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Winter 2023 (January-March)

PETAH TIKVAH

"Door of Hope"

Purim Thoughts

BY RICHARD AHARON
CHAMBERLAIN

The Royal Jew
from Swaziland

AN ACCIDENTAL ENCOUNTER
WITH HEBREW ALTERS THE
DESTINY OF AN AFRICAN PRINCE

Genesis 1 and The
Gap? "Theory"

BY ROGER WALKWITZ

According to Roger: The
Four Levels of
Interpretation - PaRDeS

BY ROGER WALKWITZ



ASIA
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Asia Pacific Messianic Fellowship- Edition

PETAH TIKVAH

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Jan - March 2023
Tevet - Adar 5783

Vol. 41, No.1
\$5.00

Welcome to Petah Tikvah: APMF Edition!!

APMF Edition PT Winter 2023

Richard A Chamberlin provides us with the basic Petah Tikvah-US for each issue which we edit and add our own articles, information about events in our faith, letters to our own Mailbox, APMF Kehilot Directory, etc. By putting our issue on our website, <http://apmfinc.com/> we hope to make PT and APMF information available to a much wider audience and save a lot of money by not printing. A benefit to you is that you can print any article, send it to friends, and **refer others to our website** at no cost!!!

Publisher: The Publisher of Petah Tikvah Asia Pacific Edition is the Asia Pacific Messianic Fellowship, Inc.

Editorial Board Articles from you are welcome!! Please send it to **Dave Angiwan**.

Dave@APMFInc.com

Directory. Listing is free for Messianic Torah Communities and Bible Study Groups that want to be in the Fellowship (Koinonia = working together!) with APMF, who meet on Shabbat and agree with our 3 Main Points: 1) there is and has been only ONE Way of Salvation from Adam to the end, a new birth provided by the Grace of God to sinners who acknowledge their sinful nature and put their trust in the Promised Redeemer, who eventually came in the Person of Yeshua the Messiah, who is YHVH, Savior, Redeemer and Friend; 2) there is only ONE Family of YHVH, born-from-Above Jewish and Gentile believers grafted into God's Good Olive Tree (no church replacing Israel); and 3) there is only ONE Way to Live in God's Family, the Torah way, expected of both Jewish and Gentile believers.

To be included, contact the Publisher. Articles, special events and letters are welcome, like notifications of Camps, Conferences, Retreats and other special activities of your community, trips to Israel and personal Testimonies so we can get to know each other better. Send to Dave & Roger.

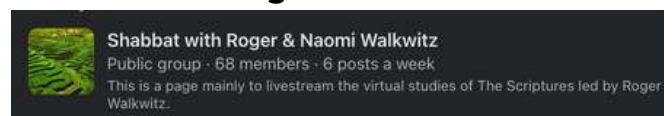
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Vol 1- My Journey Into Bible Truth
Vol 2- My Understanding of Bible Truth
Vol 3- My Understanding of the Mishkan
Vol 4- My Understanding of the Revelation of Yeshua the Messiah

Both are available at Amazon.com as well as directly from Roger. Also, surf these websites for excellent information and Bible exposition.

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**Petah Tikvah: APMF Edition
Volume 41 #1 Editors and Designers:
Raine Louise Alvia, Pretty H. Hagad**

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ANI MA'AMIN ("I believe") is based on the 13 creeds faith in Judaism. Each principle begins with *Ani Ma'amin* ("I Believe"). In every country in which Jews have lived, they have produced a poem or prayer based upon these principles of faith, which are briefly as follows:¹

I BELIEVE THAT...

1. There is a Creator.
2. He is **echad**.
3. He is incorporeal.
4. He is eternal.
5. He alone must be worshipped.
6. The prophets are true.
7. Moses was the greatest of all the prophets.
8. The entire Torah was given to Moses.
9. The Torah is immutable.
10. God knows all the acts and thoughts of man.
11. He rewards and punishes.
12. Messiah will come.
13. There will be a resurrection.

The most famous and most used rendition of the 13 principles of faith is far more detailed. It was written by Moses Maimonides (1135-1204), also known as the Rambam. What follows is our rendition:

1. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator (YHWH), blessed be His name, is the Creator and Ruler of all created things.² He is over all and in all. To Him belongs the glory forever. Amen.
2. I believe that the Creator is *echad*. (This term is **usually** correctly translated as "**one**," but can sometimes be translated as a **compound unity**, of more than one object, as in *Bereisheet* (Genesis) 2:24: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be *basar echad* (one flesh)."

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¹ As found in the Encyclopedia of Jewish Concepts by Philip Birnbaum, p.50, Hebrew Publishing Co., Brooklyn, NY.

² Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:1-3.

PRINCIPLES OF FAITH

Ani Ma'amin
("I Believe")

3. I believe with perfect faith in Messiah Yeshua, the only begotten Son, beloved of his Father in heaven, whom Adonai raised up to be the Redeemer of Israel, as He promised our fathers by His holy prophets for us, and who descended from heaven for our salvation. He was conceived of the *Ruakh HaKodesh* (Holy Spirit), born of a Jewish virgin,³ the seed of David, and anointed of HaShem with the Holy Spirit and with

power. He was tempted in all ways as we are but without sin. He glorified his Father in heaven. He bore the reproach of sinners, and was afflicted even unto death on the cross. He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by his stripes we are healed.⁴

4. I believe with perfect faith that Messiah Yeshua is the *Alef* and *Tav*, the Beginning and the End with the Father, Creator of all things (Revelation 1:8).
5. I believe with perfect faith that we pray only to the Father, but in Yeshua's name. Yeshua is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Him.
6. I believe with perfect faith that the prophets prophesied of Messiah Yeshua, by God's foreordained knowledge.
7. I believe with perfect faith that the Torah given through Moses is eternal.⁵
8. I believe that the whole Torah which we now possess is the same as was given to Moses (Exodus 24:4).
9. I believe that the Bible as written by the original writers is the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 3:16).
10. I believe that the Creator knows the hearts and actions of all human beings.
11. I believe with perfect faith that the Creator will reward those made righteous by believing in the atonement purchased for us by Messiah's death on the cross. He will also punish the unrighteous.
12. I believe with perfect faith that Messiah Yeshua will return to set up his kingdom and rule the entire world (Isaiah 2:2-4).
13. I believe with perfect faith that the dead shall be raised, and the righteous shall be changed (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

³ Micah 5:1-2

⁴ Isaiah 53:5.

⁵ Matthew 5:17-19.

There are many Jesuses out there. Rav Sha'ul recognized this when he wrote: "For if one comes and preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear it well." (2 Cor. 11:4)

I don't believe that **another Jesus** can save us. Jesus has been adopted into many religions, including many Oriental cults as well as even in Islam, where they expect Jesus to come back, promote Islam, and destroy the churches! Can the Muslim Jesus save you? Or the Jehovah's Witness Jesus save you? How about the Mormon Jesus? The Catholic Jesus? How about the Protestant Jesus, who supposedly abolished the Law (Torah)? Frankly, I am not going to answer these questions. Our Father in Heaven is the final judge, not me. However, our salvation is in Yeshua, or Jesus if you prefer. It is not based on belonging to any human organization, such as Watchtower Society.

The one Jesus that is **not** widely accepted is the **Jewish** Jesus, Yeshua the Messiah! Regretfully, most Gentiles around the world have taken the Jewish Messiah and turned Him into something of a Greek god. He wasn't a blond, blue-eyed Swede, nor was He Chinese or African. I presume that He was a swarthy-complexioned Middle-Eastern Jew, not at all like the Hollywood version or the Jesus of European artists from earlier centuries.

I am not knocking everything taught about Jesus in the churches. Messianic Judaism and Christianity are in agreement on many fundamentals. He was born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) in Bethlehem (Micah 5:1-2). He was crucified (Psalm 22) for our transgressions (Isaiah 53), providing atonement for the sins to those who choose to follow Him. Yeshua was also resurrected from the dead, and will return to reign for a thousand years. From Jerusalem!

However, in Matthew 5:17-19 Yeshua tells us, "Think not that I have come to abolish the Law (Torah),¹ or the prophets: I have not come to abolish, but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle shall in any way pass from the law, until all be fulfilled. ¹⁹Whosoever

¹ The word "Torah" literally means "Teaching." It also means the first five books of the Bible, Genesis to Deuteronomy. However, these books also include many commandments.

therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Are You Following the Real Jesus?

Rav Richard
'Aharon'
Chamberlin

The Jesus that is taught in most churches is the Jesus of Dispensational Theology, whereby the Dispensation of Law has been abolished, and replaced by the Dispensation of Grace. This is much like the fickle Greek and Roman gods and goddesses, keeping their followers nervous, never knowing what is expected of them each day. My Bible tells me that God never changes in Malachi 3:6, and that Yeshua is the same yesterday, today, and forever in Hebrews 13:8. There was grace in the Tanakh (OT), as was demonstrated after the sins of Abraham and King David. And there is Law in the Newer Testament. Yeshua commends those who keep His commandments in John 14:21.

Moshe gave us great instructions on how to determine who is a true prophet, and who is a false prophet in Dt. 12:32 to Dt. 13:10:

Deut. 12:32: "Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to nor take away from it. ^{Deut. 13:1} If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, ²And the sign or the wonder comes to pass, whereof he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them,' ³you shall not hearken to the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for YHWH your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴You shall walk after YHWH your God, and fear Him, and **keep His commandments**, and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him, and cleave to Him. ⁵And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death, because he has spoken to turn *you* away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust you out of the way which the LORD your God commanded you to walk in. So you shall put the evil away from the midst of you.

⁶ If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son, or your daughter, or the wife of your bosom, or your friend, which is as your own soul, entice you secretly, saying, 'Let us

go and serve other gods,' which you have not known, you, or your fathers; ⁷*Namely*, of the gods of the people which *are* round about you, near to you, or far off from you, from the *one* end of the earth even to the *other* end of the earth. ⁸You shall not consent to him, nor hearken to him; neither shall your eye pity him, neither shall you spare, neither shall you conceal him. ⁹But you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. ¹⁰And you shall stone him with stones, that he shall die; because he has sought to thrust you away from YHWH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage."

The above scriptures warn us about false prophets. These prophets might even prophesy correctly, with the evidence of their prophecies actually coming true. However, if they tell you (in verse 5) to disobey God's commandments, we are told to put such prophets to death. In fact, even if a prophet is correct 99 times, but is wrong just once, he (or she) is considered a false prophet. I don't recommend stoning such prophets today. However, we should not continue to follow such "prophets." Today's Dispensational Theology being taught in thousands of churches basically teaches that God's Law has been dispensed with. Psalm 119:169 tells us that God's commandments are "everlasting."

We would be thrilled to have spiritually gifted people in our midst who have the gifts of prophecy, are able to cast out demons, and perform miracles. However, we must also consider the words of Yeshua:

◆ Mathew 7: ²¹Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, and in your name have cast out devils, and in your name performed many miracles?" ²³And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who practice **iniquity** (lit., Lawlessness)."

These are scary words. Yeshua is addressing people who believe that they are Spirit-filled Christians, with the evidence of performing supernatural wonders. However, they are denied entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven with the words, "I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who practice Lawlessness."

What Law was Yeshua referring to? I believe it is the same Law that Yeshua was refer-

ring to in Matthew 5:17, when He said, "Think not that I have come to abolish the Law (Torah) or the Prophets. **I have not come to abolish, but to fulfill.** For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one yod or tittle shall pass from the Law, until all be fulfilled."

One of the very best explanations of Matthew 5:17 is from Jacob Franczak: "The word 'fulfill' doesn't mean that Jesus kept the Torah so I don't have to. **It means that Jesus kept the Torah to show us how it is done – to show us God's heart and intention behind the commandments of the Old Testament. His teachings don't replace the Torah; they explain the Torah.**"²

The very definition of the New Covenant is the Torah is found in Jeremiah 31:31-33, but especially verse 33: "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days: I will put my Law within them, and on their heart, and I will be their God and they shall be My people." (See also Hebrews 8:8-10.) You cannot claim to be a "New Covenant" Christian if you are eating a ham sandwich and don't observe the Biblical Sabbath (Friday at sunset to Saturday at sunset).

In 1 John 3:4, we find that the very definition of sin is transgression of Torah. I feel safe in believing that this is the definition of sin for both Jew and Gentile. We don't observe Torah to "get" saved. The Torah is God's instructions for those who are already redeemed.

Moses gave us a very important clue as to the identity of the coming Messiah. In Deuteronomy 18:15, Moses wrote, "YHWH your God will raise up for you a prophet **like me from among your countrymen.** You shall listen to him." God confirms this in Deut. 18:8, by saying, "I will raise up a prophet from among your countrymen like you (Moses), and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I commend him."

In Acts 3:22, Shimon Kefa (Simon Peter) repeated this prophecy while speaking to Jewish people in the Beit HaMikdash (Temple), telling them (and us!) that it refers to Yeshua. In Acts 7:37, Stephen also quotes this prophecy, telling his accusers that it refers to Yeshua.

First of all, according to Deut. 18:15, "YHWH your God will raise up for you a prophet **like me from among your countrymen.**" This means that the Messiah is descended from the physical seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In other words, Jesus is

² Messiah Magazine, Issue 24, p. 27, WWW.FFOZ.ORG

Jewish! Secondly, Deut. 18:18 tells us that the coming Messiah will be "a countryman like you (Moses)."

The Christian Jesus is often at odds with Moses. Christians will often say that the Law has been abolished. They will often speak of divisions in time, such as the "Dispensation of Law," in which people were expected to keep the Law, and the "Dispensation of Grace," in which Torah (the "Law") is no longer relevant. This ignores the fact that there is "grace" in the "Old" Testament, as can be seen with King David, who, despite his sins, was called a man after God's own heart. Many non-Evangelical Christians are shocked when you tell them that Jesus was a Jew!

Not only was Jesus a Jew; He was also a rabbi! In John 1:38 & 49; 3:2 & 6; and 6:26, Yeshua was addressed as "Rabbi." As a rabbi, he would have been associated with the Pharisees, perhaps especially the School of Hillel. **Jesus is my Rabbi**, and hopefully yours also!

We also see in the Newer Testament that Paul, the "apostle of liberty," also was Torah-observant Jew. In Acts 20:16, he was "hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost (Shavuot – a Jewish holiday)." In Acts 21:26, he offered up sacrifices in the Temple. In Acts 22:3, he said, "I **am** a Jew." He never converted to any other religion. Why should a Jew convert to another religion to follow his own Messiah? In Acts 23:6, he proclaimed, "I **am** a Pharisee," not, "I used to be a Pharisee." The Pharisees were famous for their obedience to the precepts of Torah. In Acts 28:17, he proclaimed, "I have done nothing against our people (the Jews), or the **customs** of our fathers." The customs would include Rabbinic traditions not even mentioned in the Torah, such as not having dairy and meat in the same meal. Paul never ate a cheeseburger!

In Matthew 7:13-14, Yeshua says, "Enter by the **narrow** gate, for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it."

There are some very impressive mega-churches with thousands in attendance each Sunday, often with a television audience of millions as well. Congregations that teach the Jewish Jesus, such as keeping the mitzvot (commandments), tend to be much smaller. Rabbi Harvey Koelner was the spiritual leader of Temple Aron Kodesh in Florida years ago. One time he was telling me how his Messianic congregation was expanding very rapidly.

Therefore, they invested many thousands of dollars into an expansion project. However, he told me that when He began teaching the people to keep the commandments, his congregation "grew" from 300 to 50.

The main point that I am making is this: If you are looking for truth, you might want to avoid the mega-churches. "Narrow is the way that leads to life." Also, biblical truth is not decided by majority opinion. Remember the twelve Israelite spies who searched the Land? Ten said there were giants in the Land. (True.) And they said that it would be impossible to conquer the Land. (Not true.) Only two spies – Joshua and Caleb – said that they would be able to conquer the Land. Joshua and Caleb were right; the others were wrong.

I happen to be a strong proponent of democracy. However, the best man (or woman) does not always win. I also believe that the ballots of the voters count, even if I am not happy with the results. Likewise, those who believe in Yeshua and keep the commandments of God, as mentioned in Revelation 14:12, are a distinct minority. For instance, billions of Christians might believe that Sunday is the Sabbath. And they are wrong! According to Scripture, the seventh day is Shabbat.

The day is coming when Messiah Yeshua will return to set up His Kingdom. There will not be any elections. We will have the perfect Leader. Jerusalem will be the capital, not just of Israel, but capital of the entire world! "The Law (Torah) will go forth from Zion, the word of YHWH from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:3b)."

P.S. I want our readers to understand that I am very grateful for Christians. People of faith, usually Christians, were the founders of great universities such as Harvard and Yale, as well as great hospitals, etc., around the world. I do not believe that truly born-again Evangelic Christians are "going to hell." I believe that they are saved by the blood of the Lamb, just as I am. In fact, my wife and I became believers in an old-fashioned church many years ago. I am grateful to the good people in that church for giving us a start in the faith.

This article is meant to strengthen Messianic Jews in their faith. It is also meant to cause Christians to seek out the **Jewish** Jesus, and walk according to **His** ways. Avoid false teachers and put away false doctrines. After all, Jesus did not come to Planet Earth to start a new religion. He came to Planet Earth as the Messiah for the old religion: Judaism. Yes, give me that old time religion, the same religion that Abraham, Moses, and Yeshua followed! **π**

From His Tail to His Snout

Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14

By John T. Reagan

(A message for mankind)

Psalm 84:11

Do you think, brother, that in God's great plan
When He was prescribing the best food for
man

That He made a mistake in leaving the swine
out

For was he not good from his tail to his
snout?

1 Cor. 3:17

Oh, the carcass of an old dead horse or a cow

Don't get too rotten for a dirty old sow;

Though we holler a lot about boils and gout,

We eat Miss Piggy from her tail to her
snout.

Ezekiel 33:11

We couldn't eat the buzzard, we'd think it a
crime,

But how much more filthy is he than the
swine

That we make into a pie, or we cook him with
kraut

And eat him or die, from his tail to his
snout?

Isaiah 66:2-4

We cook him with cabbage or boil him with
greens,

With his mangy old hide we season our
beans;

With his scabs and his boils within and without

Sweet Piggy we eat from his tail to his
snout.

Genesis 1:29

We'd be better off if we obeyed YHWH's
command.

And ate vegetables, grain, and fruit of the
land,

Then it wouldn't take half of the tonic and pills

To relieve all mankind of their swine-fed
ills.

The picture at the right is a bit dated. Most
pigs today are raised in barbaric, over-
crowded factory farms.

Genesis 9:5

You may think of fresh pork as a very rare
treat

But our bodies are made of just what we
eat,

And the food he has eaten, the filth of the
land,

Goes into our body as food, second-hand.

3 John 2

No wonder we are weak and heartbeats are
slow,

Sanitariums full, hospitals o'erflow,

For we eat such unclean, abominable things

That are creeping, crawling, or flying with
wings.

Psalm 119:105

God forbid us to eat these dirty old creatures,

No matter what is the theory of preachers;

If left to man's opinion—we'd not know the
right,

But thank YHWH, in His word there is light.

Revelation 22:11-12

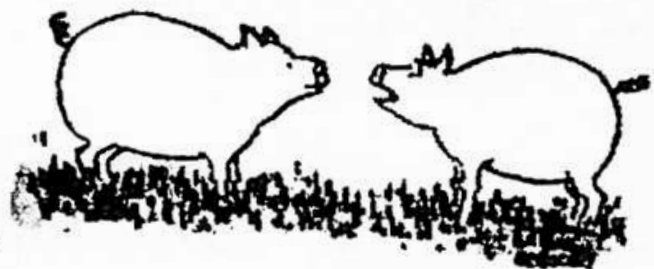
Now I've told you my story, recited my piece;

If you can eat pork with your conscience at
ease,

If sin, filth, or disease you care little about—

Keep on eating the brute,

FROM HIS TAIL TO HIS SNOUT.



"Personally, I wish the whole world was Jewish."

From wave to particle?

In 1906 English physicist J.J. Thomson won the Nobel Prize for demonstrating that electrons were particles. In 1924 French physicist Louis de Broglie (who won the Nobel Prize in 1929) proposed that all matter, including light, possessed a quality called "wave-particle duality" – that is, they can appear as either waves or particles.²⁰ J.J. Thomson's only son, George Paget Thomson, likewise became a Nobel laureate in 1937 by proving that electrons were waves! Both father and son, as well as de Broglie, were correct – they established the wave-particle duality common to all subatomic entities.

Quantum physicists now know that when an atom is broken down to its subatomic components, particles like protons, neutrons, and electrons surprisingly lose their characteristics as particles. They may sometimes still behave like particles, but they no longer have dimensions. Thus, a subatomic entity, such as an electron, can appear as a particle or a wave. Amazed physicists found that if we assume that a quantum entity is a particle, it will appear as a particle. Assume it is a wave, and we will observe it as a wave! We see matter the way we believe it exists. In theory, all matter, including humans, has this property of duality.²¹ Was the wave-particle duality principle responsible for a thought of God morphing from a wave into the first particle of matter?

Infinitesimal speck

Advocates of the Big Bang Theory hold that the universe began as an infinitesimally small, infinitely hot, and incredibly compact point called a "singularity." It contained all the matter of the universe. This hews closely to what Jewish sages have taught for centuries.

In his exegesis of Genesis in the 12th century, Moses Maimonides said that the entire universe had been created from something smaller than a mustard seed.²² Nachmanides corroborated that: "Now this creation was a very small point and from this all things that ever were or will be formed."²³ Later, in 1930, Belgian astronomer Georges Lemaitre described the primal atom as a super dense "cosmic egg."

Astronomer Edwin Hubble's discovery of

an expanding universe implies that all the particles that make up the universe were indeed once tightly packed together. The supremely hot and compact speck suddenly exploded and dispersed at close to the speed of light, eventually forming the stars and the galaxies.

Fellow astronomer John D. Barrow of the University of Sussex, in England, speculates: "If the universe is expanding, then when we reverse the direction of history and look in the past, we should find evidence that it emerged from a smaller, denser state – a state that appears to have once had zero size. It is the apparent beginning that has become

known as the big bang."²⁴ Advocates of the Big Bang Theory are fond of saying: "First, there was nothing. Then it exploded."

"Quantum fluctuation"

The NASA posits that the creation of the universe was the result of a "quantum fluctuation." Quantum what?

Edward Tryon first proposed the idea in a *Nature* magazine article in 1973: "Is the Universe a Vacuum Fluctuation?"²⁵ Scientific writer Andrew Chaikin remarks: "Quantum mechanics says that matter and energy can appear spontaneously out of the vacuum of space, thanks to something called a quantum fluctuation, a sort of hiccup in the energy field thought to pervade the cosmos."²⁶

Physicists have realized that even the supposedly empty vacuum of space has "things" swarming in it. As author Richard Morris (*The Edges of Science*) points out: "In modern physics, there is no such thing as 'nothing.' Even in a perfect vacuum, pairs of virtual particles are constantly being created and destroyed. The existence of these particles is no mathematical fiction. Though they cannot be directly observed, the effects they create are quite real. The assumption that they exist leads to predictions that have been confirmed by experiment to a high degree of accuracy."²⁷ The spontaneous appearance and disappearance of virtual particles in space is what scientists call a "quantum fluctuation."

Law of parity. An article in *The New York Times* (August 21, 1990), entitled "New Direction in Physics: Back in Time," explains that "the vacuum's totally empty space is ac-

Conundrums of Creation

Part 2

By MaxTuason@yahoo.com

This is an excerpt from **Max Tuason's** book, **Deep Things of God**, advertised in this issue of **Petah Tikvah**. The book contains all the footnotes missing in this excerpt. We recommend Max's books to our readers, available through:

Amazon.com

tually a seething turmoil of creation and annihilation, which to the ordinary world appears calm because the scale of fluctuations in the vacuum is tiny and the fluctuations tend to cancel each other out."²⁸

In other words, as soon as a virtual particle appears, its closely following antiparticle twin collides with it, destroying both of them. The process of mutual destruction is part of the "law of parity." (The "virtual particles" are pairs of matter and antimatter, such as quarks and antiquarks, which form the atoms that make up all things in the universe. An antiparticle is identical to its particle partner in every way, except that its charge or spin is the exact opposite.) The *Encarta Encyclopedia* sheds further light on the matter: "In physics, the seemingly inviolable law of parity holds that the conversion of energy into matter produces equal amounts of matter and antimatter that then annihilate each other."²⁹

A quark of nature

Until the 1950s physicists believed there was always perfect balance and symmetry in the creation and mutual annihilation of matter and antimatter. Yet, if that was the case, the universe could never have materialized. All matter would have vanished almost as soon as it had appeared. But a quirk of nature happened. Every so many collisions left one extra particle or quark surviving intact.

Matter-antimatter imbalance

In 1964, James W. Cronin of the University of Chicago and Val L. Fitch of Princeton did experiments which showed that every so often an extra particle survived the matter-antimatter annihilation: two in each 1,200 decays of a particle produced survivors that violated the law of parity. For their achievement, Cronin and Fitch shared the Nobel Prize in physics in 1980.³⁰

Physicist Gerald Schroeder speaks of even greater odds: In the first 1/100,000 of a second of the Big Bang, more quarks than antiquarks were produced – 10,000,000,001 particles for every 10,000,000,000 antiparticles – establishing a numerical edge of matter over antimatter. Nobel laureate Steven Weinberg wrote: "The one part in ten billion excess of matter over antimatter is one of the key initial conditions that determined the future development of the universe."³¹

The extra quarks left by the matter-antimatter imbalance in the quantum fluctuations accumulated and bonded together to form the elements that gave birth to the stars and the galaxies, and, later, all living organisms. What caused the imbalance?

Astrophysicist John Gribbin comments that, although scientists can describe in detail what happened *after* the creation, they cannot explain what started it all. The "instant of creation remains a mystery... maybe God did make it, after all."³²

Gases and dust

"And the earth was without form, and void..." (Gen1:2a)

Scripture suggests and science affirms that the primeval particles of matter were in the form of gases and dust before they bonded together to form the celestial bodies and all things else in the universe.

In 1796, French astronomer Pierre Laplace advanced the "nebular hypothesis" in his book *Exposition of the System of the Universe*. He proposed that the stars, the sun, and the planets formed from nebulae – swirling clouds of interstellar gases, dust, and minerals

According to the theory, refined over the past 200 years, dynamic interactions cause a spinning cloud to flatten into a disk as gravity pulls much of the materials into the center, which begins to contract. The contraction raises the pressure and temperature at the core until it develops into a "protosun." The outer parts of the disk, on the other hand, cool down. Mutual attraction causes solid pieces and ice crystals to agglomerate and form asteroids, planetesimals, and rocky inner planets like Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars, while farther out gases and dust freeze into great ice balls that become outer gaseous planets, such as Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

"Blackbody" of space

"...and darkness was upon the face of the deep" (Gen1:2b).

Space, at the outset, was simply an empty darkness. Did God create darkness? Or was darkness the mere absence of light? The Scriptures tell us that the Creator also made darkness: *"I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things"* (Isa 45:7).

Towards the end of the 1800s, physicists observed that, at very low temperatures, efficient emitters and absorbers of radiation appeared black. They thus called a perfect emitter or absorber of radiation a "blackbody."³³ The rate of absorption depends on the size of the exposed surface area – the larger the area, the greater the absorption. The immense darkness of space therefore is the ultimate "blackbody."

Their calculations have since been confirmed through spectroscopic observations. "Atomic hydrogen clouds are the most widely distributed in interstellar space and, together with molecular hydrogen clouds, contain most of the gaseous and particulate matter of interstellar space..."⁴² Hydrogen today comprises some 73% of the visible mass of the universe,⁴³ while helium constitutes approximately 23%.⁴⁴ The Sun alone burns about 40 million tons of hydrogen per second.

Most abundant element

How did Moses, who wrote the book of Genesis around 3,500 years ago, know that water, or at least its main component hydrogen, was the very first and most abundant element in the universe? Peter reiterated this scientific fact in his general epistle about 1,500 years later: "But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water" (2 Peter 3:5-6, NIV).

Just as the Bible says, science has discovered that there were "waters" (hydrogen) in space before the earth took shape!

Curiously, this information is in the Hebrew word for "heavens" – *shamayim*. The Hebrew term for "waters" is *mayim*, while *sham* means "there" or "in it." Hence, *shamayim* can be read as: "there (*sham*) are waters (*mayim*) – in the heavens (*shamayim*)"! Could this be a mere coincidence?

See Roger Walkwitz's commentary on page 63

HUMOR: "A merry heart makes good medicine."

An elderly woman and her little grandson, whose face was sprinkled with bright freckles, spent the day at the zoo. Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws.

"You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!" a girl in the line said to the little fella.

Embarrassed, the little boy dropped his head. His grandmother knelt down next to him. "I love your freckles. When I was a little girl I always wanted freckles, she said, while tracing her finger across the child's cheek. "Freckles are beautiful!"

The boy looked up, "Really?" "Of course," said the grandmother. "Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles."

The little boy thought for a moment, peered intensely into his grandma's face, and softly whispered, "Wrinkles."

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was.

Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off thy neighbor's wife."

Daniel Botkin presents

WHAT IF?

What if Jesus had been trained for the ministry at one of our seminaries?

JESUS HAS JUST CAST A LEGION OF DEMONS OUT OF A MAN, AND ALLOWED THE DEMONS TO ENTER INTO A HERD OF SWINE, WHO THEN STAMPEDE OVER THE EDGE OF A CLIFF AND PERISH . . .

NOW LET US HAVE A HOG ROAST AND FEED THE MULTITUDES, FOR THEY DO HUNGER!

BUT--BUT MASTER! YOUR FATHER GAVE STRICT ORDERS THROUGH MOSES TO NOT EAT SWINE'S FLESH OR ANYTHING THAT DIES OF ITSELF!

YE HAVE HEARD THAT IT WAS SAID BY THEM OF OLD TIME "THOU SHALT NOT EAT SWINE'S FLESH, AS THE LORD COMMANDED MOSES." BUT I SAY UNTO YOU THAT THOSE OLD LAWS WERE JUST FOR BACK THEN! ALL MANNER OF FLESH HATH BEEN MADE KOSHER BY MY COMING, YEA, EVEN THAT OF SWINE, MOLES, LIZARDS, AND BATS! NOW GATHER UP THE FRAGMENTS THAT REMAIN, SO THAT NOTHING MAY BE LOST!

The Tanakh is the Older Testament, also called the **Jewish Bible**. I would protest somewhat about that nomenclature. Romans 3:1-2 tells us that "unto (the Jews) were committed the oracles of God." This is additional confirmation that the Newer Testament was **also** written entirely by Jews. Even Dr. Luke was a Jew, or at least a proselyte to Judaism.

There are, however, **levels of inspiration**. The Tanakh (O.T.) in Judaism has a book order which is very different from Christian Bibles. The word **Tanakh** is an acronym for **Torah, Neviim, and Ketuvim**. The highest level of inspiration is **Torah**, the first five books of the Bible written by Moshe (Moses). This is because Adonai spoke to Moshe "face to face," as said in Exodus 33:11.

The next set of books in the Tanakh is called **Neviim** ("Prophets"). This is the next level of inspiration, because God did not speak to the prophets face to face, but only through dreams and visions.

The last level of inspiration in the Tanakh is called **Ketuvim** ("Writings"). The writers were inspired to write. However, Adonai did not speak to the writers face-to-face nor by dreams and visions. Therefore, this is the last set of books in the Tanakh. The first word below "Tanakh" spells "Torah." Under that is "Neviim." The bottom line spells "Ketuvim." The first letter of each (at the far right) spells **Tanakh**, an acronym for all three when read vertically from top to bottom:

Tanakh	תַּנְיִךְ
Torah	תּוֹרָה
Nevi'im	נְבִיאִים
Ketuvim	כְּתוּבִים

Source for diagram: Hebrew4Christians.com

Just as there are levels of inspiration in the Tanakh, so there are also levels of inspiration in the Newer Testament. Malachi was the last of the writing prophets. In Malachi 4:4 (3:23 in Jewish Bibles), he writes, "Remember the Law (Torah) of Moshe my servant, even the statutes and ordinances, which I commanded him in Horeb (Sinai) for all Israel." Then Matthew begins his Besorah (Gospel) in the Newer Testament. In Yeshua's very first sermon after He

Levels of Inspiration

**Richard
"Aharon"
Chamberlin**

began his ministry, He said:

"Think **not** that I came to abolish the Torah or the Prophets (Neviim). **I have not come to abolish, but to fulfill.**

For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one **yod** or **tittle** shall pass from the Torah until all be fulfilled.¹ For truly I say to you, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Torah until all be fulfilled. Whoever then annuls one of **least** of these commandments and so teaches others shall be called **least** in the Kingdom of Heaven. But whoever keeps and teaches them shall be called **great** in the Kingdom of Heaven."²

Yeshua strongly defended the writings of the Torah, and used Moses and the Prophets to explain the truths of his teachings. Many Christians will go instead to some of the words of Paul to "prove" that the Law (Torah) was somehow abolished, despite the clear words of Yeshua above. Shimon Kefa (Simon Peter) warned about such people:

Even as our beloved brother Sha'ul (Paul) according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable **distort**, as they do the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of **Lawless**³ men, you fall from your own steadfastness.

(2 Peter 3:15b-17)

Regretfully, many Lawless (Torah-less) men have distorted Paul's writings. If Rav Sha'ul had actually taught against the Torah, he would have to be considered as a false prophet. Deuteronomy 13:1-5 warns us as follows:

¹If there arises among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a **sign** or a **wonder**, ²and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, whereof he spoke to you, saying, "Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them," ³you shall not hearken to the words

¹ The **yod** is the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The tittles are the decorative marks on the letters th

e Hebrew Torah scroll.

² Matthew 5:17-19.

³ The Greek word is **athesmos**, which more correctly means **lawless**, but is often translated as **wicked** (KJV) or **unprincipled** (NAS).

of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love YHWH your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴You shall walk after YHWH your God, and fear Him, and **keep His commandments**, and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him, and cleave to Him. ⁵And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to **death**; because he has spoken to turn *you* away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to seduce you out of the way which YHWH your God commanded you to walk in. So shall you put the evil away from your midst.

Biblically, any so-called prophet who preached against obeying God's commandments was to be put to death, even if he (or she) had signs and wonders that actually came to pass. Therefore, **if** Rav Sha'ul had actually taught against Torah, he should have been put to death. Not to worry. Paul did **not** preach or teach against keeping the mitzvot (commandments). Likewise, Yeshua would have been considered a false prophet and also an anti-Messiah if He had taught against the Torah.

In Acts 21:19-26, Rav Sha'ul was being falsely accused of teaching against the mitzvot. Therefore, he was asked to prove that he was indeed teaching and keeping Torah, which even involved a Temple sacrifice. In Acts 22:3, he said, "I **am** a Jew," not, "I used to be a Jew, but am now a Christian." In Acts 23:6, he said, "I **am** a Pharisee," present tense. Even after coming to faith in Yeshua, he remained a Pharisee. Pharisees were among the **strictest** keepers of Torah. He wasn't the only Pharisee who believed in Yeshua. There was Nicodemus as well as others who are referred to in Acts 15:5. There were good Pharisees and bad Pharisees. It is wrong to paint them all as bad.

In Acts 25:8, Paul said, "I have committed no offense against the Torah of the Jews or against the Temple or against Caesar." If anything, he was more Torah-observant than I am, although I do try to be obedient to the mitzvot. In Acts 28:17, Rav Sha'ul said, "Brethren, though I had done nothing against our people, or the **customs** of our fathers, yet I was delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans." Not only did he obey the written Torah, it appears that he also kept much of the Oral Law, forbidding such things as having milk and meat in the same meal.

However, let us assume (incorrectly, of course) that Paul taught **against** the Torah

and the mitzvot. Most of what Paul taught was very pro-Torah. However, there are some verses which superficially appear to be anti-Torah. Many Christians flock to verses that **seem** to contradict the Torah (such as in Romans 14) and use these isolated verses to "prove" that God no longer wants us to keep the so-called "Old Testament" laws.

However, Yeshua made it very clear in Matthew 5:17-19 that the Law was **not** abolished. If there was indeed a contradiction between what Yeshua said and what Paul said, I would go with Yeshua, who was both Messiah and the Son of God. I would consider the words of Yeshua to be a much **higher** level of inspiration than the words of Paul. If I were to find a contradiction between the words of Yeshua and the words of Rav Sha'ul, I would go with Yeshua every time!

In Yochanan (John) 5:18, Yeshua was accused of breaking the Shabbat for healing a man on the Sabbath, as well as "making Himself equal to God." However, Yeshua replied by saying, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son **can do nothing of Himself**, unless He sees the Father doing it, for whatever *the Father does*, the Son does also in like manner." Yeshua was in complete submission to the Father. This is again confirmed in John 14:10, when Yeshua said, "The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me, does these works." And since the Father put these words into Yeshua's mouth, I believe that the words of Yeshua are definitely a higher level of inspiration than the words of Paul.

In John 14:28, Yeshua said, "If you loved Me you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father, for **the Father is greater than I**." I would be reluctant to go against the words of Yeshua. He is indeed divine, God in the flesh. However, He never claimed co-equality with the Father. The co-equality doctrine comes from the Council of Nicea, inaugurated by Constantine in 325 CE,⁴ which gave the doctrine of "co-equal, co-eternal, and co-substantial." I prefer the words of Yeshua, which are also the words of Scripture rather than this anti-Semitic church council. They are "Father and Son," not "Twin Brothers." It is far beyond the ability of our puny minds to fully comprehend the anatomy of the Godhead. However, we must be biblical in our beliefs.

"For now, we see in a glass dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then shall I know even as I am known (1 Cor.

⁴ "Common Era," equivalent to A.D.

13:12." When we depart this life, we will have more understanding of these mysteries of God.

As an addendum to what I have just written, I would like to add some additional information from an article written by Gershon Nerel in an article entitled "Gospels Superior to Epistles."⁵ I discovered this article after I wrote my article (preceding this page). It was his book review of **The Delitzch Hebrew Gospels**, translated into English by the publishing company, Vine of David. As with my article, Mr. Nerel demonstrates the higher level of inspiration of the words of Yeshua compared with the words of Paul (Shaul). Two short passages are quoted below:

"...The Pauline passages have become the epicenter of Christianity. Essentially, study of Scripture and the focus of interpretation should remain around the words of the Son God.

...Prioritization of texts is inevitable when studying the Holy Scriptures. For example, certain books in the Old Testament, such as Esther and Chronicles, are less important than the Torah (Pentateuch) and the Prophets. It is misleading to place all texts on the same level of significance. Ultimately, however, it is the function of the Holy Spirit to advise how to properly study the Bible." ISEETISRAEL.COM

Levels of Interpretation

Just as there are **levels of inspiration** in the Scriptures, there are also **levels of interpretation**. Years ago, I heard an Orthodox rabbi say, "**Torah is an onion.**" I squinted my eyes, and thought, "What the heck does not mean?" An Orthodox Jew might have understood this, but it went right over my head.

Then one day, I heard an Orthodox Jew talk about the **levels of interpretation** of Scripture. The lights came on in my mind. There are layers to an onion, and layers of interpretation of the Scriptures. Each year as we go through the reading of the Torah, we see things we never saw before.

The Talmudic sages claimed that each passage of Torah has seventy facets. This is perhaps a metaphorical number to reflect the seventy Sanhedrin scholars, whose primary job was to interpret Scripture. Or perhaps it means that there are many ways to interpret each passage according to each person's mind. More practically, the Rabbis of old divided the

⁵ Published in **Israel Today**, March 2018, www.IsraelToday.co.il

levels of interpretation into four categories:

P'shat – the most basic literal meaning of the biblical text.

Remez – the esoteric meaning, meaning "hint," often clarified by other verses.

D'rash – the homiletic meaning (From this, we have the word "MiDrash")

Sod – the hidden Kabbalistic meaning. It also means "foundation" and "secret."

Down below, we have the Hebrew letters for the first letter of each level of interpretation:

ס ד ר פ

Each first letter taken together spells "PaRDeS,"⁶ which is the origin of the English word "Paradise." However, when rabbis talk about PARDES, they are talking about these four levels of interpretation.

The **p'shat** is usually the most important level of interpretation. I have heard it said, "When the clear meaning of Scripture makes sense, seek no other sense." This is usually a safe level of interpretation.

However, by sticking with the **p'shat**, we often can miss much, especially if we only stick with a translation. Many Hebrew words have no precise English translation. I recommend at very minimum getting a Strong's Concordance to find the Hebrew word's meanings. It is also very useful to study Hebrew. However, if you were to literally translate each word in the text in the same order as the Hebrew text, you would find yourself totally confused. Biblical Hebrew has a different word order, often with the direct object occurring first, then the verb, and often the subject at the end of the sentence. This isn't always true, but is often the case. Also, there are Hebraic expressions which should not be taken literally into English.

The **remez**, meaning "hint." A passage may be confusing at first, but will be better understood when other similar verses in Scripture are read.

The **D'rash** can be compared to a short sermon. Someone might read some verses, and gain additional personal insights which can then be shared with others.

The **Sod** can be occasionally problematic, especially if someone attempts to understand a verse using Kabbalah. Kabbalah is sometimes simply good meditation. However, Kabbalistic "secret" meanings often veer off into the occult, which is condemned in Scripture.

π

⁶ The original Hebrew is written without vowels, so I have supplied the vowels in lower case.

7:1 "For this Melchizedek ('Malki-Tzedek'), king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; 7:2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of Righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace. 7:3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life, but made like unto the Son of God, abides as a priest forever."

Melchizedek: Who is he?

Richard 'Aharon'
Chamberlin
Hebrews 7

THESE opening lines from Hebrews 7 are a *drash* (allegorical application) comparing Yeshua with Melchizedek. In the original Hebrew, the name is "Malki-Tzedek," meaning "King of Righteousness." Melchizedek is called both a king (7:1) and a priest (7:3), making him an archetype of Yeshua, who came to earth 2000 years ago to fulfill His High Priestly role, taking upon Himself all of our sins and transgressions. To this day, He is interceding for us. However, Yeshua will return as **King Messiah**. He will set up His earthly Millennial Kingdom, reigning over the world from Jerusalem. May it be soon, even in our lifetimes!

In Judaism, there is the belief in two Messiahs. One is the suffering servant Messiah, called Mashiach ben Yosef (Messiah, son of Joseph), as can be found in Isaiah 53. There is also the King Messiah, Mashiach ben David (Messiah son of David). However, by the time of Yeshua, most Jews placed their hopes on Messiah son of David coming to set up the Messianic Kingdom. They were not expecting Messiah son of Joseph, which is the form in which Yeshua came 2000 years ago. We don't believe in two Messiahs. Yeshua already told us that He is returning as King Messiah, as can be found in Isaiah 9:6.

Again, returning to verse 1, we learn that Melchizedek is called King of Salem, which in Hebrew is **Shalem**, related to the word **shalom**, which not only means **peace**, but also **wholeness**. Shalem is another name for Jerusalem, as we see in Psalm 76:2-3.

Melchizedek is considered to be greater than Abraham, because Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, as we see in verse 4: "Now consider how great this man *was*, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils." You can read the original story for yourself in Genesis 14:17-20. In this particular

episode, Abraham fought to rescue his nephew Lot from kings that had come out against the city of Sodom. In the process, Abraham (then called **Avram**) rescued not only Lot and his family, but also the king of Salem.

When tithing was established under the Law of Moses (actually, the Law of **God**), the tithe was established on all the agricultural increase in the Land. The tithe went to the Levites. In Avram's day, there were no Levites. The Levites were the descendants of Levi, who was a great-grandson of Avram.

The only other place in the Tanakh (O.T.) where we can read about Melchizedek is in Psalm 110:4-6, where we read, "YHWH has sworn, and will not repent, **Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.** ⁵Adonai is at Thy right hand. He shall strike through kings in the day of His wrath. ⁶He shall judge among the nations. He shall fill the places with the dead bodies. He shall wound the rulers over many countries."

Here we see that Melchizedek is an archetype of King Messiah in the Judaism of the Tanakh, as well as in the Book of Hebrews. Psalm 110 is quoted in Hebrews 5,6, and 7, verifying the similarities once again between Melchizedek and Yeshua. In fact, the similarities are so great that some believe that Melchizedek is a pre-incarnate appearance of Messiah Yeshua. This is not what we believe. In Hebrews 7:3, we read that Melchizedek is "without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life, but made like unto the Son of God, abides as a priest forever." In other translations, we are told that Melchizedek is "without genealogy." Some take this to mean that there is no record of Melchizedek's family tree, and that he did in fact have parents like the rest of us. However, if we are to take these verses literally, then Melchizedek did **not** have parents like the rest of us. If that were the case, then he could not have been a pre-incarnate appearance of Yeshua, because Yeshua definitely had a genealogy; in fact, two genealogies, as recorded in Matthew 1 and Luke 3. Also, if in fact Melchizedek did not have parents like the rest of us, it might mean that he was a special creation of God, somewhat like the angels.

In any event, Melchizedek is a very mysterious personage. Just out of curiosity, I

Googled Melchizedek on the Internet. I wasn't a bit surprised to find a bunch of strange cults that had somehow chosen to associate themselves with Melchizedek, although I am certain that Melchizedek would be sure to disassociate himself from all of them!

There is even an interesting Midrash (Rabbinic allegory or commentary) in which Shem, the son of Noach, established a yeshiva to teach about the ways of Adonai. One of his star talmidim (pupils) was Abraham as a young man. There may be a grain of truth to this. With the extremely long life spans that existed in the years before the Great Flood and for hundreds of years afterwards, it is entirely possible that Abraham did indeed learn directly from Shem. If life spans were similarly long today, we could have Christopher Columbus come into our classrooms to teach about his epic voyages! However, I would part company with this Rabbinic Midrash on where it takes us afterwards. According to this Midrash, Shem was also known as Melchizedek. Since Melchizedek did **not** have a genealogy, and Shem obviously **did** have a genealogy, then it is obvious that Shem and Melchizedek were not the same person.

WE read further in Hebrews 7:5-10: "And truly they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the Law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham. ⁶But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. ⁷And without all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the greater. ⁸And here men that die receive tithes; but there he *receives them*, of whom it is witnessed that he (Melchizedek) lives on. ⁹And as I may so say, Levi also, who receives tithes, paid tithes in Abraham. ¹⁰For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchizedek met him."

Again, Rav Sha'ul (Paul) is emphasizing the fact that Melchizedek is greater than Abraham. In addition, in verse 8, he writes that Melchizedek "lives on," making him superior to the *cohanim* ("priests") who die. Shem also died, so he was definitely **not** Melchizedek. This seems to add further credibility to the belief that Melchizedek is no mere mortal like us.

IF therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the Law), what further need *was there* that another priest should rise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be called after

the order of Aaron? ¹²For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the Law. ¹³For he of whom these things are spoken pertains to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. ¹⁴For *it is evident* that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. ¹⁵And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchizedek there arises another priest, ¹⁶Who is **made**, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. ¹⁷For He testifies, **Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.**"

¹⁸For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. ¹⁹For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope *did*; by the which we draw near to God. ²⁰And inasmuch as not without an oath *he was made priest*: ²¹(For those priests were made without an oath; but this through the oath that was said to Him, **The Lord swore and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.**)

Again, we find confirmation of another priesthood that is superior to the priesthood that existed in the Beit HaMikdash (Temple), and that Yeshua is the Cohen HaGadol (High Priest) "after the order of Melchizedek." Unlike the priests in the Temple, Yeshua was descended from Judah, not Levi. In verse 10, the writer also adds the **drash** that Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek, since Levi (as a descendant of Abraham) was in the loins of Abraham.

IN verse 22, we learn that Yeshua was "made the guarantee of a better covenant." Some may interpret this to mean that the "old" covenant was "done away with." However, as we will learn in Hebrews 8, quoting Jeremiah 31:31-33, the New Covenant is simply the "old covenant" Torah ("Law") written upon our hearts. Torah (which really means "Instruction") was never abolished, as is often taught in much of Christianity. However, under the older covenant, animal sacrifices were often required to make atonement for sin. In the newer covenant, we have the atoning sacrifice of Yeshua. Verses 26-28 confirm that Yeshua's **onetime sacrifice provides atonement for all time**. This is in contrast to the daily sacrifices in the Temple, and is also in direct contrast with Catholicism in which "Jesus" is being sacrificed in the daily "masses." Also, unlike the Levitical priesthood, Yeshua was made "higher than the heavens."

In the aftermath of the flood, as the waters receded, Noah lifted off the cover of the ark and sent out a raven, which flew in circles (or to and from the ark) to determine whether the earth was dry. He sent the dove out a total of three times. The first time, he sent a dove to see if the waters had receded. The dove, oddly, could not find a resting place and returned; seven days later, he sent the dove out again, and she came back at the end of the day with an olive branch in her mouth; seven days after that, Noah sent the dove out a third time, and it never returned.

1 – The Dove finds no place on earth.

⁸He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. ⁹But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. (Genesis 8:8-9)

2 – The Dove returns with the olive branch.

¹⁰And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. ¹¹Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. (Genesis 8:10-11)

3 – The Dove goes and never returns.

¹²So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore. (Genesis 8:12)

EXPLANATION:

Historically, the Jewish Sages considered the dove in these passages, hovering over the water, to represent the Spirit of G-d's anointing over the servants of G-d. The Messiah was the most significant of these servants. Rashi (Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki) likens the Spirit (the "Ruach HaKodesh" in Hebrew) to a dove: "The Throne of Glory was suspended in the air

and hovered over the face of the water with the breath of the mouth of the Holy One, blessed be He and with His word, like a dove, which hovers over the nest..."

**NOAH,
the Dove,
& the Messiah**

Rebbe Nachman connects the Spirit to the Messiah:

"AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD HOVERED: this alludes to the spirit of Messiah, as you read, And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him... (Isaiah 11:2)." (Genesis Rabbah 2:4)

In modern Judaism, these interpretations continue to prevail. The ongoing understanding is that there is a

strong symbolic connection between the dove, the Spirit, and the Messiah.

1 – The Dove finds no place on earth.

The Ruach HaKodesh descended over several anointed men in the Scriptures, but found them unqualified to be the Messiah. Although many of them were considered as a "Tzadik HaDor" – a Righteous Man for his generation - they did not reach the fullness of Mashiach Ben-Yosef (Messiah Son of Joseph).

2 – The Dove returns with an olive branch.

The verse could have said that the dove returned with the branch of a tree, without specifying the kind of tree. What is the deeper meaning of the olive branch?

"Why not nut oil, fish oil, or any other oil? Why olive oil? Because olive oil symbolizes the light for the world." (Midrash Tanchuma, Tetzaveh 6:3)

When we say "Light for the World", it brings to mind what Yeshua says: "... I am the Light of The World..."

(John 8:12). "Light of the world" is "Or HaOlam" in Hebrew. According to Jewish Gematria, "Or HaOlam", written in Hebrew, corresponds to the number 358. This number is the same number as "Mashiach" (Messiah) written in Hebrew. Therefore, using Gematria as a tool of interpretation, we can make the connection that the Messiah is the Light of World.

The Targum (Aramaic translation of Tanach) comments on the origin of the Olive Branch:



"And the dove came to him in the evening, and, behold, a branch of an olive tree, picked up, broken, had in its beak, and which it had taken from the mount of Meshiha [Messiah]." (Jerusalem Targum—Aramaic paraphrase of O.T.)

Mashiach is then represented by the olive branch, who has been filled with the Ruach HaKodesh for his entire ministry, from the immersion to the crucifixion. The dove found rest on this olive branch, but plucked it up – to be, in Hebrew, "plucked up" is "taraf" and the word also means "pulled out", "torn" or "ripped apart", just as the Scriptures say that Jacob said "Joseph was taraf (torn to pieces)" (Genesis 37:33). So, this broken olive branch represents the Messiah in his death and resurrection, the olive branch taken from the olive tree (which is understood to symbolize Israel), and was raised on the third day by the power of the Ruach HaKodesh:

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." (Romans 8:11)

After having spent 40 days, he was brought back by the dove, ascending to

the Holy mansions from the Har HaZeitim (the Mount of Olives).

"And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight." (Acts 1:9)

3 – The Dove goes and never returns.


In his second coming, Yeshua will return as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, as the Mashiach Ben-David (Messiah Son of David) who will reign from Jerusalem, over all Israel, and his dominion will echo over all the earth.

Then, the dove will find a definitive rest forever. The Messiah won't be killed this time, and he will reign until the last enemy of God is destroyed. Filled with the Ruach Elohim Chaim (the Spirit of the G-d of Life) and the manifestation of the power of G-d, divine wisdom will prevail over all the Earth. There will be a wonderful presence of the Spirit of G-d as has never happened before. Then, Yeshua will build the true Temple of the G-d of Israel.

"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power." (I Corinthians 15:24).

**REVEREND
TWISTRUTH
& HIS DISCIPLES**
by Daniel Botkin

**FOOD FOR
THOUGHT**
OR "ANTHROPOPHAGOUS POTTAGE"




One of my favorite rabbinic commentators is Nachmanides, also known as the **Ramban**, an acronym for Rabbi Moshe ben Nachman, the full name of Nachmanides. He is not to be confused with Maimonides, who was known as the **Rambam**. Maimonides preferred an allegoric interpretation of Scripture. In some cases, the allegoric interpretation of some verses is indeed correct, as when Yeshua said, "I am the door." He obviously is not a literal door.

However, in most cases, Nachmanides preferred a literal interpretation of Scripture. Maimonides was a great scholar who wrote huge commentaries on both the Torah as well as the Talmud. He also achieved fame as a physician and as an Aristotelian philosopher. As such, his commentaries of Maimonides attempted to merge Greek philosophy with Torah. To me, this is like trying to mix oil and water; they don't mix. For this and other reasons, I much prefer Nachmanides, who rejected Greek philosophy and preferred a more literal interpretation of Scripture.

Nachmanides was a descendant of a renowned rabbinical family. He remains acclaimed as an outstanding Talmudist and Kabbalist.¹

It is interesting to note that in this first chapter of Genesis, Nachmanides determined that there were **ten** dimensions: That's beyond my brain capacity, as I can see only four dimensions: length, width, height, and time. However, many modern physicists have also come to the same conclusion that Nachmanides had almost 800 years ago.

The Rabbis of old would tell you that you cannot understand Torah without the help of the earlier commentators, so too one cannot approach the Written Torah without the help of Rashi and the Ramban (Nachmanides). They can then pry your eyes open to understand each Parashah (Torah portion), including the hidden meanings behind the text. I have great respect for the commentators. However, they are also fallible human beings. That being said, we can indeed learn from them, while also understanding that they are

not the final authority.

Nachmanides was born in Gerona, Catalonia (now part of Spain) in 1194. Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Crusaders in 1099. He eventually moved to Jerusalem in 1266 when he was 72 years old.

Jerusalem was in complete desolation as a result of the marauding Crusaders. He began to rebuild the desolated Jewish community upon his arrival.

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Nachmanides wrote to his son in Spain, "Eretz Yisrael lies in ruin, and the holier the place the greater the destruction. The most desolate place of all is Yerushalayim." In all of Jerusalem, there were only two Jews, and not even one **sefer Torah** (Torah scroll)." The Ramban converted a ruined old building into a synagogue and began organizing Jews to come back to Yerushalayim. He also brought a sefer Torah from Shechem (called Nablus today).

The Ramban had an astonishing and inspiring commentary of Vayikra (Leviticus) 26:32: "I will make the Land so desolate that even your enemies who live there will be astonished." He wrote, "This is a hopeful message, assuring us that throughout all of our exiles, our Land will not accept our enemies. It also offers great proof and holds a promise for us, for in the whole inhabited part of the world, there is not such a good and spacious land which was always settled, and yet is as ruined as Eretz Yisrael is today. For ever since we left it, it has not accepted any nation or people. Although they all try to colonize it, they all failed."

In this, the Ramban was very prophetic. Israel remained a wasteland from the time when Israel was utterly defeated by the Romans after the Jewish defeat of the Bar Kokhba revolt in 135 CE. The Land of Israel remained desolate until Jews began returning to the Land in the late 1800s. They began draining malaria infested swamps, planting trees, and farming the Land. The Land really began to blossom after Israel gained its independence from the United Kingdom in 1948. Hundreds of thousands of Jews – many of whom were Holocaust survivors – made aliyah to their ancestral land. Through hard labor and tears, the Land began to come alive again.

At the same time, Israel was forced to fight wars against surrounding Arab nations seeking to destroy Israel in the wars of 1948, 1967, and 1973, as well as many terrorist attacks both before 1948 and ever since. Today, Isra-

¹ The source of most of my information about Nachmanides. It comes from **Selected Portions of Nachmanides Commentary of the Torah** translated and annotated by Avraham Yaakov Finkel, Yeshivath Beth Moshe, 930 Hickory St, Scranton PA 18505, © 2004.

el is a fruitful nation of 10 million, and one of the most densely populated countries in the world. And even though much of the Land is still unproductive desert, Israel exports fruits, vegetables, and flowers to nations all over the world. Israel is also the Start-Up nation for all kinds of technology, medicine, and science, with a higher standard of living than the UK.

Four years after his arrival in Israel, the Ramban died at the age of 76. However, in just four years, he laid the groundwork for the return of the Jewish people to their Land.

The Ramban tells us (in the words of Avraham Yaakov Finkel, his translator): Commentary on Gen. 1:1: "*In the beginning G-d created the heaven, and the earth, meaning, He brought forth out of nothing the substance of heaven; and the earth, meaning, He brought forth out of nothing the substance of the earth.*"²

That sounds to me like the "Big Bang Theory." **In the beginning, there was nothing, and then it exploded!** (Some other supporters of the Big Bang believe all the matter of the universe was encapsulated in a ball smaller than a basketball, and it exploded.) In either case, without the existence of God, where did this matter even come from? It takes much faith to believe that the "Big Bang" is responsible for all of Creation, as well as all of the intricacies of Creation, down to the tiniest particles of each atom. Scientists will sometimes say that all of these things "have the appearance of design." Of course they have the appearance of design! It is because of the great Designer!

On page 7 of this book, it says, "The seventh day – Shabbos – alludes to the World to Come, a day of complete Shabbos (Sabbath) and rest for eternal life. May G-d watch over us all the days and grant our share with His servants, the perfect ones." Other great rabbis believe that Shabbat is a picture of the Millennium. Also, Genesis 2:3 tells us, "Then God blessed the seventh day (Shabbat) and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."

The Sabbath is a memorial of Creation, and the fact that we were created, and did not evolve from pond scum. Most Evangelical Christians do not believe in evolution. To be consistent, I would suggest that they observe Shabbat, which stands to this day as the weekly memorial to Creation.

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² *Ibid*, p. 16

Shabbat: Symbolic of the Millennium?

In Psalm 90:4, David tells us, "For a thousand years in Thy sight is like yesterday when it passes." Another good Jew, Kefa (Peter) tells us that "with the LORD, one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8). This does not mean that God has a hard time keeping time! He isn't constrained by time and space as we are in our mortal bodies. In much of Rabbinic Judaism, Shabbat is symbolic of the Messianic Era, when King Messiah shall reign over the earth. Many Christians also believe in the Millennium, when Yeshua will reign.

When will this Messianic Era begin? Christians often used the reckoning of James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh, Ireland, writing in the 17th Century. He placed Creation at about 4004 BCE. In that case, the Millennium should have arrived before the year 2000.

The Jewish calendar tells us that we are now **5783** years since Creation as I write this in November 2022. According to this reckoning, we would have to wait another 217 years for the Millennium to begin in the year 6000 according to the Jewish reckoning. However, there are some missing years which the Rabbis have not included in the current calendar.

We read in Genesis 15:13 that the descendants of Abraham would be enslaved for **400** years. In Exodus 12:40-41, we read: "Now the sojourning of the sons of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was 430 years. And it came to pass at the end of **430** years, even that very same day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt." This means that the Israelites had 30 years of freedom in Egypt, and 400 years of slavery.

However, according to Rashi, "The actual sojourn in Egypt lasted 210 years."³ Rashi was also a vintner. Rashi might had too much into his own wine. Torah says it was 430 years in Egypt. When there is a discrepancy between Torah and Rashi, I will go with Torah. One Rabbinic explanation for this discrepancy of 220 years is that the people of Israel had slid into such immorality during those years, that they don't even count those years. However, I will count those years. If the 220 years are added to the 5783 years since Creation (according to the Jewish calendar), then the actual year would be 6003. Obviously, the Millennium has not occurred yet. However, I feel we are closer to the Millennium than the Rabbis might have you believe.

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³ As quoted by my Schottenstein Interlinear Chumash, p. 399.

THE FAST OF ESTHER occurs on the day before Purim, the Feast of Lots. Unlike the Yom Kippur and Tisha B'Av fasts, which are observed from sunset to sunset, the Fast of Esther begins at sunrise, and ends at sunset. Of course, you would have to get up very early to have breakfast before sunrise.

It is traditional to avoid all food and beverages for the fast. This fast commemorates the time when Queen Esther (Hadassah) asked the Jews of Shushan (Susa) to fast for her before she went to see King Achashveirosh (Ahasuerus, also known as Xerxes).

We invite all friends of Israel to join us in fasting and prayer during the Fast of Esther. Israelis are facing some very real threats, and could use extra prayer. You might also have some special needs of your own to lift up to the throne of grace. In Matthew 17:21, Yeshua commends us to fasting and prayer. Fasting is also a way of putting our bodies into submission to the spirit.

Purim is usually celebrated in late February to early March. It is not a high holy day, merely a holiday. Normal work and commerce can be done at this time. Purim celebrates the victory of the Jews over their enemies as described in the Book of Esther. The assumed author is Mordecai, the older cousin of Esther. There are only two books in the Bible named after a woman, the other one being Ruth.

Esther certainly had her trials and tribulations. Both of her parents died while she was still very young. She was raised by her much older cousin Mordecai. The Jews were living in exile, away from their beloved Israel. Even Israel was under foreign domination. She is famous for winning a "beauty contest" involving beautiful girls that had been forcibly brought in from all over the Persian Empire, in order to choose a new queen to replace the disfavored Queen Vashti. Each of these virgins were brought in to the king in the evening and would go to a second harem in the morning. It doesn't sound like they had much choice. Esther "won the contest" and became the new queen. Esther was a somewhat assimilated Jewish girl who was ordered by cousin Mordecai to keep her identity secret.

Purim is celebrated as a joyous holiday today. It is traditional to eat *hamentashen* on this day, a three-cornered pastry usually filled with fruit or poppy seeds. According to various sources, they are shaped like Haman's ears, pockets, or hat. We also have the *Keriat*

HaMegilah (reading of the scroll of Esther). Many send *mishloach manot* (gifts of food to friends and relatives). Many also give *Mantot LaEvyonim* (gifts to the poor). It is also a fun holiday of merriment. Children and even adults dress up in costume. There is also the *Se'udat Purim*, the festive meal of Purim.

Haman (**BOO!**) was an enemy of the Jews who rose to a position of influence in the vast Persian Empire which extended from the border of Ethiopia to the border of India (Esther 1:1). This empire contained over 90% of the world's Jewish population. Haman hatched a plot to kill all of the Jews in one day. Today, in modern-day Persia (called Iran), their leaders are calling for the destruction of Israel "in a single storm." Does anybody really believe that Iran's nuclear program is for "peaceful" purposes only? Unfortunately, the people of Iran are ruled by evil and corrupt Islamic Fascists.

In every generation, there has been a Pharaoh, king, Inquisition, Czar, Luther, Hitler, or Ayatollah who has sought to destroy the Jewish people. However, we know that we will survive, because the Bible says so:

Jeremiah 31:35-37: "Thus saith the LORD, who gives the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, who divides the sea when the waves thereof roar; YHWH of armies is his name. ³⁶If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. ³⁷Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD."

The stars, sun, and moon are still in existence (although we don't always see them in Rochester). Therefore, God's covenant with the Jewish people is still valid. The Jewish people are still with us, even after thousands of years of persecution and exile from Israel. The 144,000 men of Revelation 7 are 12,000 out of each of the twelve tribes of Israel. When Yeshua returns, he will be returning to Israel, the nation of his people. Anyone who desires or labors to hurt or destroy the Jewish people is in fact opposing the God of Israel and the entire Universe.

Today Jews still face an onslaught of anti-Semitism. The other major threat is assimilation into secularism or into various cults. It

PURIM Thoughts

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can even be into Christianity. Like Esther, Jews can become so assimilated that most people do not even know they are Jewish. Many Jews ignore Shabbat, which is both the Jewish as well as the Biblical Sabbath. Many ignore the Holy Days give to us by God as a "perpetual statute, throughout your generations, in all your dwelling places... forever (Lev. 23)." Many have also severed their ties to the Jewish community.

Muslim immigration into Europe and the USA has also brought with it a new influx of anti-Semitism. Not all Muslims are anti-Semitic. However, usually the more religious they are, the more anti-Semitic they are. It's curious: Muslims want everybody to accept them, but are not willing to put aside their ancient hatreds against the infidels, which includes everybody who isn't a Muslim. The Sunni Muslims and Shiite Muslims also don't like each other, and both hate the Sufi Muslims. However, the biggest threat to the Jewish people is the modern nation of Persia, now called Iran.

There are degrees of anti-Semitism:

"You shall not live among us as Jews."

This would be like Antiochus Epiphanes. He loved Jews who gave up their heritage and religion, but badly persecuted and murdered Jews who clung to their religion. In later centuries, Christians would invite Jews to accept Jesus, and then not allow them to practice the faith of Jesus, which was Judaism.

"You shall not live among us." Examples of this would be the expulsions of Jews from Spain and Portugal in the late 1400s, as well as other countries that expelled their Jewish populations.

"You shall not live." An example of this would be Haman, who sought to kill every Jewish man, woman, and child. This, of course, is also the example of Hitler and the Nazi Holocaust, in which two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population was murdered.

Purim is a holiday in which masks or costumes are often worn. We pretend to be someone (or something) that we are not. We see the example of Esther, who pretended to be a Gentile, hiding her heritage. In the Book of Esther, even God wears a mask. We don't see God's name mentioned even once, whereas every other book of the Bible has God's name (YHWH) mentioned repeatedly. Even God is wearing a mask, working behind the scenes. There are no miracles, only amazing "coincidences." It was the last book to be canonized by the sages of the Great Assembly. Also, prayer is not mentioned specifically, al-

though Esther requests that the Jews of Shushan (Susa) fast for three days (Esther 4:16) before she would approach Achashveirosh, in order to persuade him to save the Jews from annihilation.

It is traditional to drink wine at Purim celebrations, because wine "removes the masks." People can often hide what they are really like, presenting something of a mask to the world. However, when they consume a couple glasses of wine, the real person often emerges, which often is not a pretty sight. This fellow who seemed so nice is really not nice at all.

Even Yeshua is hidden, wearing a Gentile mask. Christian tradition has transformed the Jewish Jesus into a highly Gentilized Jesus, often with light brown hair and blue eyes, with a halo over his head. This Jesus is a counterfeit Jesus, who has abolished the Torah ("Law"), and began a new religion called Christianity.

When Yeshua returns, it will be without the Gentile mask. When He arrived on Planet Earth almost 2000 years ago, He made it very clear that He did not come to abolish the Torah, but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17-19). When He returns, it will be to the restored Jewish nation in Israel, specifically to Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, and eventually capital of the world. The Jewish people will finally recognize Him as being their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10 to 13:1). Then will be fulfilled the words of the prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 2:2: And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. ³ And many peoples shall go and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the **Law**, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many peoples: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

We look forward to that day. Even so, come quickly, Lord Yeshua. However, it will probably become much worse before that day comes. Keep this in mind: If Haman had been successful, there would have been no Jews, no Jesus, no Judaism, no Christianity. **ן**

Birthed in Revival

We know from Scripture that the Messianic Community in Jerusalem was thriving in the first decades after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem. When Paul comes back to Jerusalem to greet the apostles, they report to him:

"On hearing it, they praised God; but they also said to him, 'You see, brother, how many tens of thousands of believers there are among the Judeans, and they are all zealous for the Torah.'" (Acts 21:20 CJB)

There are two interesting points worth noting. First, they are Torah-honoring Jewish believers. This does not mean that they necessarily followed all the traditions of Pharisaical Judaism, but that they suddenly found deep meaning in the commands and feasts that they previously only kept out of religious guilt or soulish zeal. This is reported to Paul as a *good thing*. There is no hint that they are moving away from Torah or their Jewishness, but closer.

Secondly, many translations use the English *thousands* for the Greek *myriads*. However, a *myriad* is 10,000, so *myriads* plural, as is used in this verse, is correctly *tens of thousands!* We can safely conclude that Jerusalem and the surrounding areas had upwards of 30,000 or 40,000 believers and that, from a population of about 220,000! Acts 2 records 3,000 Jews coming to faith, and shortly thereafter, they numbered 5,000. [1]

But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand. (Acts 4:4) So 20 years later in Acts 21, 30,000 to 40,000 is not farfetched at all

Revival in Tel Aviv!

In addition to Jerusalem, God was moving mightily in other areas of Israel. Certainly in the Galilee, where Yeshua was raised, the Messianic movement was growing, but also in what is now the greater Tel Aviv area. There are two miracles recorded in Acts 9 at the hands of Simon Peter. First, in Lydda (Lod today, where Ben Gurion Airport sits) a crippled man is healed. From there he travels to Joppa and raises Tabitha from the dead. Those miracles resulted in a large number of Jews coming to faith.

All those [all Jews!] who lived in Lydda and Sharon (a large area covering the plains north of Tel Aviv) saw him and turned to the Lord. (Acts 9:35) [The miracle of Tabitha being raised from the dead] became

known all over Joppa, and many people [all Jews!] believed in the Lord. (Acts 9:42)

I added [all Jews!] because at the time the Gospel was only being offered to Jews.

It was in the next chapter, sometime later, that Peter had the revelation that Gentiles could also find salvation in the Jewish Messiah.

In addition, many *Cohenim* (Temple Priests) came to faith. So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a *large number of priests* became obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7)

lern increased rapidly, and a *large number of priests* became obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7)

James the Just—Ya'akov Hazadik

The congregation continued to grow under the leadership of Jacob There were no first-century Jews named James, the brother of Yeshua. The historian Eusebius recounts Jacob's martyrdom. At the time, he was held in high regard by virtually all sects of Judaism. So much so that he was called *Jacob the Righteous*. He prayed so much that he was nicknamed 'camel-knees' because of the callouses he developed.

However, the incredible growth of the Nazarene Movement (as they were called) led to deep feelings of jealousy. Josephus tells us that the governor of Judea had died. While the new one was on his way to Judea, the chief priest, Ananus, devised a plan to get rid of Jacob.

Josephus doesn't reveal the plan in detail, but if we combine it with Eusebius, we get a clearer picture. The Pharisees requested that he come to the pinnacle of the Temple to address the Jews celebrating Passover. Interestingly enough, this is exactly where Satan took Yeshua to tempt Him (Matt. 4:5ff). Once there they challenged him to denounce Yeshua. He responded:

"Why do you ask me about Yeshua, the Son of Man? He sits in heaven at the right hand of the great Power, and he will soon come on the clouds of heaven!"

The Pharisees were furious, but the people shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" The Pharisees then ascended to the pinnacle and

The Fascinating History of the First Jewish Believers

By Ron Cantor (Part 1)

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threw him down. Jacob survived the fall and began to pray for them. "I beg of you, Lord God our Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing."

Like Stephen, they began to stone him, and finally:

A fuller (i.e., launderer) took out one of the clubs that he used to beat clothes and smashed James on the head, killing him with one blow.

Josephus puts the death of Jacob at 62 CE while Eusebius says 69 CE. If it was 62 CE, it makes sense that Hebrews were written soon after, to encourage persecuted Jewish believers to not give up. Considering that Josephus was a contemporary of Jacob, I tend to agree with him.



Flee to the Mountains

Now, this is where things start to change drastically for the Jewish believers in Israel. Yeshua had told his disciples less than 40 years prior when they see the armies surrounding Jerusalem they should flee to the mountains.

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is at hand. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let those who are in the midst of her depart. Let those who are in the country not enter therein. (Luke 21:20-21)

"The Great Revolt" took place in 66 CE when the Jews rebelled against Roman rule. The Romans responded by leveling the city and destroying the Temple in 70 CE. As many as one million Jews died all over Israel.

However, the Messianic Jews, heeding the warning of Yeshua, fled. This is most likely a dual prophecy that will have a greater fulfillment before the coming of Yeshua. The believers in Jerusalem assumed, as many of us today, that they would see the return of Yeshua. Seeing that the prophetic warnings (Matt. 24 and Luke 21) came from Yeshua as he was teaching on the end times, they were sure that His return was near.

The historian Eusebius records that they were warned by an angel to flee: "For when the city was about to be captured and sacked by the Romans, all the disciples were warned beforehand by an angel to remove from the city, doomed as it was to utter destruction. On migrating from it they settled at Pella, the town already indicated, across the Jordan." (Weights and Measures, 15)

In Pella, they waited for the coming of Yeshua. When the war ended and Yeshua had not yet returned, the Messianic Jews returned to Jerusalem where they suffered persecution from the Jews who had fought the Romans—they were labeled as traitors. Josephus estimates that over one million Jews died in the war, nearly half of Israel's population. They were many other Jews who opposed the fighting, including Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai, who we will learn about in Part 2 next week. We can only guess that they fled in 68 CE, after the revolt, but before Jerusalem's demise, and that they returned around 73 CE after the Zealots were defeated at Masada.

[1] A study was done based on Josephus' numbers and that of other historians and scholars to conclude that the best guess for the population of Jerusalem and her surrounding cities was 220,000. (Josephus and Population Numbers in First Century Palestine, Anthony Byatt

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*Cantad a Jehova toda la tierra.
Proclamad de dia en dia su salvacion.*

I Cronicas 16:23

Dear Rick ~

I have had a Biblical question for years. Perhaps in all your research, you might know the answer. In Genesis 25, we read that Abraham had more children after Sarah died. What peoples are descended from these children?

L. Forest

OUR REPLY: Your question is not just an intellectual exercise; it is a very important question. In Galatians 3:29, Rav Sha'ul (Paul) tells us, "And if you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise." This verse is often used by many Christians to 'prove' that the Church is Israel, and that God is finished with physical Israel. Keep in mind that Abraham had many other descendants that were not Israelites. You could probably also use this verse to prove that the Church is Arabia, because Arabs are descended from Abraham's son Ishmael. When Christians 'reason' that the Church is Israel, then the error of Replacement Theology creeps in, which teaches the heresy that the Church replaced physical Israel as the people of God.

When Sarah was about 76 years old, she gave up hope of ever having a child of her own. She urged Abraham to have relations with their Egyptian handmaid, Hagar. Being an obedient husband, he said, "Okay." The result of this union was Ishmael, who is generally regarded as the ancestor of most Arabs today. In Genesis 16:12, the angel of the LORD tells Sarah, "And he (Ishmael) will be a wild ass of a man. His hand will be against everyone, and everyone's hand will be against him, and he will live to the east of all his brothers." However, the land of Canaan was given to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, per Genesis 15:18; 26:3-5; 35:12.

Nevertheless, the covenant of circumcision was given to all of Abraham's descendants, including Ishmael in Genesis 17:20. Because Ishmael was circumcised at age 13, most Muslims have their sons circumcised at age 13. This is a relatively minor surgery for a baby on the eighth day. However, in Islamic cultures, circumcision is a very painful rite of passage for their 13-year-old sons. It should be noted that God has been very generous to the Arabs. They have 540 times as much land as the Jews have in Israel. That small nation called Israel belongs to the Jews. The Arabs for the most part are not happy about the Jewish

A Question About Abraham's Other Kids

Richard
'Aharon'
Chamberlin

homeland being in their midst, although that may be changing since the Abraham Accords begun under ex-President Trump. Several Arab and other Islamic nations have recognized Israel and have good relations with Israel. May it continue.

Sarah was 90 years old when she gave birth to Abraham's son Isaac. When Isaac was 60 years old, his wife Rebecca gave birth to twins: Jacob, who is the ancestor of the Israelites, and to Esau, who is the ancestor of the Edomites. The Edomites lived in what is now the country of Jordan. Since Esau was red-headed, if you come across any red-headed Jordanians, they might be the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Esau.

Abraham was 86 years old when he became the father of Ishmael. He was 100 years old when he became the father of his second son, Isaac. Abraham's wife Sarah died when she was 127 years old, per Genesis 23:1. Isaac took Rebekah as his wife when he was 40 years old, per Genesis 25:20. It was after Isaac was married that "Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. And she bore him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah," per Genesis 25:1-2. Keep in mind that Abraham was at least 140 years old when he married again. His new wife gave him at least six children! "And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac; but to the sons of his concubines,¹ Abraham gave gifts while he was still alive, and sent them away from his son Isaac eastward, the land of the east," per Genesis 25:5-6. "And these are all the years of Abraham's life that he lived, 175 years. And Abraham breathed his last, and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied (Gen. 25:7-8)." Yeah, he was satisfied. Where did he get all the energy?

Except for Isaac, all of the other descendants of Abraham settled eastward of Canaan. Family ties in Semitic cultures are very strong. To this day, it is normal in many Semitic cultures for cousins to marry cousins. Biblically, this is not forbidden. Isaac married his cousin Rebecca, and Jacob married two cousins, Rachel and Leah. The tradition continues with Arabs, Samaritans, and Sephardic Jews.

Scripture gives us some hints about the identity of these sons of Abraham and Keturah. Her first son was Zimran. Names in the

¹ Can it be that Abraham also produced children with concubines besides Keturah?

Bible (and many other cultures) **mean** something. Unlike Western cultures, names weren't chosen because "it sounds nice." The **shoresh** (Hebrew root word) for Zimran might be **zamar**, meaning "to celebrate in music and song," per Strong's 2167, 2175. With a name like that, Zimran may have been musically talented and perhaps produced musical descendants. Perhaps it might simply mean that Abraham celebrated in music and song when Zimran was born, which is why he got that name. Among the Semitic cultures of old, as well as among the Bedouins today, men bring food, drinks, and musical instruments when a baby is about to be born. If a baby boy is born, they have a great celebration. If it is a baby girl, they pack up their things and go home.

The second son of Abraham and Keturah was Jokshan, in Hebrew **Yokshan**, meaning 'insidious.' In Strong's, 3370, he is listed as an Arabian patriarch.

Abraham and Keturah may have had more misfortune with their third child, called **Medan**, meaning discord or strife, per Strong's 4090, 4091. His descendants were the Medes, who are the ancestors of the Kurds of today. The Kurds are predominantly Muslim. However, they are not considered to be Arabs. They live mostly in northern Iraq, Iran, Syria, and SE Turkey in a territory commonly called "Kurdistan," although it is not an independent nation. Traditionally they have been great war-

riors. Today, they are good people who have been denied a homeland for many centuries. There are about 25 to 30 million Kurds, who really do deserve their own nation. They have been cruelly and barbarically treated by Arabs, Turks, and Iranians for centuries.

Abe should have retired from producing more children. His next son was **Midian**, meaning 'brawling' or 'contention,' per Strong's 4066, 4079, 4090. The Midianites who descended from Midian were a curse to the Israelites, as we read in Numbers 22, 25:6, and Judges 6-7. However, Moshe's wife Zipporah and father-in-law Jethro were Midianites. Like any other group, not all were bad.

The fifth child was Ishbak (**Yishbak** in Hebrew, Strong's 3435, meaning "He will leave.") Well, I guess he left. I couldn't find any records of his descendants.

The last son was Shuah (**Shuwakh** in Hebrew, Strong's 7744, 7745, meaning sink, bow down, humble, chasm). I can't find any biblical reference to his (or her) descendants either.

We have to admire Abraham's energy in his old age. It is certainly a demonstration of Psalm 103:2-5. "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits, who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases... so that your youth is renewed as the eagle." But most of these other descendants were not a blessing to Abraham's covenant people, the children of Israel.

This is a revision of an article I published in 1988 in PT. The sons of Abraham are represented by their Hebrew names. Abraham is in the middle. The artist is a former reader of PT.



There is a growing and disturbing trend among some Bible believers to view the first eleven chapters of Genesis as divinely inspired fiction, or as a mixture of fiction and fact.

"But Daniel, how can people claim to be Bible believers if they don't believe the Bible?"

That is a good question. Here is what they seem to be saying:

They seem to believe that God intended for those eleven chapters to be included as part of the inspired canon of Holy Scripture, but they believe that God never intended for readers to understand those chapters as actual history. God never intended us to view the people in Genesis chapters 1 through 11 as people who really existed, or the events as events that actually happened. The people and the events in those stories may or may not be based on some people who actually lived, and on some events that actually happened, but God never intended for us to understand the stories as actual history.



The stories are written in a different literary style, a different genre. They are divinely inspired stories, and therefore part of God's Word, but they are not stories about events that actually happened the way they are written. They are just divinely inspired fables meant to teach us moral lessons, similar to Aesop's fables, or American Indian legends, or fables in other cultures. There was not really an actual Garden of Eden with a magical poisonous tree and an evil talking snake. After all, we know that snakes don't really talk, just as we know that vegetables don't really talk when we watch a "Veggie Tales" film that teaches a moral lesson.

GENESIS Ch. 1-11 Fact or Fiction? Does it Matter?

by Daniel Botkin

Daniel has a bimonthly publication, **Gates of Eden**. For a sample issue, send \$3 to PO Box 2257, E Peoria IL 61611-0257.

That is what they seem to be saying. I do not know where this erroneous view came from, or how long it has been around. And I do not know why some Bible believers are swallowing this idea, but it concerns me.

Why is it important to believe that the stories of Genesis chapters 1 through 11 are historically true? If we understand the moral lessons that those stories are meant to teach us, then why does it matter if we doubt or deny the historical truth of those stories? That is a good question, and I will give

an honest answer.

I reject this non-historical view for three reasons. First, I reject this non-historical view because I have no good reason to doubt the historical truth of those stories. Four times the Bible says that with God all things are possible. (See Matthew 19:26, Mark 10:27, Luke 1:37 & 18:27.)

Three times this "all things are possible" fact was stated by the Messiah Yeshua (Jesus), and once by the angel Gabriel. I'm not going to disagree with the Messiah or Gabriel. If I truly believe that with God all things are possible, then why should I doubt the historical reality of the events recorded in Genesis chapters 1 through 11?

Nothing in the text states that these stories are just fables, so why should I not believe that these events actually happened? Because snakes don't talk? If you think that a talking snake is a reason to deny the historical reality of Genesis chapter 3, then you had better also deny the historical reality of Numbers chapter 22, which says that Balaam's donkey spoke to him. And you had better also reject 2 Peter chapter 2, because Peter says that Balaam's donkey spoke with a man's voice.

A second reason I believe in the historical truth of Genesis chapters 1 through 11 is because the Prophets, the Apostles, and Yeshua Himself often referred to the people and the events in these stories, and when they spoke about them, they spoke of them as real people who actually lived and as real events that actually happened. They never once referred to any of these stories as "the *fable* of Adam and Eve," or "the *legend* of Noah's Ark," or "the *myth* of the Tower of Babel." They simply spoke about the people and the events as ac-

tual people and actual events.

My third reason for believing in the historical truth of these stories is because of the inherent danger of doubting and denying their historical truth. Let me explain.

If we say that the people and the events of Genesis chapters 1 through 11 are fables and are not historically true, then why stop at the end of chapter 11? What is the basis for saying the Bible is *not* historically true in Genesis chapters 1 through 11, but at the beginning of chapter 12 the Bible then suddenly becomes historically true?

If the stories about Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah's Ark, and Nimrod and the Tower of Babel are not stories about real people and real events, then maybe Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are also fictional characters. Maybe the story of Joseph in Egypt is just a great work of fiction. Maybe Moses was not a real person. Or if he was, maybe the Exodus and the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai didn't really happen the way the Bible says. Maybe the entire Old Testament is nothing more than a great literary masterpiece, an inspired God-given work of fiction to teach us good moral lessons.

And why stop with the Old Testament? Maybe the New Testament is likewise not his-

torically accurate. Maybe Yeshua, if He really existed, did not really rise from the dead in a literal sense. Maybe there was no real Resurrection and therefore there is no real eternal life for anyone.

The Apostle Paul wrote: "If the Messiah be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain... And if the Messiah be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins... If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (1st Corinthians 15:14 & 17).

I realize that some parts of the Bible are meant to be understood in a non-literal, figurative sense, and some of the stories can serve as allegories without denying the historical truth of those stories. I have taught about this in the past. I have an entire chapter about it in my book *Hermeneutics*. But there is no good reason to deny the literal reality of the stories in the early chapters of Genesis.

Denying the historical reality of Genesis chapters 1 through 11 is a slippery slope that can turn us into the most miserable of all men. I do not want to play around at the top of that dangerous slippery slope. I urge you to avoid it, lest you become of all men most miserable.

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THE GUARDRAIL



A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Whoever keeps commandments keeps their life,
but whoever shows contempt for their ways will die.

- PROVERBS 19:16 NIV



HOW THE ORAL TORAH WORKS

The first five books of the Bible are called the Written Torah. In addition to the Written Torah, the Jews have the Oral Torah with thousands of manmade laws that prescribe in great detail exactly how to follow the Written Torah.

Sometimes the Oral Torah provides loopholes to avoid obeying the Written Torah -- like the law that allows a Jew to "sell" all the leaven in his house to a Gentile before Passover, with the unspoken understanding that the Gentile will not remove the leaven from the Jew's house, and will "sell" it back to him after Passover.

More often, though, the Oral Torah is used to "build a fence around the Torah." This means establishing laws that will hopefully prevent Jews from even getting close to transgressing the Written Torah. God draws a line in the sand and says, "Don't cross this line." The rabbis draw another line between that line and the Jews, and say, "Don't cross *this* line. Our line will help you to not cross the line that God drew."

On a trip this past September, I drove over 2,100 miles. As I saw the constantly changing speed limits, this gave me an idea for a way to explain how the Oral Torah works.

Suppose the federal government

passed a law that said the speed limit on all interstate highways in America would be 70 MPH, and they put this law in writing. Then suppose the governor of *your* state announced the following:

"To help the citizens of our state obey the federal government's written law, our state is establishing an unwritten oral law that says the maximum speed limit on interstate highways in *our* state will be 60 MPH. Police officers have been authorized to give speeding tickets to drivers who exceed 60 MPH, and fines will be levied. This will help you to not come close to exceeding the federal government's 70 MPH speed limit. You can thank us later."

Of course no state would do that. Drivers would be outraged. Truth be told, the unwritten oral law for driving in most states is more like what Rev. Twistruth describes in the above cartoon. Even though no state legislators would pass a law like that, it is still a good illustration of how the Oral Torah works. And it also illustrates why most Bible believers do not believe that they are obligated to obey the rabbis' Oral Torah, even though they are free to use some of the rabbis' ideas if they find them helpful and edifying.

-Daniel Botkin

Daniel has a bimonthly publication, **Gates of Eden**. For a sample issue, send \$3 to: PO Box 2257, E Peoria IL 61611-0257.

Black Hebrew Israelites

StopAntisemitism.org

Kyrie Irving - an NBA player with the Brooklyn Nets - caused outrage in November with his promotion of the grossly antisemitic documentary "Hebrews to Negroes: Wakeup Black America," based on Ronald Dalton Jr.'s book series of the same name.

Both the book and film push a horrifying agenda of the Black Hebrew Israelite (BHI) lie that Black Americans are the true descendants of the biblical Israelites and that modern day Jews are imposters who stole the religious heritage of Black people, engaging in cover-ups to prevent Black people from knowing their "true" identity.

"Hebrews to Negroes: Wakeup Black America" also includes claims of global Jewish conspiracies to oppress and defraud Black people, allegations that Jews are in part responsible for the transatlantic slave trade, and the claim that Jews falsified the history of the Holocaust to "conceal their nature and protect their status and power."

Ronald Dalton Jr.'s narrative amplifies long-standing lies about Jewish power, control, and greed, including false claims that Jews control the media, and disputes the identity of modern Jews claiming they are "religious converts" who descended from the Khazars and have no historical connection to the land of Israel. Dalton uses "experts" like known antisemite Henry Ford to make his claims and falsely attributes quotes to Adolf Hitler throughout the book.

This wasn't the first time Irving promoted 'Black Hebrew Israelite' antisemitic rhetoric, tweeting in March 2021: "You better stop playing with History. You better stop lying to your people Europe and America. You better stop feeding BS to the innocent children of God. The Original people are returning, and this time God will intervene at every corner of the Earth."

On November 3rd, the Brooklyn Nets announced that Kyrie Irving would be suspended without pay indefinitely, for a minimum of five games, and until meeting certain requirements. Separately, NBA Commissioner David Silver released a statement demanding an apology from Irving.

FINALLY, after receiving an indefinite suspension without pay, criticism from advocacy groups nationwide, two botched press conferences, and a week of public outcry, Irving issued an apology. However, many critics noted the inauthenticity of the apology, specifically where Irving still managed to spread more 'Black Hebrew Israelite' antisemitic rhetoric...

As current and former NBA players began speaking up against Irving and the consequences, Nike announced it was suspending its endorsement deal with him effective immediately, noting they "condemn any form of antisemi-

ism."

We must explore beyond Kyrie Irving's promotion of the film and ask ourselves why platforms like Amazon are monetizing propaganda like this in the first place? This film denies the Holocaust, promotes Adolf Hitler, and spreads the false conspiracy that Jews controlled the African slave trade. It's nothing but revisionist history entrenched with antisemitic lies that do one thing - fuel hatred and violence against the Jewish people.

Editor's Note: I am opposed to all racism, including racism against Blacks or against Jews. However, I find it especially distasteful when Blacks promote hatred against Jews. After all, Jews, more than any other ethnic or religious group, fought and even died for Blacks to obtain their civil rights and demonstrated against racism and discrimination directed against Blacks. Rabbis also marched with Martin Luther King during his civil rights marches. Martin Luther King strongly condemned antisemitism.

The antisemitic lies being spread by Kyrie Irving are as stupid as they are evil. There is no "global Jewish conspiracy to oppress and defraud Black people." And for him to deny the Holocaust committed against millions of Jewish people is very insulting. How would Blacks feel if the world were to deny that Blacks had been sold into slavery? Both cases would be a denial of history. I believe Kyrie Irving is knowingly spreading antisemitic lies. For instance, if Jews actually controlled the media, there would not be so many evil falsehoods about Israel being spread by the media.

Black Muslims have also spread antisemitism, accusing Jews of being behind the slave trade. It should be noted that Muslims in Africa were the primary culprits in kidnapping and selling African blacks to the slave traders who brought them to the American continents. And even today, Blacks are still enslaved in some Islamic nations.

"Today, an estimate of between 529,000 and 869,000 black men, women, and children are still bought, owned, sold, and traded by Arab and black Muslim masters. The five African countries where blacks are the property of Arabs and Muslims include: Algeria (106,000), Libya (48,000), Mauritania (340,000 - 680,000), Nigeria (number unknown), and Sudan (35,000); totaling 529,000 - 869,000." **Source:**

www.iabolish.org/arabs-and-muslims-own-black-slaves-in-five-african-countries

By the way, if I were a Muslim, I would prefer to be a citizen of Israel rather than in any Islamic country. Israel has a far better record regarding civil rights for Muslims than they would find in any Islamic country. Why does the world ignore human rights violations in Islamic countries? **RAC**



MARCH 2023

אדר - ניסן 5783
ADAR - NISAN 5783

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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The new **5783 Petah Tikvah** calendars are available. They cover the period from **Sept 2022 to Sept 2023**. The cost for US readers remains **\$5 each** with free shipping and handling and **US \$7** for our Canadian friends. We ask our friends overseas to send an extra \$5 for overseas postage (**US\$10 total**). We want to ensure that everyone will be able to obtain beautiful, high-quality Jewish calendars at a low cost. In addition, prison inmates can receive a **free calendar**. However, we request that inmates send **4 stamps** (or a money order for \$2) for mailing costs.

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WELCOME!! You are invited to join us at *Petah Tikvah* for a great time of Messianic Jewish fellowshiping. Our services are every *Shabbat* ("Saturday") at 2 pm. We meet in our Fellowship Hall at 165 Doncaster Road in Brighton, a suburb of Rochester. Doncaster Road intersects with West Henrietta Road (Rt. 15) by Sunny's Family Diner at 2171 West Henrietta Rd by the traffic light.

Services begin with a time of liturgy and worship. This is followed by a time of teachings from the Scriptures. We believe that the Bible is the reliable source for doctrine. We promote a pro-Torah Messianic Jewish lifestyle for Jews and for Gentiles who have been grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree of Romans 11:17-24. We conclude our services with a time of prayer, followed by an *oneg* (eating and fellowshiping). Even if you are not Jewish or a believer in Yeshua, you will find yourself welcomed and appreciated! For more information, please call:

Rav **Richard 'Aharon' and Miriam Chalmberlin**
585- 475-1188

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Dear Richard, Miriam, & Kitty ~

What a very nice picture of your family with the kitty on the inside front cover! Miriam looks great. As I always do when I get your pamphlet, I stop my housework and read it. Use the contribution in any way you feel led.

Carole Carrara, MICHIGAN

Greetings Bro. Richard & Sis. Miriam ~

My previous address was the prison in Boley OK. We had weekly Shabbat services, and a very good and accommodating chaplain. Thanks to all for your assistance. I have been released and now live here in Texas. I truly want to thank you for all the many years of help and standing with all of the brothers and sisters who are incarcerated. Your help was worth more than you can know. I have a very good foundation and am serving the Lord daily. I am now renewing my subscription to **Petah Tikvah** and ordering a calendar with this contribution. I should have done it earlier, but it has been hectic. I will be praying for you all.

Charles Rash, TEXAS



Shalom Rav Rick ~

That picture of you, Rebbetzin Miriam, and your furry feline on the inside cover was delightful. So candid and friendly. I am sending you another article for you to consider.

Max Tuason, PHILIPPINES

Editor's Note: Max has generously contributed excellent articles which we have published in **Petah Tikvah**, such as "Conundrums of Creation" recently. We have also been advertising the great books he has published, available from www.Amazon.com

Shalom Rick ~

I was incarcerated for 23 years, Over the years, I came to faith in Yeshua as my personal Messiah. Initially, it was by the name of Jesus. For 16 years I've followed Messianic Judaism to the best of my ability and knowledge. Humbly I admit that your **Petah Tikvah** has helped immensely. I try not to bash any religions. My goal is to encourage others who are seeking to actually read the text instead of just taking the word of the per-

son behind the podium. We also must remember that the Bible was written in other languages that do not always translate well into English.

I've been on parole now for over 8 months and am doing remarkably well. That is only possible through the grace of Adonai. That's my belief, and it works for me.

Anthony Linscomb, TEXAS

Shalom Aleichem ~

My husband, Dean Wheelock, the founder of **Hebrew Roots**, has finished his earthly race (3/23/39 — 1/26/22), and was laid to rest on 2/1/22.

Since then, we have had equipment problems. We have not found a technician for repairs. We are unable to provide materials in printed form. I am pressing forward in transition to the digital system that Dean initiated. My plan is to put all of our materials on the website: HebrewRoots.net May God bless you as you seek to worship Him.

Susan Wheelock, WISCONSIN

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

Enclosed is a donation for a Jewish calendar and to renew my subscription. I just got out of prison last week after 9 years in prison. I praise Yah for giving me another chance at life, and will do my best to obey Him out here. I want to thank all of the **Petah Tikvah** brothers and sisters for being supportive of us prisoners. I thank Yah and Yeshua for your lovingkindness and mercies. You gave me strength in the hard times. Surely you are storing up treasures in heaven.

I send a shoutout to all the brothers and sisters in the T.D.C.J. and all prisons throughout the world. Stay strong, keep the faith.

Reggie Morales, TEXAS



Shalom Dr Richard & Miriam ~

May the God of Israel bless all the work of your hands abundantly for your generosity and compassion. October 12, 2022 marks 20 years since we started correspondence. I have benefited much from the teachings of **PT**, this most valuable quarterly. Your beautiful calendars are also very important for celebrating the moadim (Biblical holidays).

I am also most grateful for the ads in your magazine that introduced our work to many brothers and sisters, and provided a source of income to many destitute Bete-Israelis while they wait for **aliyah**.¹ The good news is that many Ethiopian Jews have made aliyah in recent months, often after waiting for over two decades. They had left their property in rural areas with the expectation of making aliyah in a few months. Everything works for good, because while waiting here in the urban area, their children got educated and became successful in life after making aliyah.

Daniel Belay, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

Editor's Note: Daniel has accomplished much for the Bete-Israelis (often known as **Falasha** Jews, a term that they do not like). He began a school to teach computer skills, as well as other skills that these people need to be successful in Ethiopia and Israel. The Bete-Israelis are also skilled artisans. If you would like to purchase a high-quality hand-made tallit, kippah, tallit katan, or simply a set of four tzitzit (ritual fringes), write to the address on page 63 for a catalog. When you order from this catalog, you will have the pleasure of receiving beautiful hand-crafted items at very reasonable prices while also supporting these people in earning an honest livelihood. These are also beautiful gift items.

Shalom Rick & Miriam ~

Enclosed is a donation for a subscription and calendar. I enjoy reading each issue of **Petah Tikvah**, and I send it home to my wife and kids after I read it. They enjoy reading it and discussing things at visitation and on the phone.

It is a blessing to be part of such a wonderful community. My wife is looking for a Messianic assembly close to home. Thank y'all for all you do for those of us who are incarcerated. I want to learn all that I can so I can lead my family better. I also trying to learn Hebrew. Mel Kennedy, Huntsville TX

Dear Richard & Miriam ~

I have received and consumed the latest edition of **Petah Tikvah**, and once again, congratulations are in order for yet another high-quality performance. This quarter's selection of relevant topics and timely information have provided us with hours of introspection and meaningful conversation. Each issue touches me deeply and speaks to me on an intensely spiritual level.

You made mention of the "Prodigal Son" in your article, and for obvious reasons it is one of my favorite parables. The father's reaction when he finally sees his son is amazing. Scripture says, "and he (the prodigal son) rose and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and **ran**, and fell on his neck and kissed him."

Notice that the father didn't hesitate, nor did he wait for his son to come crawling back and grovel at the father's feet. No, when the father saw his son, "he fell on his neck and kissed him." The father was so overwhelmed with joy from the return of his son that he didn't even wait to hear the well-rehearsed apology that his son had prepared. Isn't that just like our Heavenly Father? I've heard it said that if you take one step toward God that He will come across the galaxy to meet you where you are.

Tom Donahue, Danbury CT

Time for a Chuckle

An old man was laying on his death bed. With only hours to live, he notices the irresistible aroma of fresh-baked cookies coming from the kitchen. With his last bits of energy, he crawls into the kitchen and reaches for one of those delectable cookies. His wife smacks his fingers and says, "Leave the cookies alone. They are for the funeral."

A woman was arrested for shoplifting. When she went before the judge, he asked her, "What did you steal?" She replied, "A can of peaches." He asked her, "How many peaches were in the can?" She said three. The judge said, "I will give you one day in jail for each peach you stole." Her husband then chimed in, "She also stole a can of peas."

Two blondes were on opposite sides of a river. One blonde shouts to the other, "How do I get to the other side of the river?" The other blonde replied, "You **are** on the other side."

¹ This is the term for "going up" to Israel.

Dearest Rav Richard & Miriam ~

I am just one of many who are blessed by your devotion and willingness to share the truth of our Messiah and His teachings. I pray that all who take part in your ministry will be richly blessed for your efforts.

Thank you so much for responding to my question. I appreciate and respect people more when they are willing to admit that they don't have all the answers, instead of trying to lead others dogmatically according to their own biased beliefs. Your answer left me feeling fully informed and better able to decide how to move forward. It saddens me that some Biblical knowledge has been lost and/or obscured. But I am thankful that most has been accurately retained, even if often misunderstood.

Letters now have to be sent to an address in another state to be processed, scanned, and emailed back to this facility to be given to us. This is to prevent people from spraying letters with substances that can be used by inmates to get high.
James Sawyer, Spruce Pine NC

Beautiful Hebrew-English New Testaments are provided free to Jewish people. Spanish-Hebrew, Portuguese-Hebrew, Russian-Hebrew, Yiddish-Hebrew, Hungarian-Hebrew, and German-Hebrew New Testaments are **also** freely available to Jewish people who speak these other languages. All books are **hard-cover**. (Inmates might need to send a signed permission form from their chaplain to receive a hard-cover book.) Write: **Hope of Israel**, PO Box 915, Culloden WV 25510.

found my way home to the truth. I am enclosing stamps to obtain my own subscription.
Thomas Mount, Raiford FL

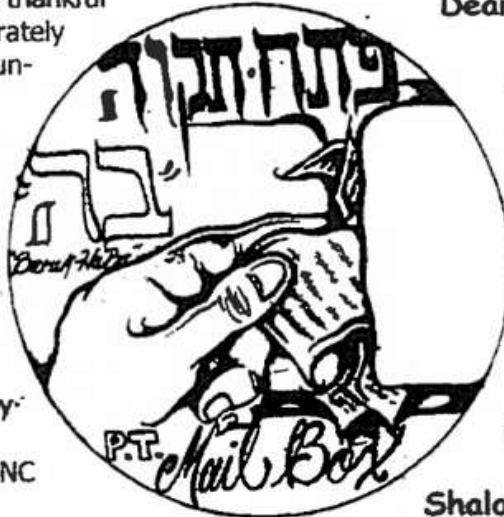
Dear Friends at PT ~

Thank you so much for the beautiful calendar. However, our facility is not allowing us to obtain grape juice for Havdalah.¹ Other faith groups get grape juice for communion, but it is denied to Messianics. Instead, we now use Grape Crush available at the canteen. It's not ideal, but it is the symbolism that counts, right? I have enclosed stamps for the Revelation commentary. I look forward to your insights.
Kelly Kerr, Las Animas CO

Dear Rav Chamberlin ~

Please accept the enclosed donation in memory of Kathy Gaylor, the bashert I never met face-to-face. Sunrise: May 15, 1948. Sunset: July 20, 2004. May YHVH bless you.
James Doyle, FL

Editor's Comment: It is interesting to note that Kathy was born on the same date and year that Israel became a nation in 1948! **RAC**



Shalom Petah Tikvah ~

Thank you for a wonderful magazine. It is a blessing to me and all others that I loan it to. I just hope that more people will see Messianic Judaism as I do, as being the most significant thing in my life. I am forever seeing more knowledge and understanding of what Messianic Judaism is about. I have enclosed stamps for my subscription.

We have between 5 and 20 people participating in our Messianic services. There are some things that I disagree with, but we should not be arguing about such things. We should focus on the things we agree on. Harry Smith, Capron VA

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

I have been reading **Petah Tikvah** magazines each time I find them on the bookshelf. They are very informative, and have taught me much about the Messiah Yeshua. I have been a member of our kehillah here at Union Correctional for a year now. I am happy that I have

Shalom ~

I have a donation for your commentary on the Book of Acts. Your commentaries on Hebrews and Revelation were very well researched and thought provoking. I've read my share of commentaries, but yours are unique to say the least. I hope you continue to write!
Shea Huffman, Lawrenceville VA

Dear Rav Chamberlin ~

Toda raba for your wonderful publication. It is a great source of information and encouragement for me and others in prison who are often isolated from the greater community of Messianic believers. I am requesting one of your calendars. May Yeshua return in our day.
David Wood, Pocahontas VA

¹ This is the ceremony marking the end of the Sabbath and festivals. Four benedictions are said over wine (or grape juice), fragrant spices, light and darkness, between Israel and the nations, and between Shabbat and the six work days.

Shalom Rick ~

I would like to receive your commentary of the Book of Acts. I understand that this book will give me a better understanding of Messianic Judaism prior to the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, as well as the Hebraic context of the Book of Acts as it would have been known for Jewish readers in the First Century.

I am so grateful to Yah, and to **Petah Tikvah**. I have read your commentaries on the books of Hebrews and Revelation. For years, I struggled to understand both. Since I've read both commentaries, I've been enlightened. Tracy Sharpe, Quincy FL

Dear Brother Rick ~

I want to thank you for sending me your magazine while I was in a California prison for 16 years. Throughout all of those years, I was blessed to come to the feet of our Lord.

It was a blessing also to come to know about the Jewish roots of my faith. Your min-

istry was of much help in my growth. I have been out of prison for over 4 months. I have been blessed, but it is not easy out here. However, God has helped me deal with a lot of stuff. I am blessing you with this donation.

Anonymous, CA

Dear Rav Chamberlin ~

Thank you very much for the Oct-Dec issue of **Petah Tikvah** magazine. As usual, this issue is informative, educative, and spiritually reviving. I look forward to receiving the 5783 Jewish calendar.

Albert Tembo, MALAWI

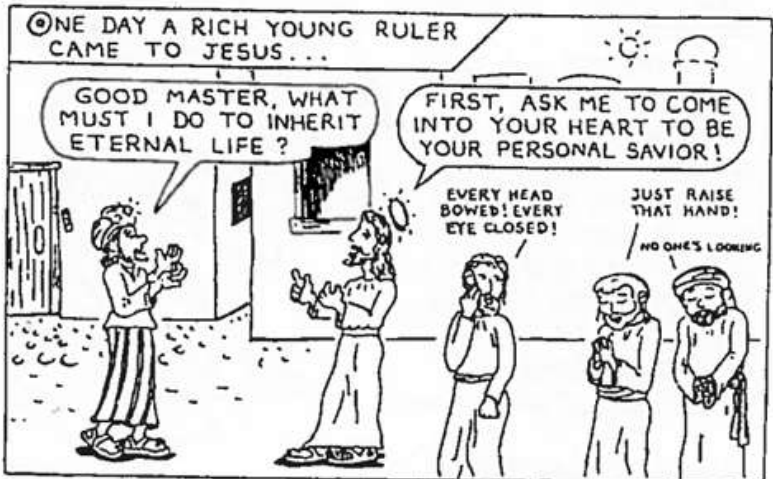
"If you will confess with your mouth Yeshua as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

Romans 10:9-10

Daniel Botkin presents

WHAT IF...?

What if Jesus had been trained for the ministry at one of our seminaries?



Daniel has a bimonthly publication, **Gates of Eden**. For a sample issue, send \$3 to PO Box 2257, E Peoria IL 61611-0257.

These are crazy times. We lost some members who were believers in crazy conspiracy theories as well as First Fruits of Zion doctrines. We continue to stand strong for truth, including the truth that Torah is for all those who are in covenant relationship with God.

Less than a hundred years ago, Christians began going around the world telling people to "pray this little prayer after me" in order to be "saved." And if you have never said this prayer, they often don't believe you are "born again." And some believe that once you say these words you have "eternal security," which not only means that you are "saved," but also that you can never lose your salvation.

It might surprise some people to learn that this little prayer, often called the **Sinner's Prayer**, is NOWHERE to be found in the entire Bible. If this prayer were essential for salvation, don't you think it should be in the Bible? I have in the past received requests from our readers to print the "Sinner's Prayer" inside each issue of **Petah Tikvah**. For various reasons, I have never done so. But now for the first time in the 40-year history of this magazine, I will print the "Sinner's Prayer." It goes something like this:

"Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus shed His precious blood and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Jesus to come into my heart and life as my personal Savior."

This is a rendition of the "Sinner's Prayer" as written in tracts produced by Chick Publications. The Sinner's Prayer isn't a bad prayer. However, merely saying it doesn't necessarily turn people into born-again believers. Also, I don't see anyplace in the Bible where we are to "ask Jesus to come into my heart."

Let me take you on an imaginary trip to the First Century. Jesus is giving his first big sermon, called "The Sermon on the Mount" to thousands of people. He gets to the end of his sermon. Then He gives an "altar call." He says, "I want everyone to close your eyes and bow your heads... Yes, that's very good. Now I want everyone who wants to accept Me into their hearts as their Savior to raise your right hand." Jesus looks around and sees the raised hands. "Very good. I see over a thousand raised hands. Now I want all of you who raised your hands to come forward as I lead you in saying the Sinner's Prayer."

That all sounds rather silly, doesn't it? But this is what many modern-day evangelists do. They invite people to "give Jesus a try." It might also be a youth pastor trying to give hope to a teenage boy. He merely has to repeat the words line by line and invite Christ into his heart. Then the pastor slaps him on

the back with a wide grin saying, "Welcome to the kingdom of God! You are now a born-again Christian!" The poor fellow doesn't know how to respond. He grins and assumes that he has it. He might even buy a Bible and go to a few Sunday morning church services. After a few months, he begins to gradually drift away.

You are probably aware of the: rich young man (Luke 18:18-22) who went to Yeshua, asking, "Good Master, **What shall I do to inherit eternal life?**"

WOW! What a great time to share the Sinner's Prayer! But what did Yeshua say to Him? "You know the commandments, 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and your mother,'" quoting some of the Ten Commandments.

In order to enter into eternal life, we have to keep the commandments? Apparently, Jesus must have flunked out of seminary. He had the opportunity to share the Sinner's Prayer, and instead tells the rich young man to keep the commandments.

The young man responded, "All these I have kept from my youth." (Luke 18:21)

Yeshua heard him and said, "You lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven. **And come, follow Me.**" Yeshua provides the way for us to enter into eternal life. He asks us to **follow Him**. That includes keeping the commandments.

"And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a **liar**, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God is not in him. But whoever keeps his word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him. The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked."

(1 John 2:3-5, NAS)

The rich young man apparently loved his riches more than he loved his fellow man. You may have heard it said, "You can't take it with you!" I have never seen a hearse going to the cemetery with a U-Haul trailer behind it. With most of us, God isn't asking us to give away all of our wealth. However, He will bless us when we pay our tithes, as He promises in Malachi 3:8-11. Give a tenth! He will "pour out a blessing for you until it overflows."

The Sinner's Prayer

Richard
'Aharon'
Chaimberlin

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

I've been able to get my hands on a few issues of **Petah Tikvah**, and your work has reinforced the things the Lord has put on my heart. I've been in solitary confinement for 3½ years – alone in a 6 X 12-foot cell – 24/7. And despite my circumstances, I'm more free today than I've ever been. The reason I've been stuck in solitary confinement is because the State of Texas has confirmed me as a member of the Aryan Brotherhood.² Today I'm an ex-member, and have no association with people like that. It's crazy to think of the person I am today in comparison to who I used to be.

I'm Messianic in faith. I believe that I am saved by grace through Yeshua, and His grace is what makes me desire to keep the Law. I've been studying the **Pentateuch & Haftarahs** with a commentary by J.H. Hertz, the **Daily Prayer Book**, and whatever I can get my hands on for spiritual growth. I honor the Sabbath from sunset on Friday to until sundown Saturday. I'm learning of all the Jewish Holy Days, and choose to observe those in faith. I do not celebrate Christmas and Easter. I have a full understanding of the historical backgrounds of how they came about, as well as to the pagan origins of Sunday being observed instead of the Sabbath.

Daniel Barnes, Huntsville TX

Rav Richard & Miriam ~

I wish I could send a larger tithing. I thank you so much for your loving ministry to all of us inside the prisons and out. I recently lost my oldest brother and his wife in a car accident. Please keep the family in prayer.

I got the song "**My Daddy Can Fix Anything**" by James Dean" onto www.Youtube.com. Please let others know, esp. Daniel Botkin.

James Dean, Grafton OH

Editor's Note: I went to www.youtube.com to hear the song mentioned above. It is indeed an amazingly good song – really good music and lyrics! It's also very pertinent to today's "throw away" culture. So much of what is thrown away can be redeemed and made useful again. There's another message there: Those behind the razor wire have been thrown away by society. Admittedly, many have committed crimes worthy of imprisonment. However, many have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and have become new creatures in Messiah Yeshua.

² A violent White Supremist group.

God is using them even behind bars. They can also be productive members of society when they are released from prison. **RAC**

GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS

The Bad News is that your condition is terminal. **You are going to die.** You are infected with Sin, a disease that infects and kills every single person who lives on this planet. And after you die, you will stand before your Maker and give an account of what you did or did not do about your sinful condition. If you do nothing, and just let Sin take its course in your life, you will suffer eternal judgment in a place the Bible calls the lake of fire.

The Good News is that God has provided a Remedy for Sin. This Remedy delivers people from the punishment that they deserve for Sin, so they do not need to go into everlasting fire. This Remedy also delivers people from the power of Sin, so they can quit living a sinful life and start living a holy life. Ultimately, God will deliver His people from the very presence of Sin when His Son returns to earth.

God's Remedy is embodied in His Son, whose Hebrew name is Yeshua. Most English speakers know Him as Jesus Christ. He is the only person who was born of a woman without being infected with Sin. Through His sacrifice on the Cross, your sins can be forgiven and the power of your sinful desires can be broken. When you turn away from your sins and trust in Yeshua, God forgives you and accepts you as His child. Then instead of suffering the curse of everlasting fire, you will have eternal life. Source: WWW.GATESOFEDEN.ONLINE

Toda raba! I want to thank our readers for the great encouragement you have been to us here at Petah Tikvah. Many have nothing more to give than their prayers and kind words, for which we are very grateful. There are also those who give generous donations, which enable us to reach many others. **RAC**

Note to our readers:

Some of our readers were interested in obtaining the book **Beyond Death's Door** by Dr. Maurice Rawlings, regarding "life after death" experiences as told by people who had been resuscitated from being clinically dead, some of whom had experienced horrifying experiences in what can be described as "hell" and others who experienced Paradise. I wrote an article on this topic in the Oct–Dec 2022 issue of **Petah Tikvah**. I supplied the website www.thriftbooks.com. Our readers in prison are not able to order online, and wanted a physical address. Here it is:

Thrift Books, 4445 Rock Quarry Rd Ste. 100
Dallas TX 75211

Keep in mind that Thrift Books does not normally work with orders through the mail. If ordering the book mentioned above, you will need to mention the title and author. I suggest sending \$10. Better yet, ask a friend to order it online.

Dear Richard & Miriam ~

I always look forward to the day when the new issue of **Petah Tikvah** arrives! You have a ministry that does so much good in His name—a blessed ministry. But you sometimes speak ill of anti-Semitism. Is it not proper to hate those detestable Jews who murdered our blue-eyed Greek Savior? Do you actually question the depiction of Him provided to us by the infallible Catholic church?

A note to those who are deceived: The Messiah was a Jew from the tribe of Judah, born of a Jewish virgin with a genealogy of Jews listed in Scripture (Luke 3:23-38). You are right to condemn any and all antisemitic sentiment. I stand with you on that point, and many, many others.

We believers must stand up in defiance of all hatred and violence, especially that directed toward the Father's chosen people who wrote and preserved the sacred Scriptures for us to have today! Yahweh will bless those who bless the Jews and curse those who curse them. Period. (Genesis 12:3; 26:4; Numbers 24:9; etc.)

Again, I commend you for your courage to declare the truth. Keep up the good work. I will keep up the prayers for you both and your ministry. Thank you also for another great calendar!

M. Jim Watkins, Sterling CO

Editor's Note: The first paragraph at the top is a demonstration of Jim's great sense of humor!

A Question About Dietary Requirements:

Dear Rabbi Chaimberlin ~

Our small Messianic Jewish group here is faithful to Yeshua. We also fellowship with some Christians who love Yeshua, but in a different way. I ask that your readers pray for our leaders.

What is your take on the kosher laws of Leviticus 11 when viewed with Yeshua saying that what goes into a man's mouth cannot make him unclean in Mark chapter 7?

Matityahu Essene, Jarratt VA

OUR REPLY: Mark chapter 7 is a favorite for Christians who love eating unkosher meats. In verse 2 we read about Yeshua's talmidim (disciples) eating bread with unwashed hands. Some Pharisees come by and criticize the talmidim for eating bread with unwashed hands, "holding to the tradition of the elders." This has nothing to do with cleanliness. This refers to the ceremonial cleansing of hands. The water is poured from a pitcher with one hand washing the other. Then the pitcher is transferred to the other hand and water is poured over the hand that has not been washed yet. At the same time, a Jewish blessing is said, which in English is, "Blessed art Thou,

Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with your commandments, and has commanded us regarding the washing of hands." Israeli restaurants, often have a fountain with a two-handed pitcher for ritual washing of hands.

It should be noted that there is no scrubbing of hands together, and no soap is used. If the hands had been dirty before, they would still be dirty after the rabbinic "washing of hands."

The Pharisees asked Yeshua, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"

In Mark 7:6-7, Yeshua responds by quoting Isaiah 29:13: "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. In vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men." Then Yeshua added, "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

In Mark 7:15, Yeshua said, "There is nothing from without a man which goes into him that can defile him. But the things which proceed out of a man are what defile a man." It should be noted that Yeshua's talmidim were eating bread, nothing unkosher. However, because they had not done the ritual washing of hands, the bread became unkosher in their eyes.

Yeshua never spoke against observance of Torah. He made that very clear in Matthew 5:17-18: "Think not that I have come to abolish the Torah or the prophets. I have not come to abolish, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one jot or tittle shall in any way pass from the Torah until all be filled." He certainly did not tell his disciples that it was now okay to eat pork or shellfish. **RAC**

Shalom, and again I say Shalom ~

Just a note to let you know that I have received the calendar that I requested. Man, this calendar is beautiful!! It's also a teaching tool, a true blessing. Toda raba!

I am also enclosing stamps for the commentaries on Matthew, Acts, Hebrews, and Revelation.
George Mariette, Lamesa TX

Dear Brothers ~

Please cancel my subscription. I am about to be released. Your magazine has been a blessing to me, very informative. I really enjoyed reading it. Thanks for all the hard work you go through in putting out this valuable magazine. HaShem bless you all. Mejia Molina, McRae GA

Editor's Note: We much appreciate this notification. It helps us to be wise stewards. We also appreciate being informed of address changes.

Messianic Jewish Commentary on the Book of Matthew

We now have a new commentary available to you. It is a very comprehensive 160 page commentary on the Book of Mattityahu (Matthew). It is in the same format you see in **Petah Tikvah** Magazine, so it is very densely packed with information. Unlike most Matthew commentaries, it is not written from a Christian perspective. Instead, this book restores the original Hebraic and Jewish context as this book would have been understood by Matthew's Jewish readers in the First Century C.E.

Scattered within its pages are some Reverend Twistruth cartoons by Daniel Botkin, as well as other good Biblical artwork. It is beautifully printed and bound. The beautiful cover art (front and back) has been done for us by Bryan Picken. He has also done the cover art for **Petah Tikvah** Magazine for the past decade from his prison cell in Michigan. He is being released from prison in 2019. Please keep him in prayer! The cost of this commentary is \$12, no extra cost for shipping and handling. (The cost for inmates is 10 forever postage stamps, or \$5 M.O.) This will be a very worthwhile addition to your biblical library, and will provide you with many hours of enjoyable study into the Scriptures. Request this book when you write your check, made out to:

Petah Tikvah, 165 Doncaster Rd, Rochester NY 14623-1348.



Do NOT order this book from Petah Tikvah.

This book: ***Not Under the Law: Paul and the Truth*** shows in a concise, common-sense manner what Paul meant (and could not have meant) by the phrase, "not under the law." You will want to share it with all of your Christian friends and family.

This little book has a direct but gracious tone, and is packed with Scripture. It quickly and thoroughly covers all the essential points of contention: Paul's intent, Jesus' view of the law, the "end" of the law, the schoolmaster, consistency of interpretation, unclean meats, the decision in Acts 15, and many other relevant questions.

Normally \$8 plus \$4 shipping, mention Petah Tikvah and get two books for the price of one. Bulk orders in lots of 10 are \$60 plus \$4 shipping. **Prison inmates may request a free copy.**

www.RockFoundationRanch.com

Order online or by check payable to:

Jodi Smith, 30504 CSAH 25,
Grove City, MN 56243

(Recommended to our readers! RAC)

Religion Trumps Politics

By **Bobby Miller** www.nationalreview.com

Just when you thought the media were finally fed up with the banality of Donald Trump's absurdist shtick, he ups the ante. As you were enjoying Thanksgiving with your family in November, the former president was dining with two notorious antisemites: deranged Kaye West, known as "Ye," and Holocaust-denying white supremacist Nick Fuentes. Embroiled in a scandal yet again, Trump is back where he wants to be: dominating all the headlines in the mainstream press and sucking up all the oxygen in the room of American politics...

Luckily, one bright spot may have emerged out of all this mishegoss (Yiddish for 'trash'). The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), a Jewish pro-Israel organization that has remained enthusiastically supportive of Trump through thick and thin, appears to have drawn a line. The group, which recently awarded Trump with the Theodor Herzl Gold Medallion in recognition of Trump's support for Israel while he was president, denounced him for his "friendly dinner with such vile antisemites." In a statement, ZOA president Morton Klein said Trump's "dining with Jew-haters helps legitimize and mainstream antisemitism and must be condemned by everyone."

This is a welcome sign. Far too often, we've seen self-professed believers put their politics before their faith. This trend is worrisome not only in the way it inverts temporal and sacred. It's one of the primary drivers of the decline of religion in the West. When religion and politics become superfluous, politics always wins out because why bother performing traditional rituals if you can fulfill your religious obligation by demonstrating ideological purity and prostrating yourself before political iconography? The ZOA's steadfast refusal to sacrifice its religious identity at the altar of politics here is refreshing and worthy of commendation.

Editor's Note: The source for this article is **The National Review**, a very good and politically conservative organization, as is the ZOA. As of this writing, Donald Trump has refused to apologize for his lunch with these antisemitic extremists, nor has he condemned them. He simply noted with pleasure that "they like me." Apparently, nothing else matters. Likewise, he called the insurrectionists who invaded the Capitol Building on January 6, 2021 "patriots." These were traitors seeking to prevent the peaceful transfer of power from one president to another. **RAC**

'Disgrace': UN Votes to Commemorate Palestinian 'Nakba' Surrounding Israel's Birth

John Waage CBNNEWS.COM

The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution on December 1st by a 90-30 vote to commemorate the Palestinian "Nakba" or day of catastrophe coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the birth of modern Israel in 1948. Israel's UN Ambassador Gilad Erdan called the vote a "disgrace." The US, Australia, the UK and Canada were among the nations that joined Israel in voting against the resolution.

The Palestinian-sponsored resolution supports "a commemoration of Nakba (catastrophe), including by organizing a high-level event at the (UN) General Assembly Hall," in May, 2023, which will also mark the 75th anniversary of Israel's reestablishment as a nation.

It also calls for "relevant archives and testimonies" supporting the Palestinian narrative of the 1948 events. Egypt, Jordan, Senegal, Tunisia and Yemen co-sponsored the resolution with the Palestinians. Egypt and Jordan were two of the nations which attacked Israel immediately after it declared independence.

In the debate before the vote, Erdan asked the assembly, "What would you say if the international community celebrated the establishment of your country as a disaster? What a disgrace." He added, "The Palestinians' lies must no longer be accepted on the world stage, just as this body must stop allowing the Palestinians to continue pulling its strings. I urge you all to stop blindly supporting the Palestinians' libels."

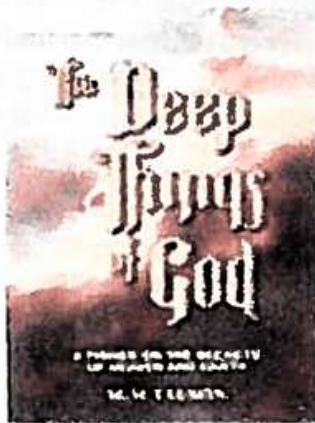
Ukraine, which angered Israeli leaders by supporting a Palestinian UN resolution last month, while simultaneously asking Israel for defensive weapons systems, did not vote on this resolution. Other nations such as Egypt and Jordan, which have relations with Israel, supported the Palestinians. They include Azerbaijan, Bahrain and Morocco.

While the Palestinians demand displays and exhibits concerning the (very few) Palestinians' expulsion from their homes during the 1948 war, Israel unveiled its own display telling the story of Jews who were expelled from countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

Those Jews, Erdan insisted, "did not revolt against the international community's decision. They did not try to annihilate another people. Their only crime was being Jewish. This is the true Nakba. This is the disaster carried out against the Jewish people and this is the disaster that this body has ignored for decades."

The General Assembly also voted for 3 other pro-Palestinian resolutions December 1st including one calling on Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights. Israel annexed the Golan in 1981.

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THIS paper is about a Holocaust hero named Chiune Sugihara. At the beginning of World War II, Sugihara saved six thousand Jews who were trying to escape Nazi cruelty. His courage and bravery is now praised by thousands of Jews. Many tributes have been made to Sugihara, who has been recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations."

Chiune Sugihara was a Japanese consul in Lithuania whose bravery is praised by many Jewish people. He risked his career and his future to save six thousand Jews in the beginning of World War II. Sugihara gave Jews entry visas, which was against the order of the Japanese government. Because of his actions, he lost his job and respectability in much of Japanese society (Foster).

Chiune Sugihara was born on January 1, 1900, in Yaotsu, Gifu Pref., and died on July 31, 1986. As a young man in junior high school, he was good at English and hoped to be an English teacher. As an adult, Sugihara was interested in foreign ideas, religion, philosophy and language. He married a Caucasian woman named Yukiko, who helped him greatly in saving the Jews. Sugihara was raised in the strict Japanese code of ethics in a samurai family. He learned the virtues of the Japanese society, which included love for the family, for the sake of the children, duty and responsibility, or obligation to repay a debt, and not to bring shame on the family. Internal strength and resourcefulness and withholding of emotions on the surface, were other virtues Sugihara learned and displayed in his attempted to rescue the Jews. These virtues were strongly enforced by Sugihara's middle-class rural samurai family (Saul).

The German invasion of Poland filled Lithuania with Jewish refugees who were escaping from Hitler's advancing troops. In order for the fugitives to escape, they needed transit visas. Without these visas it was dangerous to travel, and it was impossible to find countries willing to issue them ("Sugihara").

On a summer morning in late July, 1940, consul Sugihara awakened to a crowd of Jewish refugees gathered outside the consulate. The refugees knew that their only path lay to the east and if Sugihara would grant them Japanese transit visas, they could obtain exit visas and race to possible freedom. Sugihara needed permission from the Japanese Foreign Ministry; otherwise, he had no authority to issue out hundreds of visas. But permission

chiune Sugihara: Japanese Hero

**Veronica
Green**

was denied three times by the Japanese government. Now Sugihara was faced with a difficult decision. He had to make a choice that would probably result in extreme financial hardship for his family in the future. He also knew that if he went against the orders of his government, he might be fired and disgraced, and never work for Japan's government again (Saul).

Sugihara made a decision based on the hundreds of desperate Jews lined up outside the consulate. He disobeyed the Japanese government and forged documents to help the refugees to safety (Kelly). Sugihara and his wife wrote over three hundred visas a day, which would normally be done in one month by the consul. He did not even stop to eat because he chose not to lose a minute. People were standing in line in front of his consulate day and night for these visas. After getting their visas, the refugees lost no time in getting on trains that took them to Moscow, and then by trans-Siberian railroad to Vladivostok. They had escaped the death camps and the Holocaust all together (Saul).

In 1945, the Japanese government informally dismissed Chiune Sugihara from the diplomatic service and his career was shattered. Then Sugihara and his family were forced to leave Lithuania and go to Romania. In Romania, as punishment for his illegal actions, he was imprisoned for two years. When he returned to Japan, he was in disgrace. He worked at odd jobs to support his family (Kelly). Sugihara never spoke about his dismissal because it was too painful for him. He also never spoke about his deeds. Donald Gartman, director of the United Jewish Federation of Utah, said Sugihara obeyed his conscience about what he thought was the right thing to do and not the directives of his country (Foster). He had the power to produce effects of his efforts. For example, even as he was on the train that was pulling away from Lithuania on his way to prison, he was still signing papers as fast as he could and throwing them out of the window (Kelly).

Forty-five years after signing the visas, he was asked why he did it. Sugihara liked to give two reasons: one, that these refugees were human beings, and the other, that they simply needed help. Sugihara believed in God and chose to disobey his government rather than disobey God. He deserves to be honored and remembered, and many people, especially the thousands of Jewish who were rescued, owe

their lives to this Japanese man and his family. Chiune's heroism was left unnoticed for more than twenty years. Despite the difficult decision he made, he never claimed any type of reimbursement. Tributes have been made and many Jews are proud of his heroic efforts. Sugihara has been recognized as Righteous Among the Nation' by the Yad Vashem Martyrs Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem. Along with this recognition a tree was planted in his name at Yad Vashem (Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem), and a park in Jerusalem was named in his honor (Saul).

Heroes who resisted Nazi cruelty were under lots of pressure on what decisions they should take to save Jews. If they were caught they would probably face imprisonment, execution, or be sent to the death camps. Chiune Sugihara didn't fear any of these punishments. All he wanted was to rescue desperate Jews who asked for his help. I believe Sugihara's rare courage came from the morals he learned from his Japanese family, and also from his strong belief in the universal God of all people. Moreover, his story shows us how the Holocaust was a nightmare that no one wanted to live through. Sugihara made the right decision to follow his heart and conscience to do the right thing. Many more Jews would have died if Sugihara had not been there for them.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Getting the visas was just the first part in a long and treacherous journey for those Jews who were fortunate enough to get the visas. They then traveled thousands of perilous miles through eastern Europe, Russia, and into Siberia, escaping the invading Nazi army. Eventually, they ended up in Shanghai, China. Most of coastal China was under Japanese occupation. There was already a small Jewish community in Shanghai that had been established in 1861 by Jewish merchants. The Japanese were incredibly brutal toward the Chinese. During the Japanese occupation, 12 million Chinese were brutally murdered by Japanese soldiers. However, the Jewish refugees were treated quite well by the occupying Japanese army, despite the fact that Japan was an ally of Nazi Germany during World War II.

Many of these Jewish refugees eventually went to Kobi, Japan, where again they were treated quite well. Curiously, Japanese government officials had read the anti-Semitic Czarist forgery called *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, in which Jews were supposedly conspiring to take over the world. In most countries, this provoked (and contin-

ues to provoke) hatred toward the Jews. However, among the Japanese, it provoked admiration that a relatively small population group such as the Jews would be able to possibly take over the world. Apparently, they wanted the Jews as their allies in their own imperial schemes. (In actuality, it is hard to imagine Jews being unified enough to carry out such schemes such as *Learned Elders* would have us believe. You know the expression: Two Jews, three opinions.) These Jewish refugees established thriving Jewish communities in Shanghai and Kobi, along with synagogues, in both cities, despite all the difficulties of language and cultural barriers. After the war, most of these Jews departed to other locations.

In the early 1980's, Sugihara finally went to Israel, where he received a hero's welcome.

RAC

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"AFTER MASANBU"

Artwork by Kristin Volk

The Missionary Who Built Jerusalem's Ultra-Orthodox Neighborhood

By David Lazarus www.israeltoday.co.il

When **Conrad Schick** arrived in Jerusalem he never could have imagined that he would design the neighborhood that would become home to Jerusalem's most exclusive and sequestered ultra-Orthodox Jewish community.

Born in southern Germany, Schick was sent in 1846 at the age of 24 to Jerusalem by a Swiss Protestant Church organization to be a missionary in the Holy Land. The plan was to set up "brotherhoods" of Christian communities from Jerusalem all the way down to Ethiopia and across North Africa.

Schick soon became more interested in the archaeology and architecture of the Holy City, Jerusalem, than the mission. Without any formal education in archaeology or architecture (he worked, like Jesus, as a carpenter), he roamed the streets and alleyways of the city investigating, uncovering and recording vast amount of details about Jerusalem. Among many other finds, his wanderings led him and two young Arab boys to discover the famous First Temple period inscription inside King Hezekiah's tunnel that feeds water from the Pool of Siloam into the city.

Schick was permitted to conduct research on the Temple Mount, which was generally off-limits to foreigners. It is said of him that he was "loved by Jews, Muslims and Christians alike." Using his carpentry skills, Schick constructed three dimensional models of the Temple Mount and other important structures in the city that are still preserved and used for mapping out explorations until this day. Schick also designed many of the landmark buildings in the city, including hospitals and an Anglican Church all still in use today. Due to his tremendous natural skills in architecture and design, despite lacking any formal education, some have called Schick the "Leonardo di Vinci of Israel."

Over time and with the support of a society including Jewish and Christian philanthropists and entrepreneurs, a piece of land outside the Old City was purchased in order to provide a solution to the severe overcrowding and poor sanitation conditions of the poorest of the poor Jews who lived within the walls of Jerusalem, most of them being ultra-Orthodox Jews. The society turned to Schick to design a sample neighborhood without salary, an enterprise he was more than happy to undertake. Schick saw it as his Christian duty to do whatever he could for the poor

and needy of the city he had come to love, and where he ended up living for over 50 years.

The neighborhood designed by Schick was called *Mea Shearim*, a "hundredfold" in Hebrew, a term derived from a verse from Genesis, which happened to be part of the weekly Torah portion that was read the week the settlement was founded: "Isaac sowed in that land, and in that year he reaped a hundredfold (*mea shearim*) God had blessed him" (Genesis 26:12). Established in 1874, *Mea Shearim* is one of the oldest Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem, and is populated exclusively by ultra-Orthodox Jews.

It might come as surprise to the current residents of *Mea Shearim* to learn that their homes and neighborhood were designed, and built, with eager Christian hands. Surely it was Schick's hope that the love of Jesus Christ his Lord, and the Christian Gospel, would somehow penetrate the hearts of the people who were to finally find a home and community where they could settle within their promised Jerusalem.

Book review from Amazon:

Jews and Power

Author: **Ruth Wisse**

Taking in everything from the Kingdom of David to the Oslo Accords, Ruth Wisse offers a radical new way to think about the Jewish relationship to power. Traditional Jews believed that upholding the covenant with God constituted a treaty with the most powerful force in the universe; this later transformed itself into a belief that, unburdened by a military, Jews could pursue their religious mission on a purely moral plain. Wisse, an eminent Harvard professor of comparative literature, demonstrates how Jewish political weakness both increased Jewish vulnerability to scapegoating and violence, and unwittingly goaded power-seeking nations to cast Jews as perpetual targets.

Although she sees hope in the State of Israel, Wisse questions the way the strategies of the Diaspora continue to drive the Jewish state, echoing Abba Eban's observation that **Israel was the only nation to win a war and then sue for peace**. And then she draws a persuasive parallel to the United States today, as it struggles to figure out how a liberal democracy can face off against enemies who view Western morality as weakness. This deeply provocative book is sure to stir debate both inside and outside the Jewish world. Wisse's narrative offers a compelling argument that is rich with history and bristling with contemporary urgency.

Cost of this book from Amazon: \$16 + S&H

The seeds of anti-Semitism are manifested in the Gospels,¹ the writings of the Church fathers, and the dogma of the papacy. Consider the stance of the Church vis-à-vis our houses of worship, our people, and our way of life. For centuries our synagogues were referred to in the most pejorative terms.

Constantine the Great called them "brothels." The Italian priest **Jerome**, one of the early fathers of the Church, described them as "synagogues of Satan." He later was canonized as a saint. Another saint, the archbishop of Constantinople **John Chrysostom**, called the synagogue a "place of prostitution, a den of thieves."

Consider that our people were charged with the crime of deicide (killing God). Saint **Augustine** declared that the Jew was condemned to perpetual servitude and dispersal for slaying Jesus. The Jew was depicted as Cain the murderer, consigned to wander from country to country, suffering all forms of humiliation and oppression.

Our holy books were plundered and burned, our sacred literature mutilated and confiscated. We were expelled from country after country that felt the unconverted Jew polluted Christian society, just as later the racial Jew polluted German society.

Toward the end of the fifth century, Pope Gelasius (sainthood would be bestowed on him as well) instituted the Good Friday prayer in which the Jew was described as "perfidious." It was only with the advent of Pope John XXIII in our own day that the term was deleted.

Easter in particular became a time of tragedy for our people. Terror, lynchings, and pogroms were the product of this holiday season. "Kill the Jews" was the rallying cry on the streets of Europe.

Even more heinous were the sordid blood libels that accused the Jews of murdering Christian children and using their blood in the baking of matzah. We lived in fear each Pass-

¹ It is the author's opinion that the Gospels were anti-Semitic. However, the Gospels were written by Jews to Jews, and were not anti-Semitic, although anti-Semites have misused these Jewish Gospels against the Jewish people. However, it cannot be denied that the "Church Fathers" (from 300 CE onwards) were anti-Semitic.

A Sad and Painful History

by **Esther Jungreis**

- a daughter of the Jewish people, a graduate of Bergen-Belsen, and heir to Israel reborn. 1936 - 2016. www.hineni.org
This is part of a letter written by Rebbetzin Jungreis in 1974 to a Roman Catholic priest, who was demanding an apology from her for her comments about the Catholic Church's long history of anti-Semitism, in which she made reference to "Princes of the Church, cloaked in their vestments of hypocrisy."

over season, wondering which community would be wiped out next.

Throughout Europe these hideous libels persisted and gave rise to the persecution of innocent Jews. Shrines and churches were erected to the "martyred children" whose blood allegedly was used for matzah.

Jews were portrayed as aligned with Satan, possessed of demonic powers. Jews were charged with poisoning wells and spreading the plague. Jews were characterized as economic exploiters.

Even in the world of the arts Jews were portrayed in the most shameful manner. Paintings and sculptures, Byzantine dramas and passion plays, portrayed Jews as monstrous and demonic, as sly and cunning Christ killers.

Our way of life became a travesty. In 1555 Pope Paul IV ordered the Jews of Rome to live in a ghetto and wear a

badge of shame that would make them readily identifiable. Numerous other European cities confined Jews to ghettos and forced them to endure every form of indignity.

Hitler had to improve but little on the protocols of Church leaders. He simply echoed the medieval Christian stereotype of the Jew as a criminal, a parasite - evil incarnate. He revived book burning, ghettoization, and exclusion of Jews from the normal economic and cultural life of society, from schools and public affairs. He borrowed the medieval use of the Jewish badge.

Yes, the German extermination of Jews was the logical extension of 2,000 years of anti-Jewish tradition initiated and nourished by the Catholic Church. By the time of the Holocaust it was no longer necessary to kill Jews one by one or to burn them at the stake. Now factories of death could harness technology in the service of genocide.

Perhaps you will protest that the Church cannot be condemned for the Nazis' savagery. But the fact is that while our people were being systematically slaughtered, the Princes of the Church in their vestments of hypocrisy remained silent. Yes, there were individuals who dared to go against the tide, Christians who risked their very lives to save Jews.

The great humanitarian who later became

Pope John XXIII tried his best to save Jews. While he was papal nuncio in Turkey, he asked for an audience with Pope Pius XII in order to try to save several hundred Jewish children in Bratislavia, Czechoslovakia. The pope would not grant him an audience and the children ended up in the gas chambers.

I believe hypocrisy is actually a mild word when you consider that Princes of the Church and many among their flock either condoned by silence or assisted as willing participants in the mass extermination of the Jews.

And should you argue that the Church was impotent in the face of Hitler's organized madness, I would only remind you that the Church vigorously combated the Nazis' euthanasia campaign and managed to put a stop to that horror. The Church also succeeded in protecting so-called non-Aryan Catholics (Catholics of Jewish descent or birth.)

But there never was an open condemnation of the Nazis' genocidal intentions regarding the Jews. Nor were Nazi butchers of the Catholic faith excommunicated. Let us understand that nearly 80 percent of the population of Nazi-occupied Europe fell under the sway of the Church of Rome, but the exterminators were never even threatened with excommunication.

In the decades since the Holocaust, some Church leaders themselves have recoiled at the ghastly silence. Perhaps the most eloquent testimony was delivered by Boston's Cardinal Cushing, who in a speech in 1964 said:

"I ask whether we ought not to confess humbly before the world that Christians too frequently have not shown themselves as true Christians in their relations with their Jewish brothers. How many have died because of the indifference of Christians, because of the silence? If not many Christian voices were lifted in recent years against the great injustices, let our voices humbly cry out now."

Israel's Redemption

In 1948, on the heels of the worst catastrophe in our long history of catastrophes, the Jewish people reestablished a sovereign state in their biblical homeland – just as Holy Scripture had promised. In response, the Vatican's newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, declared that "Modern Israel is not the true heir of biblical Israel. Therefore the Holy Land and its sacred sites belong to Christianity, the true Israel."

When Pope Paul VI made his historic pilgrimage to Israel in 1964 he never once referred to the state by name. Why? Why was the papacy silent when Jews were forbidden by the Jordanian government from praying at the Holy Wall?

Why was the Vatican silent when the tombstones of our sages were desecrated and used as latrines? Why was the pope silent while Jewish sacred sites in Jerusalem were being demolished (by the Jordanian occupation)?

In the ominous days before the Six-Day War, when many hoped against hope that the Church of Rome would use its influence on behalf of Israel, why did the Vatican content itself with issuing vague statements that glibly spoke of peace?

But as we know, a great miracle occurred and David defeated Goliath. The very earth trembled with wonder and Jerusalem became ours again. And may I remind you that the valiant soldiers of Israel risked their lives and in many cases lost them in order to protect your churches and shrines.

It is truly ironic, then, that the silence of the Church was broken only when Jerusalem became Jewish again. It was only then that the pope found his voice and demanded the "internationalization" of the Holy City.

Could it have been that the resurrected state of Israel posed a fundamental threat to Catholic dogma? After all, hadn't the Church insisted since its inception that the Jews would wander the earth, banned from the Holy Land, until they accepted the "true savior"?

It is truly unfortunate that our blessed homecoming after two millennia embarrassed the Church and upended its theology. But as much as we would like to accommodate Rome, we shall never again depart from our land.

You believe in God and in His Bible. So surely you are aware that today you are witnessing the deliverance of the Children of Israel, wrought with trials, signs, and wonders.

Through the great miracles and mercy of God we have returned to our land. After 2,000 years the world beholds the dawn of Israel's redemption. No, I'm afraid I cannot apologize. Not after 2,000 years of unremitting oppression and torture. God will judge. All I can do is hope and pray that the evil will not be repeated.

Nevertheless, let us forever bury the hatreds of the past so that we may usher in the day when all men shall dwell together in universal peace and, as the prophet Isaiah (11:6) states: "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox." Let us prepare for that great day as we stand before our Creator. n

PAUL, WRITING TO 1ST-CENTURY CHRISTIANS...



Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. *Philippians 4:8*

21ST-CENTURY CHRISTIANS TODAY BE LIKE...



Daniel has a bimonthly publication, **Gates of Eden**. For a sample issue, send \$3 to PO Box 2257, E Peoria IL 61611-0257. Cartoons on pages 11 and 18 are also by Daniel Botkin. We recommend **Gates of Eden** to our readers. The cartoon above is an excellent illustration of the various wild conspiracy theories that are keeping millions of people in bondage and fear, including many people of faith.

"It's Jewish"

Author Unknown

When we present G-d's Holy Law,
And arguments from Scripture draw,
Objector's say, to pick a flaw,
'It's Jewish.'

Though at the first Jehovah blessed
And sanctified His Holy Day of rest,
The same belief is still expressed,
'It's Jewish.'

Though with the world this rest began,
And thence from all Scriptures ran,
And Yeshua said "twas made for man"
'It's Jewish.'

Though not with Jewish rites which passed,
But with the Moral Law 'twas classed,
Which must exist while time shall last,
'It's Jewish.'

If from the Bible we present
The Sabbath's meaning and intent,
This answers every argument-
'It's Jewish.'

Though the disciples, Luke and Paul,
Continue still this rest to call
The 'Sabbath Day,' this answers all,
'It's Jewish.'

The Gospel teacher's plain expression,
That "Sin is of the Law transgression,"
Seems not to make the least impression-
'It's Jewish.'

They love the rest of man's invention,
But if Jehovah's Day we mention,
This puts an end to all contention,
'It's Jewish.'

O ye who thus G-d's Day abuse,
Simply because 'twas kept by Jews,
The Savior, too, you must refuse,
He's Jewish.

The Scriptures, then, we may expect
For the same reason you'll reject;
For if you will but recollect,
They're Jewish.

Thus the apostles, too, must fall;
For Andrew, Peter, James, and Paul,
Thomas, Matthew, John, and all
Were Jewish.

So to your helpless state resign
Yourself in wretchedness to pine;
Salvation, surely you'll decline,
It's Jewish.

Congregants Forced to Pay Legal Fees of 'Antisemitic' Protesters Outside Synagogue

by **ANDREW LAPIN** www.timesofisrael.com

Ann Arbor (JTA) 2-2-22 – In the latest twist in the long-running legal saga over a small group of protesters who have gathered weekly outside a Michigan synagogue for the past 18 years, a judge has ruled that Jewish worshipers who lost a lawsuit against the protesters must pay them more than \$150,000 in legal fees.

US District Court Judge Victoria Roberts ruled on January 25 that the two plaintiffs — including one who is a Holocaust survivor — and their lead attorney who had sued the group of five protesters in 2019 had filed a frivolous lawsuit against "peaceful protesters." Therefore, Roberts ruled, the defendants were entitled to compensation to cover the cost of their legal defense.

Marvin Gerber and Miriam Brysk — an 87-year-old Polish-born survivor of the Lida ghetto who today is an author, scientific researcher, visual artist and public speaker about the Holocaust — sued the protesters in 2019, alleging that they were targeting Jews at their place of worship, causing emotional distress and violating congregants' First Amendment rights to safely practice their religion.

They sought an injunction against the protesters to place "reasonable time, place and manner restrictions" on their activities; the lawsuit also named the city and its mayor, Christopher Taylor, alleging that, by allowing the protesters to continue unabated, they had failed to perform their duties to the public.

The Lawfare Project, a New York-based firm that focuses on Jewish and pro-Israel issues, joined the plaintiffs as co-counsel, while the Michigan chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union filed a brief on the side of the protesters.

Editor's Note: That's a horrific reversal of "justice" when the court punishes the victims. The judge and the mayor should have done their duty and stopped these evil antisemites from demonstrating in front of the synagogue with their evil signs and chants. The Jewish congregants have been experiencing this persecution for 18 years with no help from the law. **RAC**

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Freed to Serve

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"Let My people go, so they can serve Me." Moses repeatedly uttered this refrain to Pharaoh, insisting the Egyptian ruler release the Israelites, the descendants of Abraham. Many modern translations translate Moses' command as "Let My people go, so they can worship Me," but the word better translates as "serve."

Everyone loves a story of freedom; it's one of our inalienable rights. The Exodus is one of the great stories of freedom in human history—an enslaved people miraculously led by God to freedom from their oppressive masters. It was such a potent story that in the "Slave Bible"—a Bible given to African slaves brought to the Americas—the story of the Exodus was removed, being deemed too problematic.

Our love for liberty spills over into our faith and spirituality. We often focus on our "freedom" in Christ, or that Christ has "freed" us. But, freed us for what? The story of the Exodus, Israel's miraculous deliverance, is not just about freedom, but rather about God's liberating His people so that they can serve Him.

The Exodus from Egypt is not only about the slave going free, but about God redeeming a people from slavery to serve Him. Throughout the Bible, the theme of freedom is closely tied to the theme of worshiping God and devoting one's life to Him. True freedom is found only when we surrender our lives to His will and purposes.

The Bible mentions God's kingship for the very first time in connection with the deliverance at the sea: "The LORD reigns for ever and ever" (Exodus 15:18 NIV). A king is to be served. God established Himself as Israel's deliverer and its king. The people, then, were freed in order to serve: "Let My people go, so they can serve Me."

The problem, however, is that we often don't want to serve. We want freedom and liberty on our own terms. **The Bible views things differently: God is the King; we are His servants. He is the one who created and reigns over all existence. We were created to know God and to serve Him only.**

Yeshua spoke far more about service and servanthood than He did about freedom and liberty. Why? Because He understood that we either serve God or something else (Matthew 6:24), but we have to serve somebody.

God delivered Israel to serve Him. They were freed to serve. He still frees people to serve Him. We have freedom and liberty so that we can know God and live for His purposes. How will you use your freedom?

Prayer

Father, today I submit my will and my life into Your hands. You are the King; may I follow You today as Your faithful servant. Amen.

Military is Now 'Woke' – And Now Lacks Recruits

Daniel Greenfield www.jewishpress.com

The military is facing the worst recruiting environment since the end of the Vietnam War. The Army is at only 40% of its recruiting numbers for the fiscal year despite raising its maximum enlistment bonus from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

It now offers new recruits up to \$10,000 for showing up to basic training in 30 days. And is no longer even asking them for a high school diploma. "We've never offered \$50,000 to join the Army," Maj. Gen. Kevin Vereen, head of U.S. Army Recruiting Command, said.

While the Army runs anime lesbian wedding ads, it's pushing away the recruits it needs young patriotic men from traditional backgrounds... Under Biden, that escalated to mandatory transgender pronoun training while figuring out living arrangements for men who suddenly decide that they are really women.

The Army has stopped worrying about winning wars and is instead working to establish the "Army as a global leader in DEI." That's "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion." Obama's Army Secretary Eric Fanning's had already ordered mandatory implicit bias training for "soldiers and employees in senior leadership and management positions". The Army is now preparing for the prospect of accommodating men in women's housing and deploying HIV positive men...

Editor's Note: This is a far different military than when I served many years ago. At that time, men who were "gay" were found and kicked out of the army, often with a bad-conduct discharge. That was overly extreme. I don't believe in bullying homosexuals. However, today the LGBTQ people are being celebrated in the military. That should not be. We certainly don't see heterosexuals being celebrated in the military.

The Royal Jew From Swaziland

by Yisrael Rutman, Source: Aish.com

An accidental encounter with Hebrew alters the destiny of an African prince.

THE story of every convert to Judaism is a gripping tale of spiritual discovery. In the case of Natan Gamedze, that journey began 40 years ago in Swaziland, where he was born into a royal family.

Gamedze casts an imposing royal figure, but it is his intellectual capacity that makes the biggest impression. Graduated with honors from Oxford, he received a master's in translation from South Africa's Wits University, and served as translator in the Supreme Court of South Africa.

Gamedze's gift for language -- he is fluent in 13 languages -- played a central role in his discovery of Judaism. After many years of study, Gamedze is now a rabbi and teaches Jewish studies in the northern Israeli city of Tzfat where he lives with his wife and son.

Aish.com: Let's begin by verifying facts. Is it true about your being an African prince?

Gamedze: I am indeed. I grew up in Swaziland until the age of 8. It's a small, land-locked kingdom that borders on South Africa and Mozambique -- about the size of Israel, with just over a million people.

Aish.com: Were you in line for the throne yourself?

Gamedze: My grandfather was king. But the British, who had colonized southern Africa, created the states of Swaziland, Botswana and Bechuanaland. They drew artificial borders, very often failing to take into consideration the ethnic distribution. So in many places, different ethnic groups were lumped together in the same state. That is what happened to us. And the British chose to recognize a rival royal family as the ruling group.

In order to win our cooperation, they made certain concessions to our family -- such as granting ministerial posts -- and we have a semi-autonomous region within Swaziland. My father served as minister of education and ambassador to the EEC countries. Today, it's more like a paramount chief than a king, but they do wield power.

Aish.com: Which languages do you speak?

Gamedze: I speak 13 languages: French, German, Italian, English, Hebrew, Afrikaans, Zulu, and other African languages. Everyone in my family speaks at least two European languages; my mom speaks about 7 or 8.

Aish.com: It is unusual, to say the least, for someone of your background to find his way to Judaism.

Gamedze: I was never interested in religion, per se. I was interested in what was going on in the world. What is our reason for being here? Okay, so you get up in the morning, you eat, go to work, have a shower, watch TV, go to bed, get up and start all over again... Hey, I did that yesterday!

I felt that life was like being on a conveyor belt, and eventually you get off. So what was the point? I couldn't accept that.

Aish.com: If you weren't looking for religion, how did you find it?

Gamedze: I was sitting in a boring Italian literature class one day... And as people do when they are bored, they look around, and I noticed some guy was writing backwards in funny letters. So after class I asked him what he was doing. He said he was doing his Hebrew homework. I thought: That's really interesting. Imagine if I could write like that! And then I forgot about it. But later on, I needed a credit to complete my degree. I wanted to take Russian, but I had a scheduling conflict. Then I remembered about Hebrew. It fit my schedule, and so I began studying it.

Aish.com: So what was the moment of awakening?

Gamedze: The first text we got was the biblical passage of the Binding of Isaac. Coming as I did from a moderately Christian home, I was familiar with the text, but I was surprised at how Hebrew appeared to convey much more than could be conveyed in any other language. I couldn't figure it out.

But what was so compelling was that I thought it was telling me something about myself. It was like opening an inner dimension that perhaps many people don't even know exists. It wasn't like an archeologist trying to find out about, say, ancient Incans, an interest which has really nothing to do with him. Here, I felt it was telling me something about myself.

I thought it had to do with the language itself. I didn't know at the time it was the religious dimension.

Aish.com: And from there?

Gamedze: I began to discover the beauty of Judaism. I got interested in Maimonides' Mishneh Torah. I would carry it around and read it and tell my Jewish friends about it, who later became observant. It was a bit strange that the very person who was bringing them closer to Judaism wasn't Jewish.

But it was frustrating. I couldn't understand why I had such a thirst and love for Judaism, and not be Jewish. And yet there were Jewish people who couldn't care less, it appeared. Not only that, but when they did decide to get interested, it was easy for them. The opportunity was right there. I asked myself: Why am I out of the picture? I couldn't understand why God would play such a trick on me.

At that point, I figured the best thing would be to get away from all this Jewish business. So I went to Rome to study. I visited St. Peter's and saw the artwork. I'm a great fan of Italian literature and art. But while in Rome all I could think about was the suffering of Jews at the hands of Christians. So it wasn't so enjoyable...

Aish.com: Sort of a ruined Roman vacation...

Gamedze: Yes. I had gone to Rome to get away from the whole thing -- Rome is probably the "least Jewish" place in the world. And there I was in my hotel room, and thinking about -- what else? -- the Jews. I particularly thought about how a Jew says "Shema Yisrael" before giving up his life for the faith.

At this stage, I had not yet taken on any Jewish observance. But I decided to say the "Sh'ma Yisrael" there in my hotel room by St. Peter's. When I did so, I felt an enormous surge of energy. As I was saying it, I felt that all those people who had given up their lives for Judaism were saying it with me. I felt as if I were a channel through which they

were saying the Sh'ma. To this day, I can't explain what happened there. It was a frightening and very powerful experience.

One time I went down to have breakfast. I sat down to eat, and I couldn't eat. And I was hungry, mind you. What's going on?

Now by that time I had attended some lectures on Judaism while I had been in Israel, and so I remembered that there was one day in the year, Yom Kippur, when Jews don't eat. So I went to check the calendar, and of course, it was Yom Kippur! I was shocked.

I had told my Jewish friends that the only time I'd consider converting to Judaism is if I couldn't sleep at night. Well, it had come to that. I decided to convert.

Aish.com: Was that decision the hard part or the easy part?



Rabbi Natan Gamedze, who is descended from Swazi royalty. Credit: Molra Schneider/JTA

Gamedze: I knew the road was going to be extremely difficult. Wherever I'd go in the Jewish community I'd stick out like a sore thumb, the only black guy in the room. I'm not the kind of person who likes to be in the limelight, and from now on every time I walk into a synagogue it's going to be, "Is he really an African prince?" How terrible. But I had a talk with God, and I said to Him, "Well, if that's what You want -- that's it."

Sometimes a person has ups and downs in life, and he's not sure he's doing the right thing. And he often doesn't do the right thing. So at least this one thing, I was confident I'd got it right. It's a big mainstay.

Aish.com: Did you ever figure out why God played this "trick" on you -- why your journey would have to be so difficult?

Gamedze: I only discovered the answer to that a few months ago. I was teaching a class on the biblical Jethro, trying to convey what kind of special person he was. And I remember what I had heard many years ago from Rabbi Moshe Carlebach, who said that the first time the phrase *Baruch Hashem* ("Blessed is God") appears in the Bible is when Jethro -- a convert -- praises God for saving the Jews from the Egyptians.

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Biden's Title IX Guidance Would Force Schools to Choose Between Indoctrinating or Feeding Students

By **Kaylee McGhee White**, Commentary
Writer & Deputy Editor of Restoring America
www.washingtonexaminer.com

The Biden administration's recent Title IX ("Title 9") guidance, released in August, is a radical and almost certainly unconstitutional distortion of the original statute — one that threatens free speech, due process, women's rights, and even parental rights. It even threatens schools' ability to provide for and feed students in need.

The updated guidance changes the definition of "sex" to include "gender" and "gender identity" and expands the definition of "sex-based harassment" to include any action that prevents a student from participating in an education program or activity "consistent with their gender identity." This means that government-funded schools and universities will have no choice but to allow boys who identify as girls into girls' restrooms, locker rooms, and dormitories, teachers will be forced to use preferred pronouns, and fellow students will be expected to accommodate their gender-confused peers' demands or risk being accused of creating a "hostile environment" within the school.

If a school refuses to abide by these new expectations, the Biden administration has made sure that it will suffer serious consequences. In May, for example, the Department of Agriculture announced that it will apply President Joe Biden's new Title IX guidance to its National School Lunch Program, which provides funding to schools so they can provide free lunches for low-income students. The USDA instructed that all state agencies and Food and Nutrition Act program operators must "expeditiously review their program discrimination complaint procedures and make any changes necessary to ensure complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation are processed and evaluated as complaints of discrimination on the basis of sex."

In other words, if a school refuses to allow boys to compete on its female sports teams or prevents a male from using the female locker room, it could be found in violation of the Education and Agriculture departments' new standards and could have its school lunch funding pulled as a result. This ultimatum is absurd, because it punishes low-income children who have no control over school policy.

Make no mistake: The Biden administra-

tion is playing games with students' well-being. **Children need to eat, and their ability to do so should not be dependent on the federal government's political agenda.** But the Biden administration has proved time and time again that it will stop at nothing to force its radical gender ideology onto everyone, public and private schools, students and parents, and everyone in between — no matter the cost.

Germany is Israel's Most Important Ally After USA, Says New Envoy in Berlin

Prime Minister Yair Lapid traveled to Germany in September to emphasize the deep strategic and historical relationship between Israel and the largest country in the European Union, and will discuss the threat posed by Iran with German leaders, Israel's ambassador in Berlin, Ron Prosor, said on Sunday, September 11.

"The trip of the prime minister, in essence, is saying, 'I traveled to Washington, I traveled to France, I traveled to the different countries of the Abraham Accords,'" Prosor told media by phone before Lapid took off for Germany.

"I've come to Germany because this is the most substantial relationship we have in Europe." Prosor emphasized that "the relationship between Germany and Israel is a strategic relationship." "German-Israeli relations are the most intense strategic relationship that Israel has with Europe. After the United States of America, this is the most strategic relationship bilaterally that Israel has with any country," Prosor said.

Germany's Foreign Office calls ties with Israel "a cornerstone of German foreign policy." Germany is Israel's top trading partner in Europe, and the long-standing quiet military and intelligence relationship is increasingly coming out into the open.

Prosor highlighted that ex-chancellor Angela Merkel said the security of the state of Israel was central to Germany's national interest. "The new chancellor Scholz has repeated that and politicians from all sides of the political divide agree on that," he said. (TOI / VFI News)

<https://vfinews.com>

Putin Critic Plunges from Window

Ravil Maganov, chairman of Russian oil giant Lukoil, fell to his death in September from a hospital sixth floor window in Moscow. At least four other Russian gas and oil executives have died in recent months, supposedly from suicide, but more likely because they have opposed Putin's policies in Ukraine. Source: www.TheWeek.com

UN Calls for Probe of Israel's 'Occupation' in Judea, Samaria

By Chis Mitchell, www1.cbn.com/cbnnews

Jerusalem, Israel – "A prize for terrorist organizations and their campaign against Israel." That is how outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid characterized a November vote in the United Nations. The resolution accuses Israel of annexing and occupying Palestinian territory in the West Bank, the biblical lands of Judea and Samaria.

A terrorist attack in northern Israel took the lives of 3 Israelis on November 15 – a reminder that the Jewish state faces threats from many sides, including this resolution that Israel's supporters say ignores history and international law.

THE U.N. resolution in the General Assembly called for the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to address "the ongoing violation by Israel of the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, from its prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of the territory occupied since 1967."

The resolution passed 98 to 17, with 52 abstentions. The United States, Australia, and Canada joined Israel in voting no. The document describes parts of Judea and Samaria – Israel's biblical heart-

land – along with eastern Jerusalem, where the Temple Mount (the holiest site in Judaism where the Temples stood) to be occupied territory.

Israel's UN Ambassador Gilad Erdan also blasted the resolution in a tweet: "By calling for the International Court of Justice, the Palestinians are decimating any chances of reconciliation." Erdan also tweeted that Israel cannot be occupiers in their own Biblical homeland.

The resolution repeatedly says Israel is under a breach of international law, but Tomas Sandell, founder of the European Coalition for Israel, claims the resolution itself ignores history and international law, established by the San Remo Resolution in 1920.

"What the San Remo resolution, of course,

said was that this is the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people. And nothing could be more Jewish than the Old City of Jerusalem. And to say anything else on a UN level is a complete

breach and disrespect of international law." Sandell finds it ironic that 2022 marks the 100-year anniversary of the British Mandate in 1922.

"I think the significant part in the text also in the San Remo Resolution was, for the first time in the history of international law, to make it very clear to say that there is a cultural, religious, and political link between the Jewish people and the land of Israel," Sandell said. He added that the Jewish population in the land rebuilt the country, which he called "a modern

miracle," and should be celebrated and not condemned by the United Nations.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Tu B'shevat (New Year for Trees):
February 15

Fast of Esther: March 6

Purim (Feast of Lots): March 7

None of the above days are Holy Days requiring days of rest. Normal shopping and work are permitted. The new year for trees is a time when trees are planted in Israel. The Fast of Esther is from sunrise to sunset on March 6, not a full-day fast. Purim is a celebration. It is traditional also to read the Book of Esther.

NEW CALENDARS

The calendars for 5784 (Sept 2023 to Sept 2024) will **not** be available until April 2023. Until the time that the new calendars are available, we will continue to send out the 5783 calendars (Sept 2022–Sept 2023).

Prisoners in some states are now being denied our Jewish calendars because they are too large (19 x 11 inches) when unfolded. However, thanks to the efforts of Rod Tucker and his friends at Nashville C.I., we now have an excellent Messianic Jewish calendar that measures only 9.5 x 11 inches when unfolded. It also covers additional months (Sept 2022–Dec 2023). The cost for inmates is 4 stamps or M.O. for \$2.

More Gun Violence

Once again, we have seen additional attacks with AR-15 style assault rifles. Mass murders occurred at an LGBTQ club in Colorado Springs, and at a Walmart in Chesapeake VA.

Over the past decade we have seen numerous mass killings done with assault weapons in synagogues, churches, concerts, schools, etc., tragically even elementary schools.

Evangelic Christians are opposed to abortions which kill children in the

womb. I would like to see more Christian concern for children even **after** they are born. WWJD? (What Would Jesus Do?). It is a disgrace that school children must go through active shooter rehearsals in the event that an active shooter enters their school. Metal detectors and armed guards are turning schools into armed fortresses. Very sad. Large capacity magazines that can hold dozens of bullets should also be outlawed. Assault weapons with large magazines are designed for mass murder, not for self-defense, and certainly not for hunting. They are ideal for military use, not for civilian use. I love our children more than I love assault weapons. How about you?

If horrific Islamist massacres of Christians are subject to Democrat word laundering, what can Israel expect?
Op-ed.

Biden is Guilty of Ignoring Massacres of Christians

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the Biden Administration are committed to working against "Islamophobia". This is what emerged from the White House's annual report on religious freedom

in the world, just as news came from Nigeria of the killing of 50 Christians in a Catholic church in Owo. Others speak of a death toll of between 70 and 100 people.

The correspondent of the German *BILD* reported: "With weapons and explosives they broke into the Catholic church, killing up to 100 people and even shooting runaway children and pregnant women! The faithful lay motionless on the floor of the church, hoping to be spared". On the BBC, a survivor said: "I saw whole families wiped out, friends, relatives, those I knew."

But it is "Muslims who are being targeted with violence," according to US President Joe Biden. At a reception in the White House to celebrate Eid al-Fitr, Biden appointed the first Muslim as ambassador for religious freedom, Rashad Hussain. Why give a Muslim such an important post as that of ambassador for religious freedom?

In recent months, Biden has even removed Nigeria from the blacklist of countries accused of participating in or tolerating religious persecution. "It's a victory for terrorists and a defeat for anyone interested in human rights and religious freedom," said Frank Wolf, a former congressman behind key laws requiring administrations to name religious freedom violators.

"Biden and the United States ignored the persecution of Nigerian Christians," Johns Hopkins University economist Steve Hanke also writes. Three months after his inauguration, Biden immediately froze some programs for religious freedom. "This is a major shift away from religious freedom," said Nina Shea, who serves as director of the Center for Religious Freedom at the Hudson Institute.

Not a word, in fact, from the Biden administration on Christians killed. Not even a symbolic gesture, like the rainbow flag that the American embassy in the Vatican had hung on its Roman palace the day before the massacre.

American Democrats have always had a policy of ignoring anti-Christian persecutions.

One Easter morning a church in Kaduna, Nigeria, was targeted by a car bomb that killed 39 Christians. There was no

official comment from the Obama administration. On Easter day, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton railed against Europe, calling for it to become "more inclusive".

When terrorists blew up a church in Baghdad, this is what the White House said: "The United States condemns the killing of so many innocent Iraqis."

In Egypt, when two dozen Copts who were organizing a peaceful demonstration in the Maspero area of Cairo were massacred, the White House declared: "Now is a time for restraint on all sides so that the Egyptians can move forward together to forging a strong and united Egypt".

When the Islamic State beheaded 21 Coptic Christians on the beaches of Libya, the US State Department refused to acknowledge that they had been murdered as Christians. It referred to them as "Egyptian citizens".

When the churches of Sri Lanka were devastated by the attacks (269 dead) in 2019, former US President Obama and his former Secretary of State Clinton defined the victims of the attacks not as "Christians", but "Easter worshipers." Democrats are flirting with a parallel reality, in which Islam is just a "religion of peace" and its victims don't even exist. Israel, beware.

*Giulio Meotti is an Italian journalist with *Il Foglio* and writes a twice-weekly column for *Arutz Sheva*. He is the author, in English, of the book "A New Shoah", that researched the personal stories of Israel's terror victims, published by *Encounter* and of "J'Accuse: the Vatican Against Israel" published by *Mantua Books*, in addition to books in Italian. His writing has appeared in publications, such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *Gatestone*, *Frontpage* and *Commentary*.*

Yeshua didn't come to Planet Earth to start a new religion.

He came to Earth as the Messiah and Savior of the old religion: Judaism.

Giulio Meotti, Italy, 26.06.22
www.israelnationalnews.com

BRAVE men sounded the alarm that went tragically unheeded. In 2006, Alfred Wetzler died in his native Slovakia. He and his friend, Rudolf Vrba, risked their lives and escaped Auschwitz so they could warn other Jews and the world in precise detail what was happening behind the fences and gates of the Nazi concentration and extermination camp. Although they were not successful in their attempt to save Hungary's Jews from marching to their deaths at Auschwitz, Vrba and Wetzler did succeed in saving some Jews as well as compiling and publicizing the first record of the Nazis' systematic atrocities at the camp.

Rudolf Vrba, formerly Walter Rosenberg, was born on Sept. 11, 1924, in the Slovakian town of Trnava. The son of a sawmill owner, he was expelled from high school in Bratislava due to Slovakia's version of the Nuremberg Laws. He worked as a laborer in Trnava until March 1942, when he was arrested and, on June 14, 1942, he was deported to the Maidanek concentration camp and later to Auschwitz.

Alfred Wetzler was born on May 10, 1918 in the same town as Vrba. He was sent to Birkenau on April 13, 1942. Later, he too was sent to Auschwitz.

Both Vrba and Wetzler held administrative jobs in Auschwitz, which allowed them access to many different areas of the camp and finally to plan their escape. "There had been a number of escapes from Auschwitz and in most cases the escapee had been caught, sometimes within hours, sometimes within a few days," the late British historian and Oxford professor Martin Gilbert said in a 2011 episode about Vrba and Wetzler's escape in the PBS series *Secrets of the Dead*. English historian David Cesarani added, "The consequences of failure were torture and public execution. Anyone connected with the escape would also be tortured and murdered."

In his book *I Escaped From Auschwitz*, Vrba wrote, "It was a simple plan and I literally stumbled across it by accident." When an escape occurred, the two men noticed, the Nazis would look for the escapee for three days, after which they would give up on the search. If they could survive the initial search period, they reasoned, their chances of survival would increase.

On April 7, 1944, almost two years after Wetzler arrived at Auschwitz, he and Vrba hid in a cavity created within a woodpile in an expansion area of new construction in the camp for the Hungarian Jews. They covered themselves with gasoline-soaked Russian tobacco, hoping it would mask their scent from the SS dogs. After remaining immobile in the hiding spot for three

Two Friends Who Escaped From Auschwitz and Warned the World

by Jackson Richman
www.tabletmag.com

days, they sprinted for the woods. But even though they were outside the hellish place, they were still not safe, as the Germans had expelled the Poles from all the towns and villages in the Auschwitz region and replaced them with ethnic German *Volksdeutsch*.

"Once you were outside you were a marked person. Your head was shaven, you were filthy, you stank. Anyone seeing one of these escaping figures knew exactly who they were and where they had come from," Cesarani said. "The Nazis were searching with dogs, there were SS teams scouring the countryside. It was an area that was already descending into guerrilla warfare, partisan warfare. It was covered with police, German troops, there were military installations, military convoys on the move. Very few friends."

Vrba and Wetzler were careful, but they made mistakes along the way as they rushed to the Slovakian border. On the third day on the run, they accidentally wandered into a town. With the risk of being discovered, they tried to find their way out by stumbling down alleyways and back streets. Exhausted, starving, and lost, they asked for help and were welcomed by a peasant woman who agreed to assist them.

Another close mishap occurred when they were less than halfway to the Slovakian border, running into a woman tending to her crops. Although suspicious, the woman introduced them to a sympathetic Polish farmer, who offered to drive them to the border and direct them where they could cross to avoid the Germans.

On April 25, 1944, 15 days after fleeing Auschwitz and after walking more than 85 miles through occupied Poland, Vrba and Wetzler finally arrived at the headquarters of the Jewish Council in Zilina, Slovakia. There, Vrba described to the Council the atrocities taking place at Auschwitz. The Council was horrified. At the time, there were rumors the conditions in these camps were appalling. But few could imagine the Jews being exterminated en masse.

The two men revealed detail after detail about the systematic murder of hundreds of thousands of Jews. But it began to dawn on them that the Council didn't believe a word they were saying. According to Gilbert, the people at the Jewish Council were "astonished by the story, they couldn't believe it because what they [were] talking about is the death of some of their closest friends, relatives, fellow Slovaks."

Gilbert added that the councilmen couldn't imagine something systematic where, out of 1,000 people, half of them would be taken off a train and gassed within a few hours. "The Jewish community in Slovakia didn't believe them at first



Rudolf Vrba & Alfred Wetzler

because it was so unbelievable," George Klein, a junior secretary of the Jewish Council at the time, said. "Killing is one thing, but to organize the killing, to make it into a huge bureaucratic apparatus to organize the transport, to have everything so streamlined, that was so incredibly German efficient, that people simply didn't believe that it was possible."

Vrba, who had a phenomenal memory, told the councilmen the names of the people with whom he had been imprisoned. "[Vrba] memorized every transport, every train that came in, how many people were on it and how many of those people who were on it were immediately sent to the gas chamber," Gilbert explained. Convinced the truth was being told, the Council asked them to recall all they could about what was transpiring at Auschwitz. Vrba warned them that Hungary's Jews would be next and that the camp was ready for their arrival.

In their book, *Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp*, historians Yisrael Gutman and Michael Berenbaum wrote that Vrba and Wetzler were able to compile the report through the "many dozens of Auschwitz prisoners who at great risk collected top-secret information on the camp crematoria."

According to Ceserani, the process of writing and translating the reports and sending them to places such as the Vatican, the Jewish community and American representatives in Switzerland, and the Red Cross took time. By the time the report had been compiled and translated, Germany had occupied Hungary and had begun preparing for mass deportations of its Jews.

Rudolf Kastner, who was the leader of the Jewish Council in Budapest, received the Vrba-Wetzler report and was stunned, but did not release the report to the Jews of Hungary. He kept it a secret because he thought that if the information was revealed, it would derail a deal he and the Council were trying to make with the Nazis. Joel Brand, a Hungarian Jewish council

member, met personally with Adolf Eichmann, who made Brand an extraordinary offer. Eichmann would allow a million Jews to go free in exchange for 10,000 trucks... Brand pursued the deal. He brought the deal to the British who saw this deal as, according to Ceserani, a "grotesque trick to allow the Germans to claim they are negotiating with the British over the fate of Jews, that they're going to take delivery of trucks to use against the Russians."

On May 15, 1944, over a month after the escape, Vrba learned that despite risking his life to tell the world what was happening at Auschwitz, despite his pages and pages of detailed accounts, the Hungarian deportations were underway. He believed he had failed.

Two days later, approximately 4,000 Hungarian Jews arrived at Auschwitz. The Nazis bypassed the selection process and almost all of them were led to the gas chambers immediately. "The extermination of 600,000 Hungarian Jews was the fastest campaign during the entire Holocaust," the Jewish Council's George Klein said. "It went on with incredible speed so there wasn't much time for reflection."

Vrba and Wetzler were devastated. Fearful they would be recaptured, they fled to the Slovakian mountains. Now in hiding, Vrba and Wetzler felt there was nothing more they could do to help the Jews of Hungary. In Budapest, Rudolph Kastner still hoped the Eichmann deal could succeed even though the Allies wanted no part of it. Eichmann knew that as Kastner dragged out the negotiations, more Jews were being sent to the gas chambers.

In the end, Eichmann allowed over 1,600 Jews to go to safety. However, the normal deportations to Auschwitz continued. Ceserani remarked that the reason why information was not broadcast to the Jews of Hungary is that it would have been "pointless." "The speed and ferocity of the German occupation, the speed of the round up and ghettoization, and then the ferocity with which the deportations were implemented, made any kind of response almost impossible to effect," he said.

In June of 1944, the Nazi secret was finally exposed as a copy of the Vrba-Wetzler report was received by British Intelligence. The document was forwarded to top British and American officials. According to the PBS documentary, "On June 15, the BBC broadcast the horrific details of the report. Five days later, extracts were published in the *New York Times*."

The Vrba-Wetzler Report reached Switzerland on June 18. Historian Yisrael Gutman wrote,

"Now, not just the name of the place was revealed; it was also shown to be the place that had so often figured as 'the unknown destination' or as 'somewhere in Poland.' "

On July 2, the U.S. Air Force attacked Budapest, raining bombs on the Hungarian capital. In response, Admiral Miklos Horthy of Hungary, who supported Hitler, had the trains stop the deportations... At the time, more than 300,000 Hungarian Jews had been sent to the gas chambers, but 120,000 Jews had been saved, 75 times more than the number of Jews saved in the Kastner deal.

As the war was nearing its end, Vrba and Wetzler joined the Czechoslovak partisan resistance and fought the Nazis until the end of the war. By the time the Americans, British, and Russians advanced into Germany, the Nazis' reign of terror began to collapse. On Jan. 27, 1945, the Russians liberated Auschwitz. By then, the Nazis had killed an estimated 1.5 million people there in a span of under five years.

After the War, Wetzler stayed in Slovakia and married a fellow survivor from Auschwitz. He became a journalist and newspaper editor. He passed away in 1988. Vrba married his childhood sweetheart, Gerta Sidonova, and moved to Canada, where he became an associate professor of pharmacology at the University of British Columbia. He died in 2006. Both men were heroes who used their ingenuity under terrible circumstances to expose a ghastly story to a world that was largely indifferent to their plight.

Just a little humor...

A woman comes up to her rabbi and says, "Rabbi, that was the worst sermon I ever heard. You insulted our intelligence and rambled on and on." Another congregant overhead the conversation, and told him, "Oh, don't listen to her. She has no mind of her own. She just repeats what everybody else is saying."

The rabbi decides to skip Yom Kippur services, the holiest day of the year, and heads to the golf course. He has an amazing game, and on the 18th hole, he scores a hole in one. The rabbi is ecstatic! An angel turns to God and says, "God, why did you allow the rabbi to get such an amazing score?" God says to the angel, "Who's he going to tell?"

Question: What do you call an uncircumcised Jewish baby over 8 days old?

Answer: A girl.

Move Over Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot). Here Comes Sabra (Shira Haas).

Shira Haas to join next 'Captain America' film
as the next Israeli superhero, Sabra
By Times of Israel Staff



Israeli actress Shira Haas, who gained international fame through her starring role in the hit Netflix series "Unorthodox," will play an Israeli superhero in the next "Captain America" film, set in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, according to multiple reports.

According to *Variety*, Haas will play **Sabra**, a little-known character who first appeared in Marvel comics in 1980. In the comics, Sabra, aka Ruth Bat-Seraph, is a former superhuman agent for the Mossad spy agency who sometimes knocks up against other superhuman characters such as the Hulk and the X-Men.

Her powers include super strength and stamina, and her costumes often incorporate the Israeli flag and the Star of David. Sabra, in Hebrew "tsabar," is the local term for the fruit of the cactus (commonly known as a prickly pear). It has long been a term for Israeli-born Jews.

Further details on Haas's role in the upcoming 2024 film "Captain America: New World Order" are currently unknown... In July, it was announced that Haas had won another leading role at the online platform for an upcoming adaptation of the graphic novel "Bodies."

According to *Deadline*, Haas is set to play DC Maplewood, one of four detectives investigating the same murder across four separate time periods in London: the 1890s, 1940s, 2010s, and a post-apocalyptic 2050.

Haas found her fame when she debuted as Ruchami Weiss on the hit Israeli series "Shtisel." She received a Best Actress nomination at the Golden Globes for her role as Esther Shapiro in the series "Unorthodox" and won an Independent Spirit Award for that role. Last year, Haas was brought on to star as Golda Meir, Israel's only female prime minister, in the TV series "Lioness" produced by Barbara Streisand.

Democracy Wins

I'm not thrilled about all of those who won elective office in the autumn elections. However, with so many "election deniers" running for office, we were very concerned about the accusations of vote-rigging and possible violence in the voting process. Jair Bolsonaro had claimed that the election system in Brazil was rigged, and therefore he would lose the election, and he promised to contest the election. However, although he did not concede defeat in the election, he told the public that the election is "over." Lula da Silva won the election, and is now the new President of Brazil. He promises to protect the Amazon rain forest, which was under heavy assault under the administration of Bolsonaro. Da Silva also promises to defend the indigenous populations of Brazil.

We had many election deniers in the USA, who claimed falsely that Joe Biden lost the 2020 election. Donald Trump had pushed that narrative even before the 2020 election. His inflammatory speech resulted in the attempted insurrection at the Capitol Building on January 6, 2021. In a democracy, it is the votes of the people who count. We might not always like the results. But that is how it works. We came close to losing our democracy at that time. In the November 2022 elections, we had many election deniers running for office. Democracy cannot survive if people do not trust the electoral system.

The good news is that many of the election deniers were defeated. Moderate Republicans did quite well, although many had been purged from the Republican Party before the elections. The Republican Party is also known as the GOP, for "Grand Old Party." It is time to make the Grand Old Party Great Again. We pray for principled Republicans and principled social conservatives to run for office. I hasten to add: Donald Trump might have been a threat to our democracy. However, he did more for Israel than any other president.

In Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu managed to cobble together a coalition of political parties to once again become Prime Minister. We believe that he is best qualified to be Prime Minister based on what he has accomplished for Israel. Israel's economy grew to be very strong under his watch, and he has made Israel much stronger militarily. However, he has made many enemies in Israel, including among many of his own Likud party, with his insults and bullying. He also faces numerous corruption charges. Nobody is perfect. However, we pray that he will be a good and honest leader for Israel this time around. **RAC**

8 Billion People on Planet Earth

by Kate Nicholson, HuffPost UK, [msn.com](https://www.msn.com)

The United Nations announced in November 2022 that the world's population officially reached eight billion people... For context, there were one billion people in 1800.

It all comes down to improvements in public health, nutrition, personal hygiene, and medicine (which extended human lifespans) – as well as "high and persistent levels of fertility" in some countries, according to the UN.

Child mortality, infant mortality, and maternal mortality have all decreased, too. So, it's actually a huge achievement even if it seems like a daunting number... However, there are still wide discrepancies in health care access, resources, violence, conflict, poverty, and ill health.

It is countries with the highest fertility rates which seem to be driving population rates – and unfortunately, they're usually the ones with the lowest income per capita. It's projected that more than half of the expected growth in population up to 2050 will be concentrated in eight countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Egypt, India, Nigeria, the Philippines and Tanzania.

More than 60% of the global population is already living in countries that are below replacement fertility. That means people are not having enough babies to maintain their current population levels. More than 50 countries are in population decline.

This usually comes down to women's education and development. The more opportunities she is able to enjoy, the fewer children she is likely to have. But equally, where the population has plateaued, environmental goals come under larger threats.

As The UN notes: "Even though population growth magnifies the environmental impact of economic development, rising per capita incomes are the main drivers of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption."

Basically, that means the wealthier a country becomes, the smaller the population is likely to become. But, those countries with the highest per capita consumption of material resources and greenhouse gas emissions also tend to be those where the income is higher.

So, it will be harder to stick to the promises from the Paris Agreement to reduce global temperature rise to just 1.5 C... By 2050, the world population will be around 9.7 billion, before peaking at around 10.4 billion in the 2080s, and plateauing at this level until 2100. Birth rates are admittedly slowing down. The population grew by 2.2% in 1964. For comparison, it's now increasing by less than 1% per year.

Editor's Note: Excess population growth is a threat to other species and the environment.

Makuya is a group of fervent lovers of Israel and the Jewish people. It sends young members to a number of kibbutzim in Israel, and makes pilgrimages to Jerusalem. "Over [900] Makuya students have been sent to Israeli kibbutzim to work together with the people of the Bible, and to study Hebrew and the biblical background. Some of them continue their academic studies in universities." The primary kibbutz the Makuya students stay at is Heftziba. Makuya has also appeared in front of the United Nations on at least two occasions, speaking on behalf of Israel.

In 1967, when the Six-Day War broke out, Teshima (the founder of Makuya) wrote a telegram to the Makuya students in Israel: "Stay as long as you can and help Israel." The students, accordingly, volunteered to aid Israel during the war. In 1973, when the Yom Kippur War broke out, the State of Japan supported Arab countries, caving in to an Arab oil embargo. This diplomatic policy frustrated Teshima. Despite his serious illness (terminal cirrhosis), Teshima then organized, with 3,000 of his adherents, a campaign for Israel in front of the National Diet Building in Tokyo. It was the first pro-Israel demonstration ever held in Japan. The campaign received wide coverage in the press, radio, and television. However, it also worsened Teshima's illness and he died three weeks later on Christmas Day 1973.

Teshima's name was inscribed twice on the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund; once in September, 1967 in honor of his staunch support for Israel during the Six-Day War and once in January, 1974 honoring his passing. His unconditional love, devotion, and support for Israel that stemmed from his biblical faith is, to this day, carried on by the members of the Makuya movement. The Jewish National Fund had planted a forest in memory of Teshima, located in the Lower Galilee. It was named "Makuya Forest."

Unlike other Christians, who use the cross as their symbol, the Makuyas take the seven-armed Jewish menorah as their religious emblem, and they display it on their badges or pendants. They prefer to use the menorah as their religious symbol rather than the cross, because to them, the cross is a symbol of "suffering" but the menorah is a symbol of

The Makuyas: Christian Zionists of Japan

The information in this article was taken from parts of a much longer article about the Makuya published by Wikipedia.

"hope." The Makuyas have developed, or incorporated, a number of religious observances, customs and rituals. They also engage in convocations, marriage ceremonies, and pilgrimages. Today, the Makuya movement has about a hundred branches all over the world, including Japan, Israel, the United States, Canada, Denmark, France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Mexico, Brazil, Paraguay, China, Taiwan, South Korea, India, and Indonesia.

Following, in part, the biblical tradition (2 Samuel 24), the movement does not conduct a census; hence, the exact number of its members remains unknown. It is known, however, that about 300,000 copies of its major magazine, *The Light of Life*, are being subscribed to and issued every month.

There also is a Messianic congregation in Japan:

We are Tree of Life (TOL) Japan Messianic Congregation, a covenant community, based in the heart of Tokyo but with members spread throughout Japan. Our congregation comprises of Jewish and Gentile lovers of God. In our congregation are couples, singles, students, parents, grandparents, and children.

²*But his delight is in the Torah of Adonai, and on His Torah he meditates day and night.*

³*He will be like a planted tree over streams of water, producing its fruit during its season.*

Its leaf never droops—

but in all he does, he succeeds.

Psalm 1: 2, 3

As we focus on growing as worshippers and believers of God, we are better able to be compassionate, generous, people of character. We pray for one another, we celebrate victories, and support each other in life's difficult moments.

Here, there is community. Here, we are family, in the truest spirit of the word. We celebrate the Shabbat and the richness of all of the feasts (*moedim*) and festivals. We are planted as a Tree of Life, いのちの木, *Ayts Chayim*, here in Japan.

"Here is the conclusion of the matter. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind."

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Nikki Haley at Jerusalem Event: "The USA Can Never Let Israel Down"

Anti-Semitism should always be called out, Nikki Haley, the former South Carolina governor and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said at a recent event for the Jerusalem College of Technology. Haley spoke out against the recent wave of anti-Semitism, while reaffirming the need for the US to stand with Israel.

Recently, the Canadian Friends of Jerusalem College of Technology (CF-JCT) held its 50th-anniversary gala dinner in Toronto. Haley gave the keynote address and received an honorary degree.

The former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, who stood strongly against an anti-Israel bias at the institution, took the opportunity to speak out against anti-Semitism, a problem that has recently skyrocketed in the USA.

"We have to call out anti-Semitism every time we see it," Haley said to the 500 attendees at the event. "It's not okay. It will never be okay. We have to speak up every time we see it. We have to humiliate those that do it every time they do it. And we have to remind leaders to speak up."

She also addressed the problem of intolerance on college campuses. "We have to remind our leaders that they have to speak up because I don't want kids going to college wondering if they will be targeted," she said at the Toronto gala, where she also commended the Trump administration for taking the matter seriously when they enacted legislation that would pull federal funding from universities if they didn't rebuke anti-Semitism on their campus. (1365N / VFI News) <https://vfinews.com/news>

Beloved Children's Character Curious George Ran Away from the Nazis.



His creators, Margret and H. A. Rey, were German Jews who fled Paris on makeshift bicycles after the Nazis invaded France in 1940. Hidden in one of the bicycle baskets were the stories and illustrations of *Curious George*. They escaped the Holocaust, riding all the way to Portugal, sailing to Brazil, and later making it to the U.S. There, they continued to write much-loved adventures about the world's favorite little monkey. Source: www.StandWithUs.com

Education, Not Indoctrination

I am not homophobic or transphobic. I don't believe in hating, fearing, or bullying people who are of these various LGBTQ preferences. I am not a bigot. However, I also don't want the LGBTQ crowd propagandizing our children.

There are people who prefer others of the same gender as themselves for sexual relations, and who have no desire for romance with the opposite sex. I understand that. I also understand that such people are not able to procreate and produce children. However, that does not give them the right or entitlement to propagandize our kids into their world view. Leave our children alone. They are our kids, not yours.

Today we have something called "Drag Queen Story Hours" in which drag queens (men dressed up as women with makeup) are invited into libraries to tell stories to little children. They have also been invited into schools and churches! The US Air Force was even going to have drag queens to entertain at schools on overseas military bases until public outcry prevented it from taking place. The military has changed a lot since I was in the US Army many years ago.

Twenty years ago, I would never have imagined that anything as ridiculous and depraved as drag queens on full display in front of little children. The "Drag Story Hour" website proclaims, "DSH captures the imagination and play of gender fluidity of childhood and gives kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models." Children have enough confusion growing up in today's societies. They don't need gender confusion thrown into the mix. This is **grooming**, and should not be allowed.

Children are even being given hormones of the opposite gender. All of this should not be done to children under age 18. Many of these changes are completely irreversible, and often are a cause of infertility. Some states are now thankfully passing laws forbidding genital mutilation of confused children, as well as hormone blockers to postpone adolescence. Children who have gone through these procedures often regret this later in life, when it is too late.

In some schools it is legal to pass out condoms, birth control pills, and hormone blockers to children, but illegal for anybody to distribute Bibles. However, it is legal to have books in the school libraries to educate children about various sexual perversions. Classroom discussion often involves teaching about homosexuality, etc., in a positive light, as fully acceptable alternative lifestyles. In Florida, they passed a law forbidding such teaching in grades K—3. And Florida was roundly condemned for this common-sense law! As Billy Graham said decades ago, "If God doesn't judge America, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah." **RAC**

◆ CALIFORNIA

Simchat Yeshua. Shabbat service at 11 am. 1100 E Cameron Ave. Room 10; W Covina CA 91790. Call 626-290-0234

◆ COLORADO

Tikvat Yisrael. Shabbat Services at 2 pm in Grand Junction CO. Email Dennis at: Krostostme@msn.com

◆ FLORIDA

Kehillat Elohim Messianic Synagogue. Rabbi John Schutz, 4815 Executive Park Ct #201; Jacksonville FL 32216. Call 904-318-6002. Shabbat service at 2 pm.

Kehilat Kol Simcha. PO Box 358924, Gainesville FL 32635-8924. Meets at Church of the Nazarene, 5020 NW 23rd Ave, Gainesville. Rabbi Tony Arroyo. Call 352-485-1210.

Messianic Fellowship of Daytona Beach. 1351 Beville FL 32119. Call 386-490-0718. Sabbath Service at 10:30 am. Hebrew classes 6:30 pm Wed nights.

◆ GEORGIA

Kehilat Meshichi Mishkan Shalom. Rabbi Steve Coyle, 97 Kevin Lane, Rock Spring GA 30739. Call 706-237-2530.

◆ ILLINOIS

Gates of Eden. PO Box 2257, E. Peoria IL 61611. Daniel Botkin. Call 309-698-9467.

◆ MASSACHUSETTS

United Messianic Jewish Assemblies, promoting a Messianic Torah-centered life. PO Box 148, Baldwinville MA 01436. WWW.UMJA.NET Call 508-982-0830 kwmacneil@gmail.com

Petah Tikvah Magazine is an official publication of the UMJA.

◆ NEBRASKA

Adat HaTikvat Tzion. Shabbat Services at 10 am at the SW Church of the Nazarene, 14808 Q St, Omaha NE. www.adat.org Call Rav Roger Nichols at 531-484-7810.

◆ NEW JERSEY

Beit B'rachot. Rav Joseph Kresefsky. 51 No. Lincoln Ave, Washington NJ 07882. Shabbat Service at 10:30 am. Call 908-674-5601.

◆ NEW YORK

Mt. Vernon Congregation of G-d 7th Day, Pastor Bernice, at brown & tan house, 101 South First Ave, Mt. Vernon NY 10550. Shabbat services at 11 am. Call 914-664-7582.

Petah Tikvah. Rav Richard 'Aharon' Chaimberlin. Shabbat services at 2 pm. 165 Doncaster Rd, Rochester NY 14623. Call 585-475-1188.

Messianic Directory

◆ PENNSYLVANIA

Beit Torah. 689 Hillview Rd, Allentown PA 18103. (Located in the Annex of Trinity Baptist) Call 484-425-3499.

BeitTorah2015@gmail.com

Congregation of Yahshua Messiah. Cong. Leader: Bob Young. Shabbat services, 11 am. Call 412-372-5173. pathwayoflight.org

Tikvat T'Zion. 334 E Moody Ave, New Castle PA 16105. Rav Mark Hernandez. Call 724-652-3702 for service times.

◆ RHODE ISLAND

Tents of Jacob. PO Box 7572, Warwick RI 02886. Weekly newsletter with teachings on the parashah of the week is available to all, including inmates.

yochanon1633@yahoo.com

◆ TEXAS

Sabbath Keepers Fellowship, PO Box 972, Malakoff TX 75148. Provides literature, matzah, and tallitot to inmates as finances permit.

◆ VERMONT

United Messianic Jewish Ministries (Prison Ministry), PO Box 122, Brandon VT 05733. umjewishministries.com email: umjewishministries@yahoo.com

"Forsake not the assembling of ourselves together, as is the habit of some, but exhort one another, so much the more as you see the day approaching."

HEBREWS 10 : 25



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MESSIANIC CONGREGATION



Drawing by Jill Heck.
"YHWH" in the original Hebrew.

According to Roger

Genesis 1 and The Gap? “Theory”

(By Roger Walkwitz)

Since the article, The Gap Theory, shows up in Petah Tikvah about every five years or so, it is time for me to write a rebuttal, or contrary analysis.

What right do I have to write this? Because I can read the English language, not because I can read Hebrew. Because I can think. Because I have studied Genesis 1 for the last 70 yrs and have a life-long interest to validate my English language Bible as Truth “as written.” Also because I have a Masters Degree in Science, from the University of Hawaii. I like accurate terms.

In science, a theory is something that has been tested and tested in many laboratories with no variation found at that time, not just an idea. In high school I learned the atomic theory. Years later in graduate school, the atomic theory had been modified. It is not a “Law” yet. The Gap is not a theory but only a hypothesis or speculation, just an idea, the same with evolution, as neither can be tested. Evolution is actually a religion. People believe it because they do not want to believe God, do not want to be held accountable to Him, thereby deceiving themselves.

Our position is that the Bible is exactly true on anything it speaks about.

In case you have never heard of the “Gap Idea,” it is the speculation that “there is a large unspecified gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2,” to probably account for some things like “where did Satan come from?” It started before Darwin and the heavy push for the evolution speculation.

It is said that many rabbis teach that there were earlier creations! Imagine that! Rabbis that do not believe the Bible as written! To me, the Gap Idea is impossible, and might be dangerous as “adding to the Bible.”

The verses in question are: Gen 1:1-5. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

What does it mean, “In the beginning”? The beginning of what?

Answer: The beginning of Time. God lives in Eternity, but now He is starting a “clock” by which mankind and all living things will live. Further, this “beginning” means everything that we can know, seen and unseen (like electrons), meaning everything in nature and everything in the sky, including planets and stars! Yes, planets and stars and galaxies began, were created, on the 4th 24hr period after the beginning of Time!!

Typical of literature, especially journalism, verse 1 is the Headline of the article. The headline tells the basics, that in the beginning of Time, God created out of nothing everything in the heavens and everything in and on the earth. Then the details are presented in an orderly fashion. Verse 2 tells us that God began with planet earth (not the heavens!), so is the earth important or what? By this I would conclude that there are no other inhabited planets and no beings ever lived on Mars, which was not created yet.

The desperate search for life outside the earth is a futile effort trying to justify evolution. God began by creating a mass of matter "out of nothing," (It takes a tremendous amount of energy to create matter, but it can be done, the opposite of an atom bomb, which is changing matter into a lesser amount by releasing a lot of this energy.)

Having created this mass of matter "in an instant," God said, "Let there be light." Where did this light come from?

Ans: from God Himself, as it will also be in the new heavens and new earth.

Rev 21:23-25. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb...and its gates will never be shut by day--and there will be no night there.

The evidence that this "clock" is running is verse 5, the very first period of 24 hours from the beginning of Time, with evening, the darkness (verse 2) which He called Night, followed by the light which came from Himself which He called Day, and "there was evening and there was morning, the first day" of 24 hours.

Then on Day 2, Gen 1:6-8, And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. Notice "the expanse" above the earth which he called Heaven is totally empty until Day 4 except for planet earth!

On Day 3, God organizes the matter on the surface of the earth into a land mass and seas, and He plants mature vegetation, trees yielding fruits and plants yielding seeds. If it ever occurred to you about the day-age idea, remember that plants need sunshine and darkness in our normal 24 hour alternation. Long days and long nights

would kill all vegetation. Also, a long day would become extremely hot and a long night would become extremely cold, eliminating any possibility of plant life.

On Day 4, God decided to hide His light, shining since the beginning, and create the heavenly bodies to replace His light and to occupy the empty Heaven.

Gen 1:14- 19. And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs (Gospel in the Stars) and for seasons (Moedim-appointed times), and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day (the sun) and the lesser light to rule the night (the moon)--and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens (on Day 4 and not before!) to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

This now is 24hrs/Day x 4 Days = 96 hours from "the beginning" of Time. This "clock," as every clock, has been running continuously. It is not a stopwatch to start and stop for a while to make room for a "Gap." And notice also that everything created to be in the heavens is focused on planet earth!! No wonder people in the past thought the earth was the center of the universe and that the sun rotated around the earth.

Are you following God's sequence, His "train of thought" as He gives the details following His "Headline" statement? Are you satisfied with "verbal inspiration" of Scripture, that every word came from God through His chosen Hebrew writers?

Or have you been brainwashed into thinking evolutionary ideas, which have NO basis in fact? God's clock has been running now for about 6,000 years, believe it or not.

Ok, then, what about the fossils?

Fossils are made by sudden "burying," not by slow decomposition, and are found only in certain strata that line up with Noah's Flood. Many bones are found with blood and soft interiors, showing recent age. However, by Day 4 there are no animals yet to be fossilized! So no fossils are older than 6,000 yrs no matter how they are dated or how much age they might appear to have. Remember, all that God created were in a mature functioning state with the appearance of age, like Adam being a young man on Day 6.

All right, what about the fact that stars have been measured to be many more than 6,000 Light Years away? No problem, if you give God credit for being Who He is, the Almighty Creator God who can do anything and everything He wants to do. By being influenced by evolution and paganism where "gods" are like super humans, we fail to see God in His immense greatness and power!

So, thinking with God, on Day 4 when He placed all the stars where He wanted them to be, and gave them names, He put light beams from each star shining all over the Universe and reaching to the earth, so that the light that we see now from even very distant stars is the light that God put there, and not yet the light that is generated by that star.

Any more questions? They can all be answered by thinking with God on the basis of what He has written. Now, can you imagine all of the Universe burning up in about 1,000 years from now, which will be the End of Time? From the Beginning of Time until the End of Time is about 7,000 years

total. This will be fantastic fireworks, as God revealed it to Peter to pass on to us!!

2 Peter 3:7-13. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day (meaning the Lord is not limited by the "Time" that He set up, is not controlled by His clock). The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance (but most do not reach repentance because they have a "free will" to choose Him but most do not). But the day of the LORD will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Where will you and we be when all the heavenly bodies return back to Energy, and then are re-created into new ones, with no sun or moon?

Ans: if you are BornFrom-Above in Yeshua, you and we will be with Yeshua wherever He is, so not to worry. We have an exciting future ahead unless you are counterfeit!

Now for Day 5, God created fish in the sea and birds in the air, and told them to multiply. Finally there would be some creatures that could be fossilized if the right conditions caught them, burying them quickly under pressure. To speculate that some fossils could have been formed in that "big Gap" is pure guesswork as no creatures were formed until Day 5!

And now we have the answer to the question asked repeatedly, and stupidly, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" Day 5 of Creation Week says, "The mature chicken came first, newly created, ready to lay that first egg!"

Reading and believing the Bible at face value is so refreshing! Why make it so complicated?

Ans: Satan wants people to believe his ideas instead.

On Day 6, God created all other living creatures "after their kind (not species)" and then created mankind, one man and one woman.

Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let us (plural) make man in our (pl) image (sing), after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his (sing) own image, in the image of God he (sing) created him; male and female he created them.

You figure out the very interesting plural/singular shift! These first human beings were geniuses, not cave men!! Try classifying the "animal kingdom" in an hour on the day you yourself were created, as Adam did! Now there exist plenty of specimen to become fossils as they multiplied, including dinosaurs and mammoths with food still in their mouths, and "missing link prehistoric sub-humans" which supposedly existed in the Gap Period, an earlier civilization, having been dated as "millions" of years old. If you want really good scientific and biblical data on such things, please buy some books from Institute for Creation Research.

By now I think you should be convinced that there was no Gap and no earlier civilization. By the completion of Day 6, there are now 6 days of 24hrs/day = 144 hours on God's clock which started at the beginning of Time in Genesis verse 1.

On Day 7, God rested or ceased His creation work, showing mankind that they should work for 6 days and then rest on the 7th. He repeated and expanded this in Commandment 4 in Exodus 20.

Actually our bodies are created to operate most efficiently on this sequence, the most healthy way to live. Reading through the Books of the Bible, God as Creator is mentioned so many times as the writers recognized this fact as obvious and relied on the assurance it gave them.

In case anyone might want some biblical evidence that mankind was created different from animals and therefore unique in creation, a comment in the Hertz Chumash on page 7 is very helpful. Referring to Genesis 2:7, then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature, "he says, 'Rabbis point to the fact that in this verse the word for 'formed' (vayyitzer) is written with two yods, whereas in v.19, when relating the creation of animals, it has only one yod.'"

This shows that humans have the capability of relating to God, being created in His image in contrast to animals who also have a soul but of a different kind. This has nothing to do with the Gap idea, but I thought it was worthwhile pointing it out for those who might still struggle with pagan or evolutionary ideas from the enemy of their souls.

The Four Levels of Interpretation - PaRDeS

(By Roger Walkwitz)

Shalom Brethren.

PaRDeS is another teaching you want to avoid. Those teaching this think they have found an amazing “secret” about the Bible and are proud to tell you about it. In reality, it is a cultic, demonic deception.

Here it is from the Internet:

“Pardes (פרד"ס) is a Kabbalistic theory of Biblical exegesis first advanced by Moses de León. The term, sometimes also rendered PaRDeS, is an Hebrew abbreviation formed from the initials of the following four approaches:

Peshat (פשוט) – “surface” (“straight”) or the literal (direct) meaning.

Remez (רמז) – “hints” or the deep (allegoric: hidden or symbolic) meaning beyond just the literal sense. In the version of the New Zohar, Re'iah.

Derash (דרש) – from Hebrew darash: “inquire” (“seek”) – the comparative (midrashic) meaning, as given through similar occurrences.

Sod (סוד) (pronounced with a long O as in 'lore') – “secret” (“mystery”) or the esoteric/mystical meaning, as given through inspiration or revelation.”

After reading this, you might be impressed and fooled.

How well do you know our LORD – YHVH?? Is He writing His Bible so that only certain people with “spiritual insights and powers” can really understand it all??

This is Kabbalah. Human pride caters to this kind of teaching:
“I know the secrets of the Bible
and you don't!”

For curiosity and to be aware of Kabbalah people, years ago Ted Franco and I attended such a lecture in Manila. Classes were offered for a price as I remember. Religion is big business!

Now again, how well do you know your God? My God, YHVH, wrote His Bible to reveal Himself and His plans for mankind.
He is not trying to fool anyone.

A “revelation” means exposing everything, transparency, telling the facts and the Truth. My God does this, using human language with its figures-of-speech, simile, metaphor, irony, hyperbole, parables, etc, but not allegory unless He tells you it is, like in Galatians 4:24. The “church fathers” used allegory to mess up the Bible badly. “Bible Codes” is also a false, deceptive teaching. Do not be led astray!

So the only valid part of this is the first one, the Peshat, the surface, plain meaning of the words.



ASIA
PACIFIC
MESSIANIC
FELLOWSHIP



KEHILOT, COMMUNITIES AND CONGREGATIONS IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE ASIA PACIFIC MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP

INDONESIA

Gereja Kehilat Mesianik Indonesia

(GKMI = Indonesian Assemblies of Messianic
Congregations with the gov't recognition)
Pengakuan KemenAg Kanwii DKI
KW.09.7/BAO1.1/149/2013 Jakarta
Sat 5PM Sun 8AM

Bintaro Messianic Congregation

Bumi Bintaro Permai D7-8 South Jakarta 12320.
Contact: Benyamin Obadayah +62217364258
Sat 10AM and 5PM

Shoresh Messianic Fellowship Plaza
Pasifik Bld A1/1, 4th Fl, Jl Raya Boulevard Barat
Kelapat Gading, North Jakarta
Contact: Benyamin Obadayah +62-812-9912-430

Central Java Sat 10AM

Purwokerto Messianic Congregation Jl Lend
Sudirman 883, Purwokerto, Central Java
Contact: Bambang Rianto +62-8886657801

East Java Sat 5PM

Kehilat Mesianik Congregation

JL Wonokromo 7/5, Mojosari,
Kab Mojokerto, East Java
Contact: Judo Nugroho +62-81913224624

South Kalimantan Sat 10AM

Banjarmasin Messianic Congregation

Jl Pasar Baru 2, Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan
Contact: Edy Purwanto +62-8125189517

North Sulawesi Sat 10AM

Yerushalayim Congregation

Manado, North Sulawesi
Contact: Jefrey Rualemba +62-89655471976
Sat 10AM Netivyah Ministry Jl Garuda 37,
Manado, North Sulawesi
Contact: Oral Bollegraf +62-853 98128567

PAPUA Sat 10AM

El Shaddai Messianic Congregation

Jl Argapura Kanon, Jayapura, Papua
Contact: Seblum Karubaba +62-81247562203
Sat 10AM

Migdal Eder Messianic Congregation

Jl Pasir Dua Jayapura, Papua
Contact: Benny Karubaba +62-812 47082149

South Korea

Korea Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

Shabbat meeting at 2PM
F2,16, Gyeongin-ro 940beon-Gil, Bupyeong-gu,
Incheon, 21424, Korea.
Contact: Yehoshua Jo, yehoshuajo@msn.com,
+82-10-5090-5821

Japan

Japan Messianic Fellowship

Erev Shabbat and Shabbat 10AM
4-14-11 Midorigaoka, Taihaku-ku, Sendai-shi,
Miyagi 982
Contact: Takashi Yokoyama +81-22-285-9227,
jmf@bekkoame.ne.jp

Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

Shabbat Service at 1PM R# 301, 3-9-12
Shinmachi Kitaku, Tokyo, Japan 114-0012
Contact: +81-3-3810-8828, yehoshuajo@me.com

New Zealand

Talmidei Yeshua Messianic Ministry of New Zealand

www.messianic.org.nz

Hawkes Bay Kehillah

Nasi: Grame Purdie talmidimak@gmail.com
+64 277101157

Auckland Kehillah

Nasi: Ashok Kumar talmidimak@gmail.com
+64 21 029 08194

PO Box 8654 Havelock North, 4157 NZ (Talmidei
Yeshua Messianic Ministry of New Zealand may
not necessarily accept or agree with all the views
expressed in this magazine)

Singapore

The Congregation that Song Lai Hee has founded
"Noahide," a totally false pathway so he is alone
now until Yeshua forms a true Kehillah there. He
lives at Blk 620 Bukit, Batok Central #29-522,
Singapore 650620
Contact: Song Lai Hee +6590027471
laihee@gmail.com

Thailand

Bangkok Messianic House

Shabbat 10:30AM 33/5 Soi Nai-Lert, Wireless rd.
Bangkok 10330 Thailand
Contact: Nobuyuki Ito +66-81-915-6154
nobubosuke77@gmail.com

Philippine APMF Diaspora in Canada

Calgary L'Chaim Bible Fellowship

Shabbat service 4PM 138 Bridlewood Ave. SW
Calgary Alberta, Canada
Contact: Louwell Ogbinar +1 (403)-700-2131
loubinar@yahoo.com; Marvin Mayo
+1(403)-796-7657 marvin.mayo@hotmail.com
www.lechaimbiblefellowship.org

Philippines

APMF Officers Philippines

Dave Angiwan: dave@apmfinc.com
Joel Cruz: joel@apmfinc.com
Ted Franco: ted_franco@yahoo.com
Amos Baucas: albaucas@hotmail.com

Member of APMF:

La Trinidad

La Trinidad Bible Congregation (LTBC)

Shabbat Service 10AM Cruz, La Trinidad
PO Box 133, La Trinidad, Benguet 2601
Contact: Amos Baucas (0928) 332 2201
lbaucas@yahoo.com

In Fellowship with APMF

Baguio City

Baguio City Messianic (BCMC)

Shabbat service at 9:30AM
#7 Modesa St., Mines View, Baguio City 2600
Contact: Dave Angiwan dave@apmfinc.com

Ifugao

Banaue Messianic Fellowship

3601 Banaue, Ifugao
Contact: Jose Sarol (0967) 966 3562
clairesarolsarol@gmail.com



**KEHILOT, COMMUNITIES AND CONGREGATIONS IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE
ASIA PACIFIC MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP**

Cebu

Cebu Messianic Community

Shabbat Service 10AM, 1PM
Contact: Joel Cruz (0922) 822 5327, Imee Cruz
(0922) 851 2454

Bukidnon

Talakag Messianic Fellowship

Talakag Bukidnon, Mindanao
Shabbat gathering 10AM-6PM
Contact: Solomon Buasag (0977) 802 1025 &
(0935) 297 4405, vivsbuasag@yahoo.com

Rizal

Cainta Torah Community

Shabbat Service at 10:30AM
Dayspring Academy Sunset Drive Brookside
Subdivision, Cainta, Rizal 1900
Contact: Willy and Lita Miranda (0939) 325 3000
(0927) 704 8000 willyz_miranda@yahoo.com

Eagles Wings Messianic Congregations

Friday 6:30PM and Saturday 9:30AM
#7 Saratoga St. Park Place Executive Village,
Cainta Rizal
Contact: Jenny Joven (0928) 655 5469 Christy
Cruz (0995) 194 1502
Also Saturday 9AM #450 L Cerrero St. Brgy.
Macamot, Binangonan Rizal
Contact: Tony Arceo (0926) 829 6338

Paranaque City

Eemunah Tabgha Community

Executive Heights, Paranaque City
Contact: Eva Agustin (0917) 896 0995
Shabbat service 10:30AM

Tagaytay

Tagaytay Torah Community

Shabbat Service 10:30AM
Contact: Ning (0919) 984-0878

Davao Oriental

Pujada Community

Yakal St. Barangay Sainz, City of Mati, Davao
Oriental 8200: Saturday 3-6 PM
Contact: Mark Pineda (0918) 353 2549

Lupon Torah Community

Panuncialman St., Purok Hayahay
Brgy. Poblacion Lupon, Davao Oriental
8AM-11:30AM every Shabbat
Contacts: Petronio (Bong) Conte
bongskik04@gmail.com (0907) 731 9723
Alen Kelly Conte billionairealenkelly@gmail.com,
(0917) 162 3763

Greater Manila Area

Cavite

Eemunah Torah Community

Shabbat service 9:30AM
Block 3 Lot 21 Java St., Cybergreen Hills, General
Trias Cavite 4107
Contact: Christopher Madrid (0932) 844 2958
christophermadrid75@gmail.com or
emunahtorahcommunity@gmail.com

Quezon City

Mishpachat Ha'Mashiach Torah Community

Shabbat Service 2-6PM
Bldg. 11 BLPC, Road 3, Quezon City
Contact: Ian Asuncion or Cecilia Agustin
(0918) 573 6838

Mandaluyong City

Metro Strata Learning Center

Shabbat Service 9:30AM
11th Floor 685 Nueve de Pebrero Ave.
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Contact: Tanggol Esquerra (0915) 320 8083

Laguna

Chesed V'Emeth Community

Shabbat Service 12:30PM
Block 11 Lot 36 Calendola Village
San Pedro, Laguna
Contact: Monette Guiruela (0920) 658 3847



Winter 2023 (January-March)

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