



To Redeem the Captives Part 3

By Ariel Klimer

Redeeming the captives is one of the greatest and most awesome commandments in importance and holiness. Yaakov - the father of the People of Israel (Am Israel) and the father of the Moshiach, the Redeemer of Israel - could not find solace after the loss of his son Yosef. Yaakov may have considered the "death of his son" as a spiritual death, and therefore Yosef could never be buried in his mind.

After his son Shimon was imprisoned, Yaakov was forced to send Binyamin - the sole and last remnant of his wife Rachel - and present him to the Egyptian ruler, as a ransom; as a sacred act of redeeming captives.

But Yaakov was not hasty in sending Binyamin. He initially refused to send him, until he heard the special code, the "melody of the Moshiach" confirming the sending of Benjamin to Egypt; a melody that says: "***I personally guarantee*** (*"I am a guarantor for"*) ***his safety***" (Genesis 43:9). Only then Yaakov conceded to the demand of Pharaoh's viceroy.

Before he sent his sons, he delivered this special instruction to them, containing the concealed and hidden intention not only to redeem Shimon but **his beloved Yosef** as well, saying: "*If it must be so, do this: **take some of the choice products of the land** (in Hebrew "**ZimRat Ha'AReTS**", literally "**the song of the land**") in your baggage, and carry them down as a gift for the man.*" (Genesis 43:11). "Take the song of the land," take the melody and the song of the Land of Israel. What did Yaakov mean?

In order to express the secret of this melody's power, I will tell you a story following World War II. During this time period many Jewish children were placed in their gentile neighbors' care by their parents, in order to hide them from the Nazi oppressor. Many of these children were soon handed over to monasteries throughout Europe, where they reluctantly were forced learned to behave according to the traditions of Christianity.