

MY FRIEND WRITES...

When to run, when to stand

By Lev Neymotin, PhD

1. Why This Response Matters

A Jewish friend of mine, Daniel, sent a message after hearing my *Exodus 2025* podcast. One line from his letter hit me so hard I had to stop and just sit with it.

"One of my neighbor's father taught him to keep a gold watch, cash, and more on him to be ready to move on at any time, as they did during WWII. We experienced it when we left Tajikistan. My father had to carry money and a watch to get through the lines—both government and mafia."

What Daniel didn't know was that I've lived by that same rule. I've told my children more than once: wherever you are in the world—except for Israel—be prepared to flee.

And not just in theory.

I have acted on this.

Don't ask what or where.

Just know it wasn't a metaphor. It was preparation.

Because history teaches one thing clearly: the door always shuts—but never with a warning.

2. The Pattern Repeats

This is what *Exodus 2025* was about. Not policy. Not politics.

It's a pattern.

It's the same one Daniel's father lived by, and mine too.

It's the one Jews everywhere have lived by—those who survived.

And it's back.

Russia today is our modern Egypt. Jews may still feel tolerated. Even protected—by Putin, the so-called Benevolent Pharaoh of our time.

But it is *he*, not the people, who shields them. And the second he disappears—through illness, power shift, or death—the mask will drop.

There will be a new Pharaoh.

And we all know what kind.

And when that day comes, the door will shut—fast, hard, and without appeal.

3. What Do We Teach Our Children?

Daniel ended his message with a brutal, honest question:

"What do we teach our children? Be prepared to run? Or fight?"

My answer?

The former. Always.

As painful as that sounds, we run. While the exit door is still open, we walk through it.

Only when that door slams shut—only then—we fight.

And when we fight, we fight *all the way*.

As in Masada.

Tragic. Proud. Final.

4. Historical Parallels, Not Coincidences

Since I'm in the "parallels business" anyway, let me point out a detail from the original Exodus.

When the ancient Jews fled Egypt, what did they take?
Not just matzah. Not just their children.
They took treasure—*gold and silver*—"appropriated" from their Egyptian owners.
Was it theft? Was it justice?
No matter the view—what mattered is they left ready.
They knew survival required more than prayer.
It required action, before the door to freedom closed behind them.
Today's treasures may be a passport, a stack of euros, a plan, a contact, a way out.
But the principle hasn't changed: Leave prepared. Leave before the door shuts.

5. The Illusion of Safety

There are still Jewish educators and missionaries working in Russia.
I admire them.
But I fear their presence creates a dangerous illusion: *that things are stable*. That we have time. That "it's not like Germany 1938."
But that's exactly how it was in 1937.
There was still music. There were still schools.
People were still marrying, praying, building.
And then—one night, the door slammed shut.
We know this pattern. And those who ignore it help it happen again.

6. My Position

I stand by every word of *Exodus 2025*.
But now, thanks to Daniel, I'll state it even more plainly:
Wherever you live—unless it is Israel—you must be ready to flee. And if you're in Russia, the door is already half-closed.
Preparedness is not cowardice.
It is survival.
And when there is no more exit—when the door is bolted shut—then we turn and fight.
Let's pray it never comes to that.
But let's not teach our children to count on prayer alone.

7. A Final Word to Those Who Stay

You may think, "*It won't happen here.*"
Or, "*We'll know when to go.*"
But history has a different message:
By the time you know—it's too late. The door is already shut.
So teach your children what my father taught me, and what Daniel's father taught him:
Keep something valuable close.
Keep your eyes open.
And never assume the door will stay open forever.

I'll say this in a half-whisper, but it comes from deep conviction: there's an exit door in every country—even in America. And as unthinkable as it feels, I've learned never to trust that it will always stay open. No country is immune. Not forever.

Conclusion

Jews have always survived by reading the signs.
The signs are here.
This is not hysteria.
It is memory.
This is not prophecy.
It is pattern.
This is Exodus 2025.
And the choice is the same as it always was:
Prepare to run—while the door is still open.
Or prepare for Masada—when the door has slammed shut.
Let's hope it never comes to that.
But let's be ready either way.