

# BUILT TO LAST

GOD'S DESIGN FOR FAMILY





# JOY & PEACE

## Celebration as Hamas and Israel accept Trump truce



There was jubilation in Tel Aviv (left) and Gaza camps (right) yesterday, along with cheers for President Trump, after terror group Hamas and Israel agreed to the first part of his peace plan — which should see the last 20 living Israeli hostages released Monday or Tuesday.

**PAGES 4-9**

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# 48 HOSTAGES

## STILL HELD IN HAMAS CAPTIVITY



20 living hostages  
and 28 deceased  
hostages are to be  
released by  
tomorrow

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# THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

## Singing, cheering, anticipation mix at Hostages Square after deal to free captives


Tel Aviv plaza, long the hub of hostage rallies, sees singing, dancing, praise for Donald Trump, and continued wariness hours after agreement announced

By **BEN SALES**

9 October 2025, 4:00 pm

## 'Miracles can happen, the hostages are coming home,' Witkoff tells packed Hostages Square

By **NOAM LEHMANN, JESSICA STEINBERG** and **TOI STAFF**

 / US special envoy, Kushner and Ivanka Trump applauded at what organizers hope is final rally; crowd cheers US president, boos Netanyahu; families of slain hostages concerned not all of bodies will be returned

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# Trump's 20-point Gaza peace plan in full

3 days ago

BBC



US President Donald Trump says Israel and Hamas have "signed off on the first phase" of his 20-point Gaza peace plan, in a major step towards a permanent end to two years of war.

Peace plan  
vs.  
Ceasefire

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c70155nked7o>

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## Israel prepares for hostage releases 'at any time,' but braces for Monday

Authorities have begun preparations for the return of the 20 living hostages and 28 deceased ones as part of Israel's agreed-upon ceasefire deal with Hamas.

Israeli forensic team completes preparations to identify bodies of 28 hostages



WATCH

US envoy Witkoff, Kushner, CENTCOM chief visit IDF base in Gaza to confirm withdrawal



REPORT

US military troops arrive in Israel to monitor peace agreement

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# 20 Hostages believed to be alive after 737 days



Matan Angrest  
21



Ziv Berman  
27



Gali Berman  
27



Elkana Bohbot  
34



Rom Braslavski  
21



Nimrod Cohen  
20



Ariel Cunio  
27



David Cunio  
34



Evyatar David  
24



Guy Gilboa-Dalal  
23



Maxim Herkin  
36



Eitan Horn  
38



Segev Kalfon  
27



Bar Kupershtein  
23



Omri Miran  
47



Eitan Abraham Mor  
24



Yosef-Chaim Ohana  
24



Alon Ohel  
23



Avinatan Or  
31



Matan Zangauker  
25

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# Leviticus 23

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Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘**On the fifteenth of this seventh month (Tishri) is the Feast of Booths (Sukkot סֻכּוֹת) for seven days to the Lord.** On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind. For seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the Lord. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to the Lord; it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work.’”

Leviticus 23:33-36

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Today's date is:

October 12, 2025 on the Gregorian calendar

Tishri 20, 5786 on the Hebrew calendar

Sukkot, the Feast of Booths, is celebrated from the 15th to the 22nd of Tishri, the seventh month on the Hebrew calendar.

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# Biblical Holidays

Pesach - Pasover

Shavuot - Pentecost

Sukkot – Tabernacles/Booths

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No.	English	Hebrew	days	equivalent
1	Nisan	ניסן	30	Mar - Apr
2	Iyar	אייר	29	Apr - May
3	Sivan	סיון	30	May - Jun
4	Tammuz	תמוז	29	Jun - Jul
5	Av	אב	30	Jul - Aug
6	Elul	אלול	29	Aug - Sep
7	Tishrei	תשרי	30	Sep - Oct
8	Cheshvan	כסלו	29/30	Oct - Nov
9	Kislev	כסלו	30/29	Nov - Dec
10	Tevet	טבת	29	Dec - Jan
11	Shevat	שבט	30	Jan - Feb
12L	Adar I	אדר א'	30	leap year
12	Adar	אדר ב'	29	Feb - Mar

“These are the appointed times [moedim] of the Lord which you shall proclaim as holy convocations, to present offerings by fire to the Lord—burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each day’s matter on its own day— besides those of the sabbaths of the Lord, and besides your gifts and besides all your votive and freewill offerings, which you give to the Lord. **On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month [Tishri], when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the Lord for seven days,** with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day.” Leviticus 23:37-39

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“Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. You shall thus celebrate it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year. It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. **You shall live in booths [sukkot סֻכּוֹת]** for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in **booths**, so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in **booths** when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.’ ” Leviticus 23:40-43

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# סוכה sukkah booth



Families build booths of palm branches, partly open to the sky, to recall God's providence toward Israel during the forty years of wandering in the desert and living in tents. The festival also celebrates the harvest, coming, as it does, at summer's end, so that it is a time of thanksgiving. The Puritans, who took the Old Testament more seriously than most Christians, modeled the American holiday of Thanksgiving after *Sukkot*.

– Jewish New Testament Commentary

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# Nehemiah 8

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Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, **“This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.”** For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law [torah]. Then he said to them, **“Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”**

Nehemiah 8:9-10

**BUILT TO LAST**



So the Levites calmed all the people, saying,  
“Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.”  
All the people went away to eat, to drink, to  
send portions and to celebrate a great **festival**  
[שִׂמְחָה *simchah*], because they understood the  
words which had been made known to them.  
Nehemiah 8:11-12

**BUILT TO LAST**

Then on the second day the heads of fathers' households of all the people, the priests and the Levites were gathered to Ezra the scribe that they might gain insight into the words of the law [torah]. They found written in the law [torah] how the LORD had commanded through Moses that **the sons of Israel should live in booths [sukkot סִכּוֹת] during the feast [חַג *chag*] of the seventh month [Tishri]**. So they proclaimed and circulated a proclamation in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go out to the hills, and bring olive branches and wild olive branches, myrtle branches, palm branches and branches of other leafy trees, to make booths [sukkot סִכּוֹת], as it is written."

Nehemiah 8:13-15

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So the people went out and brought them and **made booths [סֻכּוֹת sukkot] for themselves**, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. **The entire assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths [sukkot סֻכּוֹת] and lived in them.** The sons of Israel had indeed not done so from the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day. And **there was great rejoicing.**

Nehemiah 8:16-17

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The entire assembly of those [captives] who had returned from the captivity made booths [sukkot סִכּוֹת] and lived in them. The sons of Israel had indeed not done so from the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day. And there was great rejoicing. Nehemiah 8:17

וַיַּעֲשׂוּ כָל-הַקָּהָל הַשְּׂבִיִּים מִן-הַשְּׂבִי סִכּוֹת וַיֵּשְׁבוּ בַּסִּכּוֹת כִּי  
לֹא-עָשׂוּ מִימֵי יֵשׁוּעַ בֶּן-נּוּן כֵּן בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַד הַיּוֹם הַהוּא וַתְּהִי שִׂמְחָה  
גְּדוֹלָה מְאֹד

- **שְׂבִיִּים** *shavim* means “captives” (hostages)

- **שְׂבִי** *shavi* means “captivity” (held as hostage) **BUILT TO LAST**



**This week's observance, Sukkot, is a biblical holiday for people returning from captivity**

- 251 people were taken hostage by Hamas on October 7, 2023
- 48 people are still hostages in Gaza
- Release from captivity brings great rejoicing
- Are we hostages to our past or our pain?

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# Do we struggle with Spiritual Bondage?

- By God's mercy, our bondage will likely never be like the bondage suffered by 251 hostages after the Hamas terrorist attacks of October 7, 2023
- For most of us, our bondage is not even visible to others
- For most of us, our bondage is invisible, yet it is very real

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# Freedom From Bondage

John chapters 7 & 8

**BUILT TO LAST**

- Now the **feast** of the Jews, the **Feast of Booths**, was near.  
John 7:2
- But when His brothers had gone up to the **feast**, then He Himself [Jesus] also went up, not publicly, but as if, in secret.  
John 7:10
- But when it was now the midst of the **feast** Jesus went up into the temple, and began to teach. John 7:14
- Now on the last day, **the great day of the feast**, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ ”  
John 7:37-38

**BUILT TO LAST**



But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning He came again into the temple [in Jerusalem], and all the people [who had come to celebrate the Feast of Booths] were coming to Him; and He sat down and began to teach them. John 8:1-2

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# Model of Temple Mount in the days of Jesus







# So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him... John 8:31a

- Jesus has something to say to those who have hearing ears – Matthew Henry Commentary
- As a Jew or a non-Jew, are you ready to listen to Jesus today?

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“If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine” John 8:31b

- μένω *meno* Greek verb; to abide, remain, dwell, continue
- You shall know all that truth which it is needful and profitable for you to know, and shall be more confirmed in the belief of it, shall know the certainty of it. – Matthew Henry Commentary
- Have you encountered the words of Jesus OR do you dwell in the words of Jesus?

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# To abide with Jesus is to be His disciple

- True disciples of Jesus continue in His Word
- What are the spiritual routines of your life?
- Where does your heart normally “hang out”?
- What has the most influence over your heart and mind?

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“and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” John 8:32

- How many of us have lived with lies?
- How many of us have believed the lies?
- How many are longing for spiritual truth?
- How many wonder if there is any real truth?

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# Types of spiritual bondage

- Sin: Being held captive by sin, rather than being free from it.
- Addictions: The grip of addictions to things like drugs, alcohol, lust or food.
- Fear: Being controlled by fear, such as the fear of death or other anxieties.
- Negative thought patterns:
  - Pride: A self-imposed prison that can hinder a Spirit-filled life.
  - Deception: Holding onto lies, gossip, or thought patterns that contradict biblical truth.
  - Hopelessness and self-condemnation: This can lead to a feeling of being unworthy and beyond God's love.
- Spiritual oppression: Losing control over thoughts and actions due to destructive influences, compromising one's moral compass.
- Spiritual "deadness": A state of being disconnected from God, characterized by a lack of gratitude and a hardening of the heart.

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“and you will know the truth, and the truth will **make** you free.” John 8:32

- ἐλευθερώω *eleutheroo*
- Greek verb; to make free, deliver, set at liberty
- Steps in order: 1. Knowing the Truth 2. Being set Free
- We cannot make ourselves free by our actions or achievements; we have to be made free externally

**BUILT TO LAST**



They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.” John 8:33-34

- Do we deceive ourselves about our struggles?
- Who struggles with freedom today? Only Sinners
- Who needs to be set free today? Only Sinners
- Who is allowed to attend our church? Only Sinners

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# Son vs. Slave

Jesus said, “The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.” John 8:35

- For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26
- Sonship/Daughtership is received, not earned

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# Proclaiming Freedom Again

Jesus said, “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36

- ἐλευθερώω *eleutheroo*
- Greek verb; to make free, deliver, set at liberty
- Spiritual freedom is found only in God’s Son, the Savior

**BUILT TO LAST**

**Q:** What is Sukkot, the Feast of Booths, celebrated this week?

**A:** The holiday with the specific purpose of bringing joy to those who had been captives/hostages

**Q:** What did Jesus promise to those who believe in Him?

**A:** Spiritual truth will set you free

**Q:** When did Jesus make this promise?

**A:** While teaching in the temple during the Feast of Booths

**Q:** Why was this holiday the perfect occasion for His promise?

**A:** Because lies bring captivity and truth brings freedom

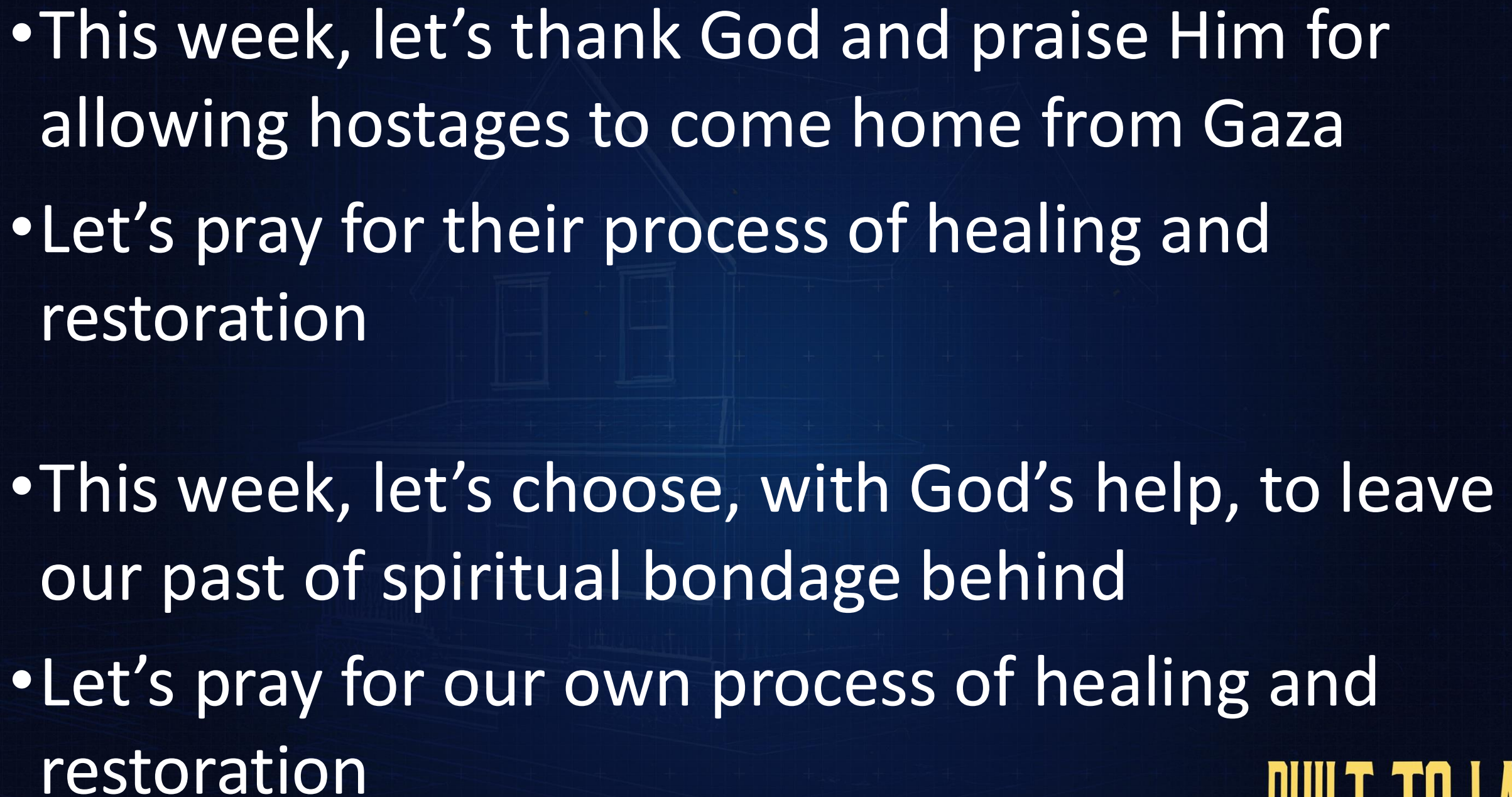
**BUILT TO LAST**



# To Be Spiritually Free:

- Start with belief in Messiah Jesus
- Join the family of God through faith in His Son
- Recognize that your family history is not a guarantee of freedom; it may be a barrier to freedom
- Honestly discern truth from lies
- Honestly assess the struggles of your past
- Understand that you can be enslaved and not know it
- Identify areas in which you are currently a slave (strongholds)
- Ask for help, from the Savior first and fellow believers second
- Live in an attitude of constant prayer

**BUILT TO LAST**

- 
- The background of the slide features a faint, blue-tinted image of a two-story house with a gabled roof and two windows. Overlaid on this image is a dark blue grid pattern, similar to graph paper, which covers the entire slide area.
- This week, let's thank God and praise Him for allowing hostages to come home from Gaza
  - Let's pray for their process of healing and restoration
  - This week, let's choose, with God's help, to leave our past of spiritual bondage behind
  - Let's pray for our own process of healing and restoration

**BUILT TO LAST**



Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” John 14:6

- Truth is not a What
- Truth is a Who
- Freedom is found in Messiah Jesus

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