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Different Times Different Places--But So Much The Same

By Cheryl Freier

 When reading the memorable book, The Wild Grasses Hidden Truth Poems by Cheryl Freier, which is a book written about a family of four sons and one daughter and their parents; and the book goes into detail how they lived from day to day to survive the war. Yes, they as a family worked together, planned together, prayed together, and hoped together so that the unity of the family became a powerful force in counteracting the fears of death and despairing thoughts. Their survival as well as the survival of others, those who survived the oppression of the Holocaust was none other than a miracle. Yes, one cannot forego the thought that even though they worked and planned daily on how to survive, that there was a divine intervention, which many times was successful in counteracting the unrighteous zeal, the thirst for Jewish blood, and the quest for the undoing of the Jewish people.

 Yes, history does repeat itself, but let us put a qualification in this statement---if we allow history to repeat itself. The people of Judah thought that a new age of new revival was upon them, and they rejoiced. The Assyrian Empire was crushed and the Jewish people delighted in their renewed sense of spirit. But it was not long before the prophet, Jeremiah predicted gloom. Josiah was king and it seemed like his political policies were giving rise to a renewed spirit for the Lord. But the prophet, Jeremiah was not fooled. He predicted gloom, mostly because so many Jewish people had sinned before this era. But the plight of the Jewish people was soon determined by the mightiness, and the power of the Babylonians. The Babylonians under the leadership of their able king, King Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Judah. The Jews were again a conquered people. Even though there was a rebellion and Judah, which was the City of Jerusalem, was won back by the Jews for a short time in history, the history of the Jews changed dramatically at this time in history. This timeline in history brings forth the beginning of the Diaspora, the wandering of the Jewish people from country to country. Eventually, they made roots in Europe. The book, The Wild Grasses, depicts among other things, the heartlessness of the Nazi Party to allow the Jews to remain in Europe as a people. G-d and his emissaries, the Angels from Heaven thought this very unfair and tried to save as many people as they could. Thus, it was not only the faith of the Freier family that helped them to survive, but it was a message from G-d to the angels that as many Jews as possible had to survive.