

# How a Near-Death Experience Led a Gay Drug Addict to Become a Spirit-Filled Pastor

Joshua Reyes didn't want to be remembered as a "crazy club kid" who died on drugs. After an overdose of Ecstasy in 2011, the Holy Spirit overwhelmed Reyes, and he dedicated himself to the Lord for a kingdom calling that touches many daily.

Now the pastor of SoulFire Revival Center in Mercedes, Texas, Reyes is zealous to let others know that, through Christ, they deserve a second chance in life—a chance to leave behind a legacy of winning souls for the kingdom. His new podcast, the "Legacy Podcast" on the Charisma Podcast Network, helps believers challenge themselves to understand their place in the body of Christ.

"I was in the hospital after I overdosed, and I asked myself, *What kind of legacy am I going to leave behind?*" Reyes told Dr. Steve Greene on a recent episode of "Greenelines" on the Charisma Podcast Network. "How am I going to be remembered? I want to leave something good behind. It was in that hospital room I told God, "Whatever You want from me."

"People are not going to remember a lot of the things you said or did, but they're going to remember how you made them feel. I don't want to be remembered for something I built, but for how I was able to encourage people, to edify them and to help them advance in their spiritual walk toward Christ.

"People that feel lost, hurt, abandoned, confused or helpless, they need to know that is not what God wants for them. Anyone who is struggling to find love and acceptance, that's not what God wants for them. My heart is to help people discover the gifts and talents that God has given them and to help them discover they can hear the voice of God for themselves; to

encourage them to walk in their purpose and destiny, whatever that might be.”

For more of Joshua Reyes’ legacy ministry, listen to this podcast.

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## **Prophecy: Queen Elizabeth Needs Prayer for Bold Move**

On Sept. 13, 2019, at Awakening House of Prayer South London, I saw a vision of a crown rotating. Then I saw a scepter.

I heard the Lord say, “Pray for Queen Elizabeth to have boldness. She will need to make a bold move. One more bold move.”

With Oct. 31 looming and the difficulties gaining a majority in Parliament, could Queen Elizabeth use her “royal prerogative” to determine the fate of the United Kingdom as it relates to Brexit?

We did see her offer royal assent to a piece of legislation seeking to prevent Prime Minister Boris Johnson from taking the United Kingdom out of the European Union without an exit deal on Oct. 31. She is aware of the battle for Britain.

Could the 93-year-old monarch be something like a Queen Esther of our time to save a nation? Will she be forced to fire Prime Minister Boris Johnson if he receives a vote of no confidence?

The monarchy has already taken loads of criticism for

suspending Parliament at Johnson's request, but she would likewise have taken loads of criticism if she had denied his request.

Could Queen Elizabeth, who has historically remained out of the political fray as constitutional monarch, wield her influence at this critical moment in the nation's history?

While some are speculating about the end of the monarch, could this constitutional crisis reveal the wisdom and authority of the queen to step in when the government is out of answers?

Let's pray for boldness for the queen at such a time as this. Let's pray she will follow the leading of the Lord so that His will is done in the United Kingdom. {eoa}

**Jennifer LeClaire** *is the former editor of Charisma magazine and the founder of Jennifer LeClaire Ministries. She is the author of books like Becoming a Next-Level Prophet, 101 Tactics for Spiritual Warfare, Waging Prophetic Warfare, Decoding Your Dreams and Defeating Water Spirits.*

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## **Messianic Rabbi: Why Are We Losing Our Prophetic Voices?**

Last week, another leader of a large ministry, Jarrod Wilson, committed suicide. I didn't know him personally, but I grieved along with his family and congregation as I have done seemingly weekly this year. It seems like we are losing one leader after another to depression and death.

I have also read many articles and comments over the past year

with many opinions about these men and women. Some are filled with grace and love; others are filled with condemnation and fire and brimstone.

With each additional report, my heart breaks a little more. With the suicides of the leaders, we are losing our Elijahs. We are losing prophetic voices, proclaimers of the Word, men and women who stand up against the enemies of our faith and often shout the words “fear not.” And until we in the body begin to understand what is happening and step in to do something about it, we will continue to lose more.

Above, I called these men and women our Elijahs. Let me take a moment to explain why. We are introduced to Elijah in 1 Kings 17:1 (TLV) in this way:

“Now Elijah the Tishbite, one of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab: ‘As Adonai God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be no dew or rain these years, except at my word.’”

Elijah is prophesying to King Ahab, trusting completely in the authority that he has been given by G-D. Notice that Elijah isn’t prophesying, “Thus sayeth Adonai.” Elijah is so filled with faith and the power of the Spirit of G-D that it will not rain again until Elijah says so. Just imagine being so full of the Spirit of G-D that the rains are under your authority.

Only a few verses down, we read in 1 Kings 17:13-14:

“Elijah said to her, ‘Fear not! Go and do as you said, but first make me a little cake from what you have there. Bring it out to me and afterwards, make some for you and for your son. For thus says Adonai God of Israel, “The jar of flour shall not be exhausted nor shall the jug of oil be empty until the day Adonai sends rain on the land.”’”

Elijah again speaks, instructing this woman to “fear not” and he prophesied that her flour and oil would not run out until

G-D sends rain. What power, what authority in the Spirit Elijah is demonstrating to us! And in 1 Kings 17:16, we read the confirmation that what Elijah prophesied came fully to pass and the flour and oil lasted just as he said.

Only a few more verses into the chapter, we find Elijah praying for G-D to raise a young boy from the dead in 1 Kings 17:21-22:

“Then he stretched himself upon the child three times. He cried out to Adonai and said, ‘Adonai my God, please let this child’s soul come back into his body!’ Adonai listened to the cry of Elijah, so the soul of the child came back into his body and he was revived.”

Then in 1 Kings 18:37, we read about Elijah on Mount Carmel as he challenges the prophets of Baal and says:

“Answer me, Adonai, answer me, so that these people may know that You, Adonai, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again.”

1 Kings 18 ends in verse 41 as Elijah tells Ahab:

“Then Elijah said to Ahab, ‘Go up, eat and drink, for there’s the sound of rain.’”

When we are introduced to Elijah, he is a man of great faith who could speak and the rains would stop for years. Elijah was so full of faith that while the other prophets were hiding from Jezebel in caves, Elijah was out in the open. Elijah was the prophet of Israel, respected by both the faithful and the unfaithful. Elijah was being used by G-D in the prophetic and to perform miracles up to and including raising the dead.

Elijah was and still today is used in sermons about being filled with faith and power. Yet the next thing we read about Elijah is about him being depressed, hiding under a bush, suicidal and praying all night long for G-D to take his life.

“But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom bush. He prayed that he might die. ‘It’s too much!’ he said. ‘Now, Adonai, take my life! For I’m no better than my fathers’” (1 Kings 19:4).

Now, it is very important for us to note that in the middle of Elijah’s depressed and suicidal state, he still was praying, and he still heard from G-D.

“When he arrived there at the cave, he spent the night there. Then behold, the word of Adonai came to him, and He said to him, ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’” (1 Kings 19:9).

It is vital for the body of believers to make note of Elijah. He was not a hypocrite; he was not a phony who was pretending. He was a minister who was actively hearing from G-D, walking in prophetic power, speaking miracles into existence, raising the dead and speaking boldly against false prophets, false gods and corrupt leaders. In the middle of his depression, Elijah still fasted for 40 days. Elijah was still human and not immune to the deceptive words of the enemy. But, even with his weaknesses, we all hold him up as a hero of faith.

We, as the body of believers, must look at our ministry leaders in this way: Just because they are powerful proclaimers of the Word or just because we see miracles take place in their ministry, does not mean that they don’t also struggle with the realities and pressures of their office. Don’t forget that these men and women are going through the same spiritual attacks you deal with on a regular basis, only intensified because they serve in the ministerial roles that they do.

I was in a room one time with a group of more than 20 congregational leaders, and the discussion of depression and suicide came up. As the discussion went on, it became clear that every one of those leaders had at one time or another in their life thought about suicide.

This doesn't mean they were suicidal, but they got to a point in their lives, either before entering ministry or after, that the weight of their world was so heavy that, if only for a fleeting moment, the enemy made it an option. Please remember that I was in the room.

So, now we all realize that, like Elijah, many leaders can be attacked by the enemy and deal with serious depression and even suicidal tendencies. What should we do about it? The answers are also provided in 1 Kings.

1. Be the angel or messenger who reminds them to take care of themselves and do it more than once if needed.

"Then he lay down and slept under the broom bush. Then behold, an angel touched him, and said to him, 'Get up, and eat'" (1 Kings 19:5).

"Then the angel of Adonai came again a second time, touched him and said, "Get up and eat, because the journey is too much for you'" (1 Kings 19:7).

2. Remind them that just because they are under attack, does not mean they don't know and hear G-D's voice.

"After the earthquake a fire, but Adonai was not in the fire. After the fire there was a soft whisper of a voice" (1 Kings 19:12).

3. Remind them that they are not alone in their personal struggles because you are with them, praying for them, holding them up and believing in their calling.

"Yet I have preserved seven thousand in Israel whose knees have not bowed to Baal and whose mouth has not kissed him" (1 Kings 19:18).

Please remember that, even in the deepest moments of his depression and longing for death, Elijah was still Elijah the prophet. {eoa}

**Eric Tokajer** is author of *With Me in Paradise*, *Transient Singularity*, *OY! How Did I Get Here?: Thirty-One Things I Wish Someone Had Told Me Before Entering Ministry*, *#ManWisdom: With Eric Tokajer*, *Jesus Is to Christianity as Pasta Is to Italians*, and *Galatians in Context*.

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## **Spirit-Filled Preacher: To Save America's Soul, We Must Stop Watering Down This Truth**

If the soul of America is to be saved—and it's teetering on the edge right now—Spirit-filled Pastor Shane Idleman says pastors must shun the fear of man and stop watering down the gospel of Christ when preaching.

The lead pastor at Westside Christian Fellowship in Leona Valley, California, and a regular contributor to *Charisma News* and , Idleman also says that parents must recapture their homes for Jesus and shut the door to the evil culture we have allowed to enter our homes and affect our kids.

Jesus, he says, must come first in everything.

"My heart is for the pulpits of America to be aflame with righteousness once again," Idleman told Dr. Steve Greene on a recent episode of *Greenelines* on the Charisma Podcast Network. "We must preach God's truth, but in a spirit of love and brokenness. The greatest need in the pulpit today is for pastors to be filled with the Spirit of God. That's the only

way you can truly balance truth and love.”

Idleman, who himself has five children all under age 14, says parents must also own a huge responsibility if our country is to enjoy a better future.

“As parents, you have to fight for it because the enemy is coming against you,” Idleman says. “For example, a lot of parents need to look at what they’re allowing into their homes, especially through things like Netflix. They allow their children to see movies about witches and witchcraft and the occult, with nudity. We’re just hurting our family spiritually by allowing that into our homes. We need to make it our goal to train up our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.”

For more about Shane Idleman’s ministry, listen to this podcast. {eoa}

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## **Prophetic Word: Get Ready for a Flood of Blessing**

While I was in prayer, the Lord began to share with me that many of His people in this season have been experiencing some unexpected attacks, resistance and opposition. It is the plan and strategy of the enemy to oppress the saints of God.

If you have been encountering some unseen hindrances in the area that you are called to and passionately pursuing, it is an indication that you are on your way to experience the breakthrough that you have been waiting for. Don’t be alarmed! Help is on the way. God showed me the following in the Book of

Daniel in regards to his prophetic vision:

“He shall speak words against the Most High and shall wear out the saints of the Most High and plan to change times and law. And they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time” (Dan. 7:25).

The area that you are experiencing the most resistance, pressure, opposition and attacks in is where God is coming to intervene supernaturally. He told me that He is sending angelic help to bring you into your place called breakthrough. Don't give up! Your breakthrough is within your reach.

As we read in Daniel 7:25, the enemy intention is to change the set time and laws that God has preordained and predestined for you. If he can oppress and distract you in this season, then he has the upper hand. God said that this is a time that He is bringing spiritual promotion, advancement and supernatural acquisition for His people.

Many of you are coming into a time of acquiring and gaining more territory in the spiritual realm. You are about to occupy the place that God has promised you. The wait hasn't been in vain. Get ready for your breakthrough. Faith is expecting and anticipating what you've been praying for. Anticipation is when Elijah's servant saw the cloud of rain coming like the size of a man's hand on the seventh time when Elijah heard the sound of abundance in prayer (1 Kings 17:1-6, James 5:17).

Anticipation is when David slayed Goliath with a slingshot (1 Sam. 17:40-58). Anticipation is when Elijah received supernatural provision (bread and meat) by ravens daily at the Brook of Cherith and was blessed by the widow woman (1 Kings 17:2-15). Anticipation is when the persistent widow came before the unjust judge pleading her case, looking for a favorable outcome, and she got his attention and request granted after never giving up (Luke 18:1-8).

What are those things you have been praying and waiting on God

for yet haven't seen come to fruition? Are you feeling some subtle or intense warfare and can't put a finger on why? It's because you are closer than you think to your breakthrough.

Your breakthrough place of occupancy has unauthorized tenants that must be evicted out in Jesus' name! The Lord spoke to me to tell you that what you have been anticipating is here! Breakthrough is your portion! Be encouraged!

David faced unexpected resistance as he was freshly anointed king. At the time of his promotion and coronation there were illegal tenants challenging his authority. Whenever you get to a place of promotion or you are coming into a season of elevation and influence, the enemy will put up a fight.

Don't draw back or retreat. Help is on the way. David's enemies (Philistines) got word that he was anointed king and rallied army forces to capture him.

2 Samuel 5:17-20 says, "When the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all of the Philistines went up to search for David, but David heard about this and went down to the stronghold. Now the Philistines had come and were spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. So David asked the Lord, 'Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You give them into my hand?' The Lord said to David, 'Go up, because I will certainly give them into your hand.' So David came to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there. He said, 'The Lord has breached my enemies before me like bursting tides.' Therefore, he named that place Baal Perazim."

The Philistine spread out in the Valley of the Rephaim. Rephaim mean "giants" in Hebrew. The enemy wants to surround you and corner you in a spiritual place of giants to keep you from your breakthrough. Remember, David is not unfamiliar with giants (Goliath was one).

As anointed king, David is now found in a place against an army of giants in regards to the Philistine forces. David

prayed and inquired of the Lord what he should do. The Lord answered David that He will deliver the Philistine in his hands.

God is saying that as you seek Him in prayer in this season of breakthrough, He is going to give you wisdom and divine insight as to what to do next. Your next season is very vital regarding what you say and do. Don't give the enemy any ammunition that will forfeit this new place that God is taking you into.

Finally, David, after inquiring of the Lord's instruction, came to the place called Baal Perazim where he defeated his enemy. But it was God who assisted David in defeating the Philistines in the place called breakthrough.

David exclaimed that God broke through the enemy like water that breaks out. You are coming to a place of breakthrough where God will break through your enemies like a raging flood.

Get ready for the Lord to bless you with a flood of blessing, provision and breakthrough. It's moving time. God is going to remove your enemies out of the place you should occupy, called a breakthrough place!

**Dr. Hakeem Collins** is an empowerment specialist, respected prophetic voice, apostolic leader, governmental minister, life coach and sought-after conference speaker. He is known for his keen accurate prophetic gifting and supernatural ministry. He is the author of the following best-selling books: *Heaven Declares* and *Command Your Healing*. He's been featured on many television shows, such as Sid Roth's *It's Supernatural!* The Word Network, GODTV, and Cornerstone TV. He is the host of *Prophetic Breakthrough* podcast on *Charisma Podcast Network*. Follow him on Facebook and at .

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# Why This Prophetic Call Is the Greatest End-Times Message the Church Could Hear

Bishop Bart Pierce, senior pastor at Rock City Church in Baltimore, Maryland, says the greatest end-times message the church can hear is right at our fingertips in God's Word in the fourth chapter of Malachi.

"It's time for the hearts of the fathers, and I'm talking about spiritual fathers, to return to the hearts of the children that God has placed in the church," Pierce told Dr. Steve Greene on a recent episode of *Greenelines* on the Charisma Podcast Network. "The church needs something fresh. We need leaders who carry the presence of God, and also impart it to the younger generation—regardless of how they look."

Pierce says God has given the church a prophetic call to engage each generation with the transformative power of the gospel. Reaching back to the younger generations, he says, will help "turn this thing around" and see generations "who are in the streets and killing one another because they have no identity" rise up for God and for the kingdom.

In his new book, *The 5-G Shift*, Pierce has laid out a blueprint for spiritual revolution, a "transpneumigration" that sees the transferal of the power of God to the next generation until Jesus returns.

"I'm very concerned. Prophetically, I would say that the church may be at a tipping point of trouble unless we turn to reach to those behind us," Pierce says. "The older Christian community is all about heaven, that we're going to see and go

to glory. But the problem with that is, we have easily forgotten those that are behind us.

“They are in desperate need for older generations to stop reaching in front of them and to reach behind them. The future of the church and the world is not in front of you. It’s behind you.”

Listen to this podcast to see how the *5-G shift* can be a world-changer for the church. {[eo2](#)}

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## How Your Simple Prayers Can Move Gigantic Mountains Today

In his business or in his family life, entrepreneur Brian Dixon has learned to live by one simple daily rule: pray, pray, pray.

And it’s his intense prayer life that has helped make him not only a very successful businessman, but a successful family man as well. Prayer, he says, will help you move mountains in any part of your life.

“I really believe that in anything you do, it needs to begin on your knees,” Dixon told Dr. Steve Greene on a recent episode of “Greenelines” on the Charisma Podcast Network. “It begins with the Lord and His vision for us. We can make all kinds of plans for ourselves, but that often leads to arrogance and such assumption about the future.

“With your family, your marriage, I challenge you before you go to bed tonight, as you are about to close your eyes, reach

over and grab your spouse's hand and say, 'How can I pray for us tonight?' So many couples are not praying together. I just believe that we are called to be unified, and that means being in communion with God.

"I know several people I've worked with who have a prayer group. We need to have a daily prayer time and let people in your business know that you want to pray for them and encourage them. When you pray for others, it's about dying to self. When you pray for and serve others, then your obstacles don't seem so big."

For more about Brian Dixon and his book, *Start With Your People*, listen to this podcast.

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## **How the Holy Spirit Wants to Restore Your Emotionally Scarred Soul**

An old adage has it that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Dr. Mark Rutland is a firm believer in that, especially when it comes to the condition of your soul.

The simple truth, Rutland says, is that hurt people hurt people, and the damage they can do to themselves and others is simply unacceptable in God's sight. Rutland says that, while the altered life may well begin at the altar, it may need to continue in a counseling office. Ultimately, it is God who heals, but people must find the courage to be healed.

"People ask themselves, 'Why am I struggling emotionally?'"

Rutland told Dr. Steve Greene on a recent episode of “Greenelines” on the Charisma Podcast Network. “My emotions are damaged, and God is a healing God. They know there is a healing for them.

“But the second part of that is that they need to find the courage to say to a counselor or a pastor that they are struggling and that they need to be healed. Many people who are struggling with damaged emotions spend their lives blaming someone else. They will never be healed as long as they are doing that.

“People need to look in the mirror and say, all right, this part is on me. Then they can start the process of getting healed with a professional that can really help them. Start internally by telling God that you want to be healed, and that you don’t want to be like this. Invite the Holy Spirit in, and then go get help.”

For more about the courage to be healed, listen to this podcast.

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## **Spirit-Led Businessman Shares Secret to Finding Christ’s Joy at Work**

Many people, including Bible-believing Christians, struggle to find a sense of purpose or fulfillment in their career. Author and business executive Shundrawn Thomas says that is far from God’s plan for us.

Thomas, the author of *Discover Joy in Work*, says we were meant to flourish in the workplace and that God wants to help us do so by changing our mindset daily and by mastering our gifting. It requires intentionality and effort, including understanding the Four A's: attitude, approach, aptitude and achievement.

"If we start with having the right attitude, that then transitions to the next thing," Thomas told Dr. Steve Greene on a recent episode of "Greenelines" on the Charisma Podcast Network. "I've got to evolve my approach to my work. I have to learn to develop what people refer to as soft skills. That's often about effectiveness in working with people, our situational awareness, the way in which we prioritize or prepare.

"People often ask me what is one of the most important skills I've developed, and that is listening," Thomas said. "I work on it every day. People often lose their jobs over not developing soft skills like that because they don't think of those as relevant or necessary for being effective or successful.

"I've often run into folks who feel like their careers aren't going the way they want, or they're not getting enough opportunities. But when you sort of unpack it, they realize they not necessarily investing a lot in their own development," Thomas explained. "They don't have the patience that perfects them. And there is achievement, which is really important.

"At the end of the day, we are at work for a reason. There are very real outcomes, things customers need or products we need to develop," Thomas added. "When we are able to deliver, that's when we feel a sense of achievement. You are designed to flourish in your workplace. You can do that through work ethic, character formation and work-life synergy to find better harmony between what we do and who we are."

For more about how to experience joy in your workplace, listen to this podcast.

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# The Prophetic Message God Is Speaking to Jews Today

I know that many of those who read my articles each week are not Jewish and may not be familiar with Jewish customs and synagogue services. With that in mind, and to lay the foundation for what will come later in this article, let me begin this article by explaining one *Parsha* (portion) of a traditional synagogue service.

The Torah (the first five books of the Bible) is divided into weekly portions. Each individual portion has a title or name and one portion is read each week of the year so that the entire Torah is read in a continuous cycle year after year. We actually have a celebration called *Simchat Torah* (The Joy of the Torah) that is celebrated each fall at the end of *Sukkot* (Feast of Tabernacles).

On this day, the last *Parsha* of the Torah is read, and immediately the scroll is rolled back to the beginning, and the first *Parsha* is started again. In this way, we never finish reading the Torah; we always continue to read.

One of the last *Parshot* (portions) read in the cycle is *Parsha Shoftim* (Judges). This section is read during the month of *Elul*, which precedes the month *Tishri*, which includes *Yom Teruah* (Day of Trumpets), more popularly referred to today as *Rosh HaShanah* (New Year's) and *Yom Kippur* (Day of Atonement).

It is during this month that those who observe Judaism spend time in reflection and repentance in preparation for the annual times of judgment.

I urge you to please keep reading despite all the detail because if you continue, you will be blessed by how amazing G-D's plan really is and how His message was preserved in many ways so that people who look can find Him.

So, in continuing to lay the groundwork, the month before *Elul* is the month of *Av* and during the month of *Av* are the first of seven *Parashot* of consolation. The first *Parsha* in this group of seven *Parshot* is *Vaetchanan*, which means a "plea for an undeserved gift," or grace. The second *Parsha*, *Eikev* ("heel"—think of feeling like a heel) speaks of Israel feeling "forsaken and forgotten" because they have fallen away from G-D.

The third is *Parsha Re'eh*. The word *re'eh* means "see," and this *Parsha* takes Israel from feeling forsaken and forgotten to having their eyes opened to see that even though they have strayed from Him, He has never forsaken or forgotten them.

The fourth *Parsha*, *Parsha Shoftim*, is the one I want to focus on in this article because it is central to understanding the seven *Parshot* of consolation. It is one of the strongest reasons in the Torah that Jewish people should believe that Yeshua (Jesus) is the promised Messiah of Israel. Throughout Scripture, G-D uses the pattern of the numeral 7 to show us His perfection and perfect plan.

One example is the very first sentence of the Bible in Hebrew. It consists of seven words. The fourth, the middle word, is made up of two letters, the *Aleph* and *Tav*. These two letters happen to be the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet, or the beginning and the ending. When *Yeshua* said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," it was a reference to this fourth word in the book of Genesis. This understanding is also

expressed in John 1:1 and 1:14:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

“And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us. We looked upon His glory, the glory of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14, TLV).

This fourth of seven, or middle concept, is also shown in the seven branch *menorah* that we read about in Isaiah and Revelation.

The narrative laid out in the three preceding *Parshot* is that Israel pled for grace because they felt forsaken and forgotten, and then G-D let them see. So, what were they supposed to see?

This is what we come to in *Parsha Shoftim*, found in Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9. *Parsha Shoftim* begins with the establishment of unbiased judges and as it sets priests in the role of advisers, it establishes a plan for the time when Israel would demand a king and sets up cities of refuge. All of these are established within this one *Parsha*. Each one is important as Israel becomes a nation, but none of these civil constructs continues on the theme of consolation.

However, within this list of laws establishing governmental and judicial organization, we come to Deuteronomy 18:15 and 18:18:

““Adonai your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your midst—from your brothers. To him you must listen” (Deut. 18:15).

“I will raise up a prophet like you for them from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will speak to them all that I command him” (Deut. 18:18).

Right in the middle of establishing the role of judges,

priests, kings and places of refuge, G-D makes this amazing prophetic promise. He would fulfill all of these roles in one person, *Yeshua* the Messiah—our judge, our King, our priest and our refuge.

So, we find Israel desiring grace, feeling forsaken and forgotten; G-D opening their eyes to see; and within the next Parsha, for those who have eyes to see it, the promise of *Yeshua*. I will raise up a prophet like you for them from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth and he will speak to them all that I command him.

This is the message G-D is still speaking to the Jewish people today. I know you need grace. I know you feel forsaken and forgotten. Open your eyes and see my *Yeshua* (which in Hebrew means salvation)! {eo}

**Eric Tokajer** is author of *With Me in Paradise*, *Transient Singularity*, *OY! How Did I Get Here?: Thirty-One Things I Wish Someone Had Told Me Before Entering Ministry*, *#ManWisdom: With Eric Tokajer, Jesus Is to Christianity as Pasta Is to Italians* and *Galatians in Context*.