

Rabbi's Reflections - Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Shalom {{firstName}},

Wednesday, April 22nd is Yom HaZikaron (beginning Tuesday at sundown), Israeli Independence Day, when the entire nation rejoices on the anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel (Medinat Yisrael). See a short documentary here... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZDSBF5xtoo> Unless you speak Hebrew, you'll have to read the subtitles. The declaration itself is written on two and half pieces of paper.

Isaiah 66:8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children.

This is why "graduation" is called "commencement." It is just like birth that is the end of pregnancy and at the same time, the beginning of autonomous life. While the declaration of the State of Israel was itself the answer to thousands of years of longing for a Jewish home for the Jewish people, to be led autonomously by Jewish people, it was also the beginning of the struggle to live "free and unafraid."

Micah 4:4 But each man will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one causing terror, for the mouth of Adonai-Tzva'ot has spoken.

The mourning of yesterday is now replaced with the celebration of today. Just as we rejoice to see Yeshua's first coming... **Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you, a righteous one bringing salvation. He is lowly, riding on a donkey—on a colt, the foal of a donkey....** So we must also rejoice at the expectation of His return.

1Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the blast of God's shofar, and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left behind, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air—and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Day 18 of counting the Omer

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוֵּנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר

Baruch Atah Adonai Elohenu Melech Ha-Olam, Asher Kid'shanu
B'mitzvotav, Vitzivanu Al Sefirat Ha-Omer.

Blessed are You O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by his commandments and commanded us about the counting of the Omer. Today is two weeks and four days of the counting of the Omer.

Follow up that prayer by remembering a blessing from the Lord and give Him thanks. **Psalm 89:2 I will sing of the love of Adonai forever. To all generations I will make known Your faithfulness with my mouth. 3 For I said, "Let your lovingkindness be built up forever! The heavens—let Your faithfulness be made firm there!"**

Psalms
Psalm 51:10(8) – Part 8

Psalm 51:10 Let me hear joy and gladness, so the bones You crushed may rejoice.

How appropriate to be writing about this verse on Yom HaZikaron (the Day of Remembrance) for Yom HaAtzma'ut (Israel Independence Day). These two days are a microcosm of this verse. "Crushed bones" (pain and suffering) replaced by "joy and gladness" (overwhelming euphoria).

We must remember that King David is smitten by the seriousness of his sins. Yet, what began in sorrow caused by sin (an adulterous relationship with Bathsheba, and the death of their firstborn) ultimately led to the joy of Solomon (the richest and wisest man who ever lived) and through him, to the Savior of the world, Yeshua HaMashiach.

Finally, we must remember that through it all, God has promised that He will never leave our side.

Haggai 1:13 Then Haggai, the messenger of Adonai, spoke to the people with the message of Adonai, "I am with you!"—it is a declaration of Adonai.

Isaiah 41:13 For I am Adonai your God who upholds your right hand, who says to you, “Fear not, I will help you.”

Matthew 28:20b ...”And remember! I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

God loves you. He can't take His eyes off of you. If that doesn't put a smile on your face, what will? Shalom shalom.

Day 18 of the Omer

Daily Bread, reading plan by Lars Enarson (<https://www.thewatchman.org/>)

Wed 22-Apr-2026 5th of Iyar, 5786 Yom HaAtzma'ut

Le 18:22-19:14 Isa 52-53 Job 10 2 Pet 2 (Mt 12:1-21)