senior military leaders for pointing to the disturbing trends he identified.

The conflict is corrupting us. Void of an objective basis for morality, the left-over sense of right and wrong that we still have as a nation is being eroded. The pressures of an ongoing hostility to national Jewish aspirations on the part of the Palestinians, whose national aspirations run contrary have reduced our commitment to honor, integrity, humanity and fairness. Buttressed by an increasingly arrogant religious insistence, Israeli patriotism is in danger of embracing a national selfishness that will undoubtedly bring upon us God's judgment unless we change course.

Israel's religious leaders have no moral voice and no moral interests. Israel's politicians are not motivated by moral ideas. Israel's population is largely materialistic, pleasure-seeking and void of objective principles. The fear of God is not a standard promoted in Israel. Instead, success at any cost is at the root of much of Israel's religion, even at the cost of attempting to deceive God by an appearance of keeping his law while, in fact, breaking it.

I've said it before and I will unquestionably say it again and again: Israel needs the Gospel! Nothing short of the Gospel can transform Israeli society and bring an end to the moral rot that has taken hold of us.

This is the challenge facing the local church in Israel – to dare swim against the tidal wave of nationalism. The potential is there. Israel's young Christians are vibrant, confident, eager and increasingly competent. What they need is a significant, informed and spiritually motivating underpinning of God's word and a desire for holiness that will drive them to risk all for the Gospel. There is an eagerness among these young folk that I have yet to evidence in the 53 years I have been a Christian in Israel.

### Ministry and Family News

The first draft of my translation of the BOOK ON CHURCH HISTORY has been completed. I am now working on the second draft before submitting it to the publisher. Editorial comments on my translation of Matthew in the TRANSLATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT have been received and are being reviewed as I travel. My DAILY DEVOTIONS continue to be produced. I am presently in the third chapter of John's first letter. This has been an experience of grace to my own heart.

My book of MALACHI has just been republished by Founders Press and may be purchased from them, via Barnes & Noble and from Amazon. Reviews on any of these distribution medias would be most helpful.

In the course of our ANNUAL TRIP TO THE US we celebrated Passover with all of the family – a sweet event we have not had the privilege to enjoy for well over a decade. As is the custom, we had the pleasure of hosting a number of friends as well. In accordance with the Maoz tradition I prepared the lamb and some of the traditional dishes. If comments on my preaching were as kind as were those on the lamb, I would be a much-acclaimed preacher.

I apologize for the delay in submitting a final report on the details regarding the BREAK-IN AND WATER DAMAGE. I am still awaiting the insurance company's decision with regard to the latter. Once such is made, I will be able to compose that promised report. Meanwhile, we are coping and trusting the Lord for the future.

I am finding in my heart an increasingly sweet hunger for God, for which I am grateful. Travels do not make for much free time for prayer and for seeking God especially when other duties must also be met. Your prayers would be much appreciated.

In Christ by grace,

Baruch and Bracha Maoz

**You can help** by purchasing copies of Baruch's books from Barnes & Noble or from Amazon by asking for them at your local bookstore and **by posting reviews of these books** on Barnes & Noble or Amazon websites. Positive reviews help sell the books!

**COME LET US REASON TOGETHER** (On the Unity of Jews and Gentiles in the church), P&R. This book presents Christ as the fullness of divine revelation and his work as sufficient for our whole salvation.

**JONAH: A PROPHET ON THE RUN**, Shepherd Press, a devotional commentary on the book of Jonah.

**MALACHI: A PROPHET IN TIMES OF DISTRESS**, a devotional commentary on the book of Malachi. Founders Press.

**The devotional commentaries are well suited  
for personal devotions and group Bible studies**

Baruch's sermons may be heard on [Sermon Audio](#)

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Intermittent bulletins are produced as necessary



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