



THE GHOST MARCION (Part 1).....	3
DEVARIM	7
CHRISTIANIZED PAGANISM (Reverend Twistruth).....	8
SUKKOT ("TABERNACLES").....	9
INTRODUCTION THE BOOK OF HEBREWS.....	12
JUDAISM AND ANIMAL RIGHTS.....	15
THE FRINGE OF HIS CLOAK.....	17
NACHMANIDES' COMMENTARY ON DT. 30:6 (Circumcision of Heart)....	20
ABRAHAM: A MAN OF HOSPITALITY.....	21
TISHA B'AV (9th OF AV).....	24
ISRAEL: A SAFE PLACE.....	25
THE CHURCH HISTORY THEY DON'T TEACH YOU.....	26
IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH OSTER.....	30
INTRODUCTION TO SERVICES.....SUBSCRIPTION FORM.....	32
"THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES SIT IN MOSES' SEAT".....	34
SHLOMO HILLEL HELPED 120,000 JEWS FLEE IRAQ.....	43
THE DREADFUL CONSEQUENCES OF TOUCHING THE APPLE OF GOD'S EYE..	49
THE CASE FOR ISRAEL.....	59
MESSIANIC DIRECTORY.....	62

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WELCOME to Petah Tikvah: APMF Edition!!

Rick Chamberlin provides us with the basic Petah Tikvah-US each issue which we edit and add our own articles, information about events in our region, letters to our own Mail Box, APMF Kehilot Directory, etc. By putting our issue in our website, www.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 articles, send it to friends, and refer others to our website with no cost!!!!

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

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Directory. Listing is free for Messianic Torah Communities and Bible Study Groups that want to be in 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 engrafted 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.

ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE. We are facing uncertain times ahead as we believe events show a preparation for the Return of Yeshua! APMC 18 was our first Annual Conference that had to be cancelled since our first in June 2003, but the selected teacher, Chad Wilhelms, graciously put all his prepared lectures on email so that all of us could "attend" and enjoy Conference with him!! Thanks, Chad, good stuff!! However, in the future when gatherings can resume, it is essential that as many as possible from every Kehilah participate **in person** in every Annual Conference for 1) Bible teaching to learn more and to enrich your soul, and for 2) mutually encouraging conversations with each other after long absences as we implement **agapao** and **koinonia** among us, and 3) any APMF business that needs attention!

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Both are available at Amazon.com as well as directly from Roger. Also, surf these websites for excellent information and Bible exposition. www.APMFInc.com, www.Walkwitz.com/Roger www.PetahTikvah.com and www.lechaimbiblefellowship.org

Greetings from Roger

The Elite Gentile

Are you Jewish?? As far as I know, the only born Jewish person in APMF is our good friend and Messianic Leader in New Zealand, **Graeme Purdie**. Naomi and I were blessed to spend 10 days in h NZ some years ago with 2 Shabbats with Graeme and Caroline and their Kehilah. I ask this because I think the rest of us are born Gentiles and because I have discovered some fascinating Truths about a certain kind of Gentile that I hope all of us in APMF aspire to be. I joyfully present to you my new Document: **"THE ELITE GENTILE!"** researched by Roger Walkwitz

Since I was born-from-Above at age 13, I have made it my daily habit to read thru the Bible, chapter by chapter before breakfast. The place of the children of Jacob, renamed Israel, is obvious and primary but what about us Gentiles? How do we fit in? So stick with me as we search the Bible to find out, beginning with Passover in Exodus as that is the time when Israel becomes separate from the rest of mankind.

In the Tanakh there are five Hebrew words that refer to the 5 types of Gentiles, the Zar, Nekar, Nokri, Toshav and the Ger. The Ger is the Elite Gentile as I will seek to show you in this study and is also the God Fearer, who became part of the nation of Israel as Gentiles without any conversion to Judaism, although they are as Torah observant as any faithful Israeli is expected to be. They are not proselytes either, as that is a Newer Testament designation not found in the Tanakh.

Exodus 12:19 is the first significant use of Ger: For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner (Ger) or a native of the land. This clearly shows that the Ger and the native Israeli make up the Congregation of Israel. None of the other 4 types of Gentiles have this privilege although some of them are in the area, such as the Nekar in Exodus 12:43. And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the statute of the Passover: no foreigner (Nekar) shall eat of it. Exodus 12:45 shows that the Toshav also is barred from celebrating the Passover. No foreigner (Toshav) or hired servant may eat of it. No offer, no invitation is given.

However, the Ger is invited to the Passover provided that he is circumcised. Exodus 12:48-49. If a stranger (Ger) shall sojourn with you and would keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised. Then he may come near and keep it; he shall be as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it. There shall be one law (Torah) for the native and for the stranger (Ger) who sojourns among you." This is the usual statement for the Elite Gentile!!!

Again we see the Ger as an integral part of Israel in contrast to the other 4 types of Gentiles. There are many such statements in the Torah, such as Leviticus 20:2. "Say to the people of Israel, Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers (Ger) who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones.

Israel is not going to be the Torah policeman for all the people around but only for themselves which always includes the strangers (Ger) who sojourn in Israel.

Circumcision for a Gentile in the Torah has nothing to do with conversion or becoming a proselyte but simply makes the Gentile “kosher” or acceptable while staying a Gentile.

However, in the Newer Testament with the Rabbis pushing conversion circumcision, circumcision is not required as in the case of Cornelius and actually forbidden. Galatians 5:2-4, 6. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.....For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

In Isaiah’s time, God makes an offer to the Nekar, maybe as a representative Gentile since God is open to all mankind. Isaiah 56:6-7. "And the foreigners (Nekar) who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant-- these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." However, I find no evidence that the Nekar or any of the other 3 types of Gentiles responds to God’s offer.

Circumcision is not mentioned above for the Nekar, but it could be included in God’s covenant, but notice how important Shabbat is to God, which to Him might be more important than circumcision!!

I have already shown that the Ger is part of the Congregation of the LORD and is also called the God Fearers or those who fear the LORD. Four Psalms bring this out very clearly. The first is Psalm 22:22-23. I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation (Kahal) I will praise you: You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! The underlined are what make up the Kahal.

Another significant fact is that the usual word for Congregation is Kahal, which is translated as Ekklesia in the LXX or Septuagint, the exact same word that in the Newer Testament is wrongly made as “church.” This is not a translation but a deliberate change to promote the anti-Semitic agenda that some “church” has replaced Israel!! Check any good English Dictionary and you will find that “church” comes from the Greek word Kuriakon, a pagan temple, as all pagan gods and goddesses were called kurios (Lord) so and so.

Years ago, however, I was not fooled by this Replacement Theology, although I had not heard the term then. I came across Acts 7:38, This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sinai..... If the “church” was in the wilderness with Moses, then there is something wrong in the use of this word, telling us that this “church” began in Acts 2. Further, I came across Hebrews 2:12, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.... which is a direct quote of Psalm 22:22, where the word is congregation, Kahal in Hebrew and Ekklesia in the LXX.

Three more Psalms show the groups that make up the Kahal of Israel, Psalms 115:9-13, 118:2-4: Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever," and 135:19-20. Clearly there are 3 parts to the Kahal of Israel: Israel = the 12 Tribes, Aaron = Tribe of Levi, and the Ger = those who fear the LORD, the forever approved Gentile part.

It seems that in the Tanakh, the Ger is not given any land but works to earn his living and sometimes can become rich. However, in the Kingdom as we consider Ezekiel 44-48, we have a pleasant surprise and blessing!! Ezekiel 47:21-23. "So you shall divide this land among you according to the tribes of Israel. You shall allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the sojourners (Ger) who reside among you and have had children among you. They shall be to you as native-born children of Israel. With you they shall be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel. In whatever tribe the sojourner resides, there you shall assign him his inheritance, declares the Lord GOD.

There is one more illustration that we need to examine, the Good Olive Tree of Romans 11. What is the benefit of being in the Good Olive Tree?? And before that, what is the Good Olive Tree since it is used as a figure of speech for something else. Is it used as a figure for Israel, like the fig tree? No, not really, even tho the Emblem for Israel is a Menorah between two olive branches.

The Good Olive Tree is holy, the branches are fed from the holy root and therefore branches are holy, also. Some Jewish branches are broken off because of unbelief but if they change to believe, God will graft them back in again. This is very different from other places when the unbeliever is cast out into outer darkness or the lake of fire, from which there is no return. So, can we conclude that the Jewish person fully qualifies on the basis of Torah observance but balks at believing in Yeshua, and therefore not yet Saved or born-from-Above?

The Gentile branch leaves behind his pagan wild olive tree and becomes a God Fearer, the Ger that is fully Torah observant, and has been linked with Israel ever since leaving Egypt. He is also a born-from-Above believer in Yeshua.

I will now venture a guess that the Good Olive Tree represents God's real Family, walking together with Yeshua in full agreement with His Word.

Now comes the bombshell – Christians, church people are NOT in God's Good Olive Tree because they are not in agreement with God, insulting Him by meeting on Sunday, ignoring the Torah, some anti-Israel and even anti-Semitic. Some may be Saved, born-from-Above believers in Yeshua but far from walking with Him. Review 1 John 2:3-4 and more. "Can two walk together unless they are agreed?" Amos 3:3.

Summary: the Elite Gentile among the Gentiles of the world is the Ger, the God Fearer who lives among the Tribes of Israel, keeping Torah as expected of every faithful Israeli. He is to be treated as "one born in the land, as a native," but does not have land in this life but will inherit land in the next life, within the Tribes of Israel. He is the Gentile branch in God's Good Olive Tree.

We would assume that Messianic Jews would know this and would gladly welcome God Fearers on an equal basis the same as God does, but the reality is that nearly all Messianic Jewish organizations and congregations consider us as not their equals. Associate Membership is available but they would prefer that we not apply. And of course all non-Messianic Jewish groups would advise God Fearers to just practice the so-called Noahide Laws unless they want to convert to their brand of Judaism. Immigration to Israel would be a bit challenging as the government agencies of Israel have no clue about what their Tanakh teaches.

Therefore, we God Fearers in the Far East have banded together for mutual help, encouragement and teaching in the Asia Pacific Messianic Fellowship!! We intend to fulfill our Calling and responsibility before God independently of any and all alliances with those who do not understand nor accept our God-given status. As Israel was Called to be a light to the nations, we also intend and hope to be a shining light to those around us, as Ambassadors for Yeshua HaMashiach, The Light of the world, our Savior, Redeemer, Son of God and our Friend!!

Roger Walkwitz

Founder, Asia Pacific Messianic Fellowship



**ASIA
PACIFIC
MESSIANIC
FELLOWSHIP**

THE GHOST OF MARCION

BY DANIEL BOTKIN

PART 1

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Introduction

If a person has a fair amount of exposure to Mainstream Christianity, and a familiarity with the Bible, he may notice that Mainstream Christianity often de-emphasizes the Old Testament and puts a disproportionate amount of emphasis on Paul's epistles. I would hesitate to say that any part of the Scriptures can be over-emphasized. However, if we give un-called-for weight and emphasis to certain parts of the Bible, and neglect what the rest of the Scriptures teaches about an issue, we will probably develop and imbalanced view of that particular issue.

By volume, Paul's epistles make up approximately 5% of the Bible. Paul's writings are holy Scripture, but neither Paul nor the Holy Spirit expected us to give more weight and authority to these epistles than we do to the Old Testament or to the rest of the New Testament.

By putting a disproportionate amount of emphasis on these letters that Paul sent to various churches, we fail to follow the example of Paul, who told the Ephesians, "I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). By neglecting certain parts of the Bible, we ignore Paul's declaration that "all Scripture is inspired and is useful" (2 Tim. 3:16).

Christianity's strong emphasis on Paul's writings, and lack of emphasis on so much of the rest of the Bible, is puzzling. It is especially puzzling when we consider Peter's warning about Paul's writings:

"His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction" (2 Pet. 3:16).

If it was easy for Paul's contemporaries to misunderstand his epistles, we can be sure

that it will be even easier for us to do so, with our limited knowledge of the situations and problems Paul was addressing when he wrote to these various churches. Yet some Christians, perhaps unknowingly, are more intent on following the easy-to-misunderstand teachings contained in Paul's letters than they are on following the plain teachings of the Messiah Jesus contained in the Gospels.

What Caused the Church to Pay so Much Attention to Paul?

How did this shift of focus come about? What caused the Church to begin paying so much attention to Paul and so little attention to the Law and the Prophets and other parts of the Bible? To discover the answer to this question, we must go all the way back to the Second Century. After all the original Apostles had died, other people took on the responsibility of continuing the Church's work. The original Apostles were all Jews, who had been exposed to the teachings of the Law and the Prophets since their childhood. The leaders who replaced them were mostly Gentiles from pagan backgrounds, who had comparatively little understanding of the Old Testament Scriptures. We can read about these people in various documents from the Second Century. One Church historian has this to say about these documents:

"Many stories come in versions so distorted that it is hard to decide whether the principal characters were worthy successors to the apostles, or the devil's own agents. Perhaps their contemporaries were as uncertain as we are."^[1]

There is one character, however, which was undoubtedly one of the devil's own agents: the heretic Marcion, who lived in the second half of the Second Century. Marcion taught that the entire Old Testament should be rejected because it belonged to an evil, inferior God, and not to the God revealed by Jesus of Nazareth.

Marcion was very anti-Jewish; therefore he also rejected any New Testament writings which appeared to speak favorably of "Jewish practices" (i.e., keeping the laws and commandments of the Old Testament). As one writer notes:

"Marcion started the trend which has had many followers right up to the present — if

it doesn't suit the theory, excise it as spurious or an interpolation."^[2]

By the time Marcion finished editing the Scriptures, his "Bible" consisted of nothing more than Luke's Gospel (minus the "Jewish" elements) and ten of Paul's epistles. Paul, Marcion taught, was the only apostle who could be trusted.

Marcion's anti-Jewish, pro-Paul churches spread throughout the Roman Empire and soon became a major threat to the Messianic faith. According to historians, Marcion's heresy continued to spread until it finally died out sometime around the Fifth Century.

We who claim to believe the Bible must ask ourselves an important question: Did Marcion's anti-Jewish, anti-Old Testament, pro-Paul heresy really die out? Or did the Church simply succumb to it and accommodate it and incorporate it, in a subdued form, into Mainstream Christianity?

Of course our Bible, unlike Marcion's, includes the Law and the Prophets, but how much do we heed their instruction? When we examine the average Christian's attitude to the Law and the Prophets, it is obvious that the **ghost of Marcion** is very much alive in the church today.

Although the Church pays lip service to the inspiration and authority of *all* the Scriptures, its de-emphasis of the Law, the Prophets, and anything "Jewish," and its heavy emphasis on Paul, reveals that the Church today is basically Marcionite in practice. For those who doubt this assertion, let us examine some things that Marcion taught, and we will see that the spirit of Marcion still has a very strong influence on the Church today.

What Did Marcion Teach?

Marcion's most influential writing was a work entitled *Antithesis*, described as "a highly competent work" which consisted of "contrasted statements arranged to prove the incompatibility of the law and the gospel."^[3]

Unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately), there are no known copies of *Antithesis* in existence. What we know about Marcion's teachings comes mainly from the writings of those who opposed his heresy.

The one to write the most about Marcion was Tertullian, a church leader who wrote a lengthy work called *Against Marcion*. Tertullian describes *Antithesis* as:

"a work strained into making such a division between the Law and the Gospel as thereby to make two separate gods, opposite to each other, one belonging to one

instrument (or, as it is more usual to say, testament), one to the other, and thus lend its patronage to faith in another gospel, that according to *Antithesis*."^[4]

No real Christian today would admit to believing in two gods, of course. Yet many believers make such a division between Old Testament Law and New Testament grace, that they view the Law as something opposed to grace. The Law is seen as something obsolete and of little use to a Christian. Such a warped view of God's Law will carry over into our view of God Himself. If God's Old Testament Law is opposed to God's New Testament grace, we end up with either a schizophrenic God, or Marcion's two gods.

"Marcion sets up unequal gods," Tertullian writes, "the one a judge, fierce and warlike, the other mild and peaceable, solely kind and supremely good."^[5]

Is this not exactly what many Christians do? They shun the "Old Testament God" because He is too stern and fierce. They focus instead upon the "New Testament God," who, in their minds, does not expect obedience to His laws. Listen to Tertullian's description of Marcion's God, and see if it is not a description of the god presented by the Church today:

Marcion's god "displays neither hostility nor wrath." He "neither condemns nor disdains" and "does not punish." "A better god has been discovered," Tertullian sarcastically writes, "one who is neither offended nor angry nor inflicts punishment. . . he is merely kind. Of course he forbids you to sin — but only in writing. It lies with you whether you consent to accord him obedience."^[6]

"To what purpose does he lay down commands?" Tertullian asks. "This god is exceptionally dull-witted if he is not offended by the doing of that which he dislikes to see being done."^[7]

We might ask ourselves the same question about the God we worship: To what purpose does He lay down commands? We are certainly not *justified* by keeping the Law. We are justified by faith. But after we are justified, what are we to do with God's commandments? Are we to put them into practice, or are we to disobey them?

The Scofield Bible:

Reviving the Ghost of Marcion

One thing that has helped the ghost of Marcion to thrive so well in the Twentieth Century Church is the popularity of the Scofield Reference Bible. Even Christians who have never seen a Scofield Bible have probably been af-

fectured by it indirectly, through preachers and teachers who have been influenced by it.

The Scofield Bible contains many excellent study notes and aids to understanding the Scriptures. Several of Scofield's notes, however, strongly suggest a Marcionite view of Law and Grace. A reader of Scofield's notes is left with the impression that Law and Grace are mutually exclusive.

Scofield's anti-law bias has fed and nurtured and sustained the tares of nomophobia (fear of the Law) that Marcion sowed in the Church nineteen centuries ago. As the end of the age approaches, God is sending forth His messengers to uproot these tares, so His wheat can mature and bring forth the fruit of obedience to God's laws.

Spirit of Lawlessness

A spirit of lawlessness has been hanging over the Church for most of its history. Some Christians have been influenced by it more than others, of course. Paul saw it beginning in his lifetime. Second Thessalonians speaks about "the secret power of lawlessness" which was "already at work" when Paul wrote to the Thessalonians.

Paul told the Thessalonians that before the Messiah returned, there would be a "falling away" (*apostasy*, "departure from truth"). This departure from the truth would then open the door for something called "the man of lawlessness" to come forth. This "coming of the lawless one" would be accompanied by "all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders" which would "deceive those who are perishing."

"They perish because they refused to love the truth and be saved," Paul writes. "For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie." In preparation for the Return of the Messiah, God is also sending powerful revelation to graciously expose the ancient lie, so that those who love the truth can depart from error and be freed from the bewitching influence of the spirit of lawlessness.

In 1989, Ted Turner of CNN declared the Ten Commandments obsolete, and offered his own "Ten Voluntary Initiatives" as an alternative to God's outdated laws. No one should take Turner seriously, of course, but he did make one comment that deserves our attention. "Nobody around likes to be commanded," he said. "Commandments are out." [8]

Christians may scoff at Turner's idea of replacing God's laws with human ideas, yet is this not the very thing the Church has done

with some of God's commandments? We have replaced the 24-hour, seventh-day Sabbath with an hour or two of Sunday morning worship; we have replaced the Biblical holy days with holidays of pagan origin; we have replaced God's dietary guidelines with our own ideas about what we should eat.

After a person has been forgiven and justified by faith, where should he look for moral instruction? Should he look to God's commandments to tell him how to live the Christian life, or should he ignore God's commandments and live according to man's suggestions? Even Scofield, in spite of all his anti-law bias and nomophobia, concedes that the Old Testament commandments "are used in the distinctively Christian Scriptures as an instruction in righteousness." [9]

Forbid what YHVH Commanded and Command what YHVH Forbid

In *Against Marcion*, Tertullian accuses Marcion and his followers of "forbidding what [God] commands and commanding what he forbids." [10] The ghost of Marcion continues to do this in the Church today. Mainstream Christianity has criticized believers for keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, for celebrating the Biblical holy days, for practicing the dietary law, and for refusing to shave their beards — things that God has commanded. And, like Marcion, Mainstream Christianity often commands what God forbids: "Forget the Sabbath. Ignore the holy days and dietary laws. And shave that beard, so you'll look like a Christian!" (Many Bible colleges and seminaries command their students to shave their beard, in spite of God's command in [Lev. 19:27](#).)

Marcion, like many church leaders today, misused the words of Jesus and the words of Paul to support this nomophobic, anti-Jewish, pro-Paul gospel. Tertullian rightly points out that Jesus' verbal attacks on the teachers of the Law were not aimed at the Law itself, but at man's perversion and misuse of God's Law. "He is not criticizing the burdens of the law," Tertullian writes. The burdens Jesus criticized were, according to Tertullian, "those which they piled on of their own, teaching for precepts the doctrines of men." [11]

Tertullian shows the importance Jesus attached to keeping the commandments when he writes about the rich young ruler who approached Jesus:

"So when he is asked by that certain man, 'Good Teacher, what shall I do to obtain possession of eternal life?', he inquired whether he knew — which means, was

keeping — the Creator's commandments. . . Come now, Marcion, and all you companions in the misery and sharers in the offensiveness of that heretic, what will you be bold enough to say? Did Christ here rescind those former commands. . . ?"[12]

Tertullian opposes Marcion's misuse of Paul's writings by pointing out the "Jewishness" of Paul's faith, and then asking, "What had [Paul] still to do with Jewish custom, if he was the destroyer of Judaism?"[13] He also refers to Romans 7:7 to combat Marcion's hatred of the Law:

"What shall we say then? That the law is sin? God forbid.' Shame on you, Marcion. God forbid: the apostle expresses abhorrence of complaint against the law. . . Yet he adds even more: 'The law is holy, and its commandment is just, and good.'"[14]

As Tertullian points out later: "you cannot make a promoter of the law into an opponent of it."[15]

Unfortunately, the Church ignored Paul's positive statements about the Law and Jesus' warning about the necessity of continuing to practice and teach the Old Testament commandments. (See Matt. 5:17-19.)

"Spiritualization" of the Law

The Epistle of Barnabas, an influential letter written in the Second Century, indicates the general direction the Church was heading in its attitude to the Old Testament. "The main theme of Barnabas," writes one church historian, "is a spiritualization of the Mosaic law. The writer holds that the Jews were wrong to take the Old Testament literally."[16]

Everything in the Old Testament was allegorized to give it a Christian meaning. Even the commandments were taken figuratively, because, according to Barnabas, "the law of Moses had never been meant to be taken literally."[17] Even the dietary restrictions were said to represent not actual food, but various kinds of sinful habits.

Justin Martyr's *Dialogue With Trypho* also shows early Christianity's negative attitude toward the Law. Trypho the Jew expresses bewilderment when he tells Justin:

"[You Christians] spurn the commands. . . and then try to convince us [Torah-observant Jews] that you know God, when you fail to do those things that every God-fearing person would do. If, therefore, you can give a satisfactory reply to these charges and can show us on what you place your hopes, even though you refuse to obey the Law, we will listen to you most willingly, and then we can go on and ex-

amine in the same manner our other differences."[18]

Justin replies by saying that the Law is "obsolete," "abrogated," "voided," and tells Trypho, "You understand all in a carnal way."[19]

Not all followers of the Messiah were influenced by the nomophobic, anti-Old Testament, pro-Paul gospel of Marcion. There is historical evidence of several groups of believers who practiced the Law as an expression of their faith in Yeshua (Jesus) as the Messiah.

After Trypho asks Justin about the possibility of believing in Yeshua as the Messiah and continuing to observe the commandments, Justin writes his reply:

Yes, Trypho, I conceded, 'there are some Christians who. . . desire to observe as many of the Mosaic precepts as possible — precepts which we think were instituted because of your hardness of heart — while at the same time they place their hope in Christ. . . [20]

Justin obviously disagreed with these Law-keeping Messianic believers, but he does acknowledge their existence.

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 [19] *Ibid.*, ch.11, 14.
 [20] *Ibid.*, ch.47.

Editor's Note: The next issue of **Petah Tikvah** will contain Part 2. Daniel Botkin is the author of this article. He has a bimonthly publication, **Gates of Eden**. For a sample issue, send \$3 to PO Box 2257, E Peoria IL 61611-0257. **RAC**

The term "Deuteronomy" comes from Greek terms meaning "Second Law." Curiously, one of the Hebrew terms for this book is **Mishneh Torah**, which also means "Second Law." **Mishneh Torah** is also the term used for Maimonides'

code of law and ethics. It took Maimonides (also called the Rambam) ten years to write this gigantic work. **Mishneh Torah** is also the term used for the copies of the Torah that kings are supposed to make for themselves in Deuteronomy 17:18. However, the normal Hebrew term for this book is **Devarim**, which is the second word of Deuteronomy 1:1, translated as "words." The **-im** ending makes it plural. **Devar** is the singular, meaning word or thing.

There are some modern Bible "scholars," such as the German School of Higher Criticism, who teach that Moses did not write the books of the Torah, (which includes the book of Deuteronomy. This is both blasphemous and anti-Semitic. This theory is an attack on the Jewish people, as well as an attack on Judaism. The very foundation of Judaism is the Torah. It should be noted that **Torah** more accurately means **Instruction**. However, the Greeks translated the term **Torah** with the Greek word **Nomos**, which means **Law**, and that term stuck in translations. There is much about **law** in the first five books of the Bible. However, most of the books of the Torah are not Law. We have the Creation, history, censuses, and some really great stories in these five books. These five books are also called the **Pentateuch**, from the Greek words **penta**, meaning "five," and **teuchos**, meaning vessel or container.

When I use the term **Torah**, I am usually referring to the first five books of the Bible written by Moshe (Moses). Many rabbis tend to do the same. However, many Orthodox rabbis will also include the entire Tanakh (OT), Talmud, Midrash, and various Rabbinic commentaries on the Pentateuch as being Torah. Yeshua quotes Matthew 19:7-8, referring to Deuteronomy, and confirms that Moses wrote this book. In Matthew 4:4 and 4:7-10, Yeshua confirms this book as authoritative. I believe it is incumbent upon us as believers in Yeshua to also accept the books that Yeshua quoted as authoritative.

As mentioned earlier, Deuteronomy is also called the "Second Law." It is a summary of the past 40 years in the wilderness. It is basically a series of sermons and instructions given by Moses to the children of those who

had left Egypt at the time of the Exodus. All of the men who were over the age of 20 except Joshua, Caleb, and Moses had perished in the wilderness. Their children were about to enter the Promised Land. "The entire Book of Deuteronomy was spoken by Moses in the **last five weeks of his life.**"¹

DEVARIM

Richard
'Aharon'
Chaimberlin

Up until this time, the Israelites had an almost constant awareness of God watching over them. They had heard of the miracles in Egypt that eventually resulted in them leaving Egypt. They were cared for in the wilderness with a constant supply of manna coming down from the sky each day. They had water coming out of a giant rock that followed them in their journey. Their clothing and sandals did not wear out. They had the supernatural cloud by day and pillar of fire by night that led them throughout their travels.

They are now a free people, no longer following the orders of the slave masters. However, they soon would be entering Canaan land. They would have to plow, plant, and harvest. They would have to establish courts of justice and government. They would need instructions on how to meet the needs of those who were less fortunate. They would need to avoid the temptations of the pagans of Canaan and to be aware of false prophets who might mislead them. And they would also have to fight their enemies. There is a time to be a pacifist, and there is a time to pass a fist.

Deuteronomy is not simply a review of the first four books of the Bible. There are about two hundred mitzvot (commandments) contained in this book (out of a total of 613), and **seventy** of these laws are completely new, not even mentioned in the first four books.²

The word for wilderness is **מדבר** (**midbar**). With different **nikud** (vowel markings), but the same consonants as above, it spells **midaber**, meaning **speak**. (There are no nikud in the original Hebrew.) The **shoresh** (root word) is **דבר** (**davar**, meaning word or thing). This same root word is used for words meaning word, wilderness, and speak. God spoke to us, giving us His word, His mitzvot (commandments), in the wilderness, in a foreign land, not in Israel. God's Torah (instructions) are intended for both Jew and Gentile.

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¹ As quoted from the Schottenstein Interlinear Chumash, Mesorah Publications, Brooklyn NY, © 2010, p.1070.

² *Ibid.* p. 1070.

Daniel Botkin Presents
**Reverend
 TWISTRUTH**
*Christianized
 Paganism*
 "It's the real thing"

REVEREND TWISTRUTH, SOMEONE SAID WE CAN'T KEEP OLD TESTAMENT FEASTS BECUZ WE CAN'T OFFER THE SACRIFICES PRESCRIBED IN LEVITICUS FOR THE FEASTS 'CUZ THERE'S NO TEMPLE...



BUT THEN SOME JUDAIZER SAID ACCORDING TO HEBREWS, WE DO HAVE A TABERNACLE IN HEAVEN AND JESUS AS OUR HIGH PRIEST, SO WE CAN AND SHOULD KEEP THE BIBLE FEASTS INSTEAD OF CHRISTMAS AND EASTER, BECUZ THOSE HOLIDAYS ARE CELEBRATED WITH CUSTOMS BORROWED FROM PAGAN IDOL WORSHIP! I'M CONFUSED!

TRUE, WE DO HAVE JESUS AS OUR PRIEST IN THE HEAVENLY TABERNACLE! THESE ARE THE REAL THING, THE SUBSTANCE WHICH THE LEVITICAL SYSTEM POINTED US TO...



BUT JUST AS THE OLD LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD AND EARTHLY TABERNACLE WERE REPLACED BY THE HEAVENLY TABERNACLE AND THE MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS, SO THE OLD EARTHLY, CARNAL FEASTS OF LEVITICUS WERE REPLACED BY HEAVENLY FEASTS LIKE CHRISTMAS AND EASTER!

THESE PAGAN HOLIDAYS ARE THE REAL THING, THE SUBSTANCE WHICH THE LEVITICAL HOLIDAYS POINTED TO! NO DOUBT THAT'S WHY THE APOSTLES SWITCHED TO A DIFFERENT SET OF HOLIDAYS AFTER JESUS' RESURRECTION!



YEAH, THAT MAKES A LOT OF SENSE!

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

SUKKOT (Feast of Tabernacles) is the holiday that remembers the children of Israel wandering in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the Promised Land. During that time, they lived in temporary shelters (sukkot) that could be hastily put up and taken down as they traveled through the desert. As additional shelters, the Israelites had the Pillar of Cloud by day to help shield them from the heat of the sun, and a Pillar of Fire by night to provide heat for them in the cool (sometimes cold) desert nights.

In remembrance of this, HaShem told us, "You shall **celebrate** it (Sukkot) as a feast to YHWH for seven days in the year. It shall be a **perpetual** statute throughout your generations. You shall observe it in the seventh month. You will **dwelt** in sukkahs (booths) for seven days."¹ The Hebrew word for "will dwell" in this verse is **yeshvu**, from the word **yashav**, which means "sit" or "dwell." Therefore, you can fulfill this **mitzvah** (command) by either sitting or dwelling in a sukkah each day throughout the days of Sukkot. In colder climates like ours, we sometimes do a **kiddush**² in the sukkah³ on the colder days, and then go back in the house. Children and adults have fun decorating the sukka.

Sukkot has other names. It is commonly called Z'man Simchateinu ("Season of our Rejoicing") and also **Chag HaAsif** (Feast of the Ingathering), as most crops have been harvested by this time. After the heavy holidays of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, it is nice to have this "lighter" and more joyful holiday.

This is also the likely time of year in which Yeshua was born. One of the clues to this is Yochanan (John) 1:14: "And the Word was made flesh, and **dwelt** among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." The word translated as **dwelt** is from the Greek word **skenoō**, which means "to tent or encamp" or to tabernacle.⁴ Therefore,

SUKKOT

**Richard
"Aharon"
Chamberlin**

Yeshua "tabernacled" among us. When He came to earth, He knew that his body was a temporary shelter, basically a **sukkah**, that He would be living in for a relatively short period of time.

In Nehemiah 8:13-18, we read that the observance of Sukkot had become a forgotten tradition. However, they found that it was written in the Torah that "the sons of Israel should dwell in sukkot during the feast of the seventh month." The people went out to gather the branches and materials to make sukkot (booths), something that they had not done since the days of Joshua. Each day, they read from the Torah, and there was great rejoicing. In chapter 9, there was great repentance, and a genuine revival of faith among the people.

We are commanded to rejoice and celebrate this feast in Deuteronomy 16:14-15. In the next verse, we discover that Sukkot is one of the three pilgrimage festivals. When the Temple was in existence, Jews would attempt to go to Jerusalem during the holidays of Pesach (Passover), Shavuot ("Weeks"), and Sukkot. At that time, "Each man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of YHWH your God, which He has given you (Deut. 16:17)."

Our bodies are also sukkahs, that is, temporary shelters. Our bodies are temporary shelters for the soul, which is eternal. As Rav Sha'ul (Paul) wrote, ^{4:16} "Therefore, we do not lose heart, for though our outward man is perishing, yet our inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For momentary light affliction is producing for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

^{5:1} "For we know that if this earthly tent (sukkah) which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, but eternal in the heavens. ²For indeed, in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, ³in as much as we, having put it

on, shall not be found naked. ⁴For indeed, while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed, but to be clothed, in order that what



¹ Lev. 23:41-42.

² "Sanctification." With the kiddush, we do a blessing over bread and wine (or grape juice).

³ Sukkah is singular, sukkot is plural, and also the Hebrew name of the Feast of Tabernacles.

⁴ See Strong's #G4637.

is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵For He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave it to us as a pledge.

⁶ "Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are of good courage, I say, **and prefer to be absent from the body and present with the Lord.**

⁹ "Therefore, we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah, that each one may be recompensed for his **deeds in the body**, according to what he has done, whether for good or bad." (2 Corinthians 4:16 to 5:10)

This is a perfect description of our bodies being sukkahs - temporary shelters - as something for our souls to inhabit until we receive our eternal homes. In 2 Corinthians 4:18, we are reminded that the things which are **seen** are temporal, whereas the things which are not seen are eternal. We are often surrounded by the spirit world. However, our eyes are usually prevented from seeing into the spirit world. Balaam's donkey in Numbers 22:22-30 may have had more spiritual sensitivity than we do! However, it is the **spirit** world which is eternal. All that we see in this physical world is temporal.

Shimon Kefa also compared our bodies to sukkahs, when he said, "And I consider it right, as long as I am in this *earthly* dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, knowing that the laying aside of my *earthly* dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Yeshua the Messiah has made clear to me. And I also will be diligent that at any time after my departure you may be able to call these things to mind."⁵

Each of the Biblical holy days also has a prophetic fulfillment. Zechariah 14 describes end-time battles in which Israel will have victory over all of her enemies. At that time, "YHWH shall be king over all the earth..."⁶ Anti-Semites are fearful that the Jews will take over the earth. Of course, the Jewish people could never take over the earth, as Jews are so divided among themselves. However, the Jewish Messiah (who we believe to be Yeshua) will indeed be king over all of the earth, ruling from Jerusalem. So, in a sense, the evil anti-Semites are *somewhat* right on this one!

Zechariah 14:12 describes what may be a neutron bomb, which is an ideal tactical nuclear weapon against enemies who are close

by. For the peoples who go to war against Jerusalem, "their flesh shall rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue shall rot in their mouth." Did you ever see **Raiders of the Lost Ark**? When the Nazis opened the rediscovered Ark of the Covenant, their flesh melted. This is what it would also look like with a neutron bomb. Neutron bombs cause protein cells to explode, and are only explosive in the immediate area. The neutrons go out, causing the above damage. The radiation is also very short-lived. And Israel has the neutron bomb!

Another weapon used against the enemies of Israel is the enemies of Israel! Let Zechariah 14:13 explain what I mean: "And it will come about in that day that a great panic from YHWH will fall on them, and they will seize one another's hand, and the hand of one will be lifted against the hand of another." In other words, Israel's enemies will be fighting each other. We have seen this happen in some of Israel's recent wars.

We saw Israel's enemies fight each other at Entebbe, Uganda when terrorists were holding Jewish hostages with the cooperation of Idi Amin in 1976. Israel sent in some special forces under the leadership of Jonathan Netanyahu (the brother of Benjamin Netanyahu). Jonathan died, but all of the other Israelis survived, and rescued the Jewish hostages, and flew them to Israel. However, it happened so quickly that Ugandan forces felt that the Israeli forces were still there, and they continued fighting and killing each other for hours after the Israelis departed. Similarly, in Judges 7:22, the enemies of Israel fought each other. The same thing will happen in a future battle in Ezekiel 38:21. We see this today with Israel's enemies killing each other, such as with the Islamic State and other terrorist Islamic groups killing other Muslims, as well as Sunni Muslims killing Shiite Muslims, and vice-versa.

Finally, we read a future prophetic fulfillment of Sukkot in Zechariah 14:16-17: "And it shall come to pass, that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, YHWH of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Sukkot. And it shall be *that* whoever will not come up of all the families of the earth to Jerusalem to worship the King, YHWH of armies, even upon them shall be no rain." Gentiles should get used to celebrating it today! The Holy Days of Leviticus 23 are the holidays that will be observed in the Millennial Age, when Yeshua rules as King Messiah.

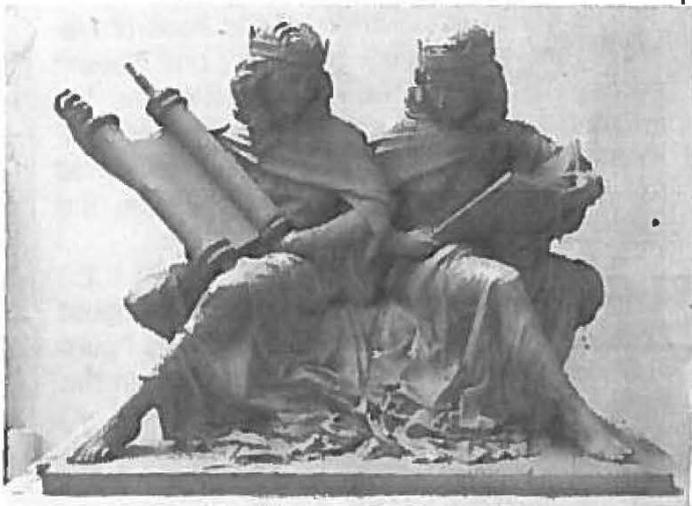
⁵ 2 Peter 1:13-15 (primarily quoted from NAS).

⁶ Zechariah 14:9.

Changing attitudes

Christian attitudes toward Judaism are changing and many Christians now understand and appreciate the historical relationship that exists between the Church and Synagogue. Churches around the world are acknowledging that the Jewish people should be held in special regard because their covenant with God has never been revoked, for "the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable" (Rom 11:29). Dialogue and friendships are developing and Christians are learning to appreciate the wisdom that flows from Jewish insights into the Bible and the encounter of the Jewish people with God and His word. The Church is enriched when she accepts many of the ideals set forth in Judaism.

The statue below was inaugurated on 25 Sept 2015 in Philadelphia PA to celebrate 50 years of Jewish Catholic relations.



Even Catholic attitudes have changed. A new statue commissioned by Saint Joseph's University reinterprets Synagoga and Ecclesia to reflect a new understanding of the Church and Synagogue. In this portrayal, Synagoga and Ecclesia are both proud crowned women, living and learning together, side by side, to better understand God's will and word.

Editor's Note: I'm not a fan of the Roman Catholic church. However, I am pleased to see that the Roman Catholic church has renounced anti-Semitism. It is curious. In earlier centuries, Jews were burned alive for celebrating Passover. Today, there are Roman Catholic Passover seders. There are also excellent relations between Jews and Catholics today.

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THE HOLY ALPHABET

- A**lthough things are not perfect
- B**ecause of trial or pain
- C**ontinue in thanksgiving
- D**o not begin to blame
- E**ven when the times are hard
- F**ierce winds are bound to blow
- G**od is forever able
- H**old on to what you know
- I**magine life without His love
- J**oy would cease to be
- K**eep thanking Him for all the things
- L**ove imparts to thee
- M**ove out of "Camp Complaining"
- N**o weapon that is known
- O**n earth can yield the power
- P**raise can do alone
- Q**uit looking at the future
- R**edeem the time at hand
- S**tart every day with worship
- T**o "thank" is a command
- U**ntil we see Him coming
- V**ictorious in the sky
- W**e'll run the race with gratitude
- X**alting God most high
- Y**es, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...
- Z**ion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

Featured Community:

CEBU Messianic Community

Written by Bro. Joel Cruz



Shalom! We would like to share with you the story of our community.

In 2006, Imee Alcantara and Joel Cruz organized a HaYesod Seminar in Lapu-lapu City Cebu. It was held for two days at the preschool of Imee and her family. Roger Walkwiz, the founder of APMF, was the guest teacher during that time. Roger, Joel, and Imee met in Luzon in Asia Pacific Messianic Fellowship's (APMF) seminars and conferences held in Baguio and Manila.

The first day was a Saturday, a Sabbath day, and there were about 20-30 young Bible school students in attendance in addition to some members of Imee's very own family. It was a very energetic session. The students seemed to be stirred upon hearing the news, and as Roger would say, "HighVoltage" teachings. On the second day, none of those Bible school students came back. We do not know why but we assume that either it is because it was a Sunday, their church day, or that they did not like the teachings.

Nevertheless, a smaller group of 3 families were in attendance. It was the first time we met the Jangad family composed of Ptr. Nowyn Jangad and his wife Ate Inday, as well his son Joel-Love together with his own wife, Cheryl, who was pregnant at that time. Kuya Nowyn brought with him family friends from Talakag, Bukidnon, the Buasag family in the person of Kuya Solomon and Ate Vivilyn. Kuya Nowyn was the youth Pastor of Kuya Solomon when they were in Sta. Cruz, Claveria, and Ate Vivilyn was one of Roger Walkwiz's Bible students in BIBAK Bible Fellowship. Since the two families were not present the previous day, Roger had to repeat most of his 1st day lessons!

Ultimately, God worked mightily in the hearts and minds of the souls present that day. God provided the answers to the burning questions asked by the participants. And like the Bereans, those families continued to read and study the teachings, dig deeper, and best of all, follow and apply the Mitzvot as the Ruach HaKodesh continues to provide guidance.



Eventually Joel and Imee's family and the Jangad families became the Cebu Messianic Community. And the Buasag Family became the Talakag, Bukidnon Community. HalleluYah! The Cebu Messianic Community (CMC) started having Shabbat services in the Jangad family's school, Cebu Christian Institute International. Gradually more and more of God's commandments were being rediscovered and applied including the Moedim, dietary laws, tzitzit, and more.



Members of the CMC continued to participate in APMF's conferences and seminars.

Eventually the CMC also hosted seminars in Lapu-lapu City. Among their guest speakers were as follows: Roger Walkwitz, Ted Franco, Ariel Berkowitz, Spike Psarris, and Chad Wilhelm.



We also had outreach programs...



including the donation drive for the Super typhoon “Yolanda” victims in Northern Cebu. Donations came from CMC, APMF communities, and TorahResource Institute.



Guests, visitors, and brethren from different parts of the country and even outside the Philippines come and fellowship with us. Some of them stay for a while here in Lapu-lapu city due to schooling, work, and other matters. Afterwards they move back to their hometowns and home communities or go abroad. We have come to realize and accept the nature of our ministry as being a transient fellowship or congregation in Central Visayas to cater to a varied group of people with different personal and spiritual goals coming from different locations here and abroad. We are growing generationally, as we raise our own children to love both Yeshua and the Torah. Nevertheless, we still yearn to provide a small but stable community for anyone who seeks to study God’s Word with like-minded believers and enjoy celebrating the Sabbaths and Feasts in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

In this part of the country, we are faced with the following challenges: 1) A strong Roman Catholic presence that is rooted in history. Cebu is the seat of some of the oldest Christian traditions and symbols in the country as here is where the Spaniards first established Christianity, 2) A strong Islam presence. Islam is growing, multiplying, and getting stronger in the region, and 3) A strong Evangelical Christian presence. Many of those who converted out of Roman Catholicism or Islam converted into Evangelical Christianity which has gained ground in the past decade or two.

Currently we have no dedicated place of gathering. We gather in classrooms, offices, and residential spaces as the case may be. However, the Pandemic has forced us into having virtual shabbat fellowships and feasts since May of 2020. This has proven to be a blessing, as it has made us within reach of those searching for biblical truth, but who live far.

We also continue to study and teach HaYesod to our virtual students.



Even though we are still a young and small community, we strongly believe that we are among brothers and sisters that are Grafted into the Good Olive Tree, together with our APMF family. We will continue on with the purpose for which we have been chosen to accomplish in Messiah Yeshua, i.e. to be a light and salt to our families, friends, and neighbors.

Galatians 6:9 (NASB)

9 Let's not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let's do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

THE Book of Hebrews must be among the most misunderstood books of the Newer Testament. I confess—as a new believer back in the 1970's—that I was also really stumped by the Book of Hebrews. I had a "good" anti-nomian (anti-Torah) attitude instilled into me by some of the churches I had attended. Yet, as I read the Book of Hebrews, it seemed evident that Torah was to be a very important part of the lives of the intended readers, especially as I read chapters 8 and 10.

When I learned that our adult Sunday school class would be studying the Book of Hebrews, I was really pleased. Now finally I would learn what the Book of Hebrews was all about! Or so I thought. I'm not putting these people down; they were all wonderful, well-intentioned people seeking to serve God to the best of their abilities. They loved God, and their lifestyles were indeed a reflection of their faith. However, much of what I had learned, I had to "unlearn" at a later date. It is often harder to "unlearn" than it is to "learn."

One of the things that I "learned" in that Sunday school class so long ago was that this book was written to Jewish Christians. The writer of Hebrews was concerned that these Jewish Christians might be tempted to "backslide" into Judaism once again. The entire Book of Hebrews was written to prevent such backsliding.

The truth of the matter is that most of the Believers of the First Century were Jewish, and most of the Jewish Believers maintained a Torah inspired lifestyle, as is testified to by Acts 21:20. When Rav Shaul (Paul) testified to the Messianic Jews about the mighty works that God was doing among the Gentiles, they "glorified the Lord, and said unto him, 'You see, brother, how many myriads¹ of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous for Torah.'" We know from this and many other places in scripture, that the Jewish believers had not "converted out" of Judaism and into another religion, nor should they have done so.

That being the case, why was the Book of Hebrews written? Well, I can tell you that it wasn't written to keep Jews from "backsliding" into Judaism. It was written to Torah-inspired Jews to recognize in Yeshua the fulfillment of

their faith and to encourage them not to lose heart in the face of the tribulations they would soon be facing.

Scholars of biblical Greek praise the Greek of the Book of Hebrews, and mention this as a reason for the assumption that Paul didn't write this book. I personally am of the opinion that Paul (Rav Shaul) wrote this book. I would suggest that Rav Shaul wrote it originally in Hebrew, or

possibly Aramaic. It makes sense that Rav Shaul would write it in the language of his audience, which would primarily be the Jews of Israel. The Jews of northern Israel were fluent in Aramaic, whereas the Jews of the Jerusalem area were fluent primarily in Hebrew, which was indeed a spoken language of the First Century CE.²

The oldest manuscripts of the Book of Hebrews are in Aramaic. However, this doesn't necessarily prove that the Aramaic was the original; it may simply mean that the dry environments of the Middle East are better suited for preserving ancient manuscripts than the relatively 'wet' environments of Europe.

"Clement of Alexandria (around 200 C.E.) is quoted in Eusebius' *History of the Church* (324 C.E.) as stating 'that the letter is Paul's and that it was written to the Hebrews in the Hebrew language and translated (into Greek) by Luke,'" ³ which is the reason for the high level of Greek in the Book of Hebrews compared to other "Pauline" epistles, in which the Greek is much less polished. (Paul, being a Roman citizen, was probably more fluent in Latin than in Greek, whereas he would have been most fluent in Hebrew, as a disciple of Gamaliel.)

The testimony of Eusebius is that Paul (Shaul) was the author of Hebrews. Tertullian, writing about 200 C.E.,⁴ said Barnabas wrote this epistle. We learn from Acts 4:36 that Bar-

Introduction to the Book of Hebrews

Richard 'Aharon' Chaimberlin

² "Modern" Christian scholars of the 1800's came up with the idea that Hebrew was not spoken by First Century Jews in Israel. This has since been disproved by modern archeology in Israel, but the myth of Hebrew as a dead language in the First Century still lives on in the Christian seminaries.

³ As quoted by David Stern in his *Jewish New Testament Commentary*, © 1992, POB 1313; Clarksville MD 21029.

⁴ "Common Era," the equivalent of A.D.

¹ That's "tens of thousands."

nabas was a Levite, and therefore perhaps more knowledgeable about the *kahanut* (priesthood) than most others. Also, Shaul and Barnabas went on a missionary journey together in Acts 13:1-3. It is possible that Shaul and Barnabas might have worked on this epistle together. However, the concluding verses of this book indicate that it is written from Rome, where Paul (Shaul) was imprisoned. I am not dogmatic about it, but personally believe it was written by Shaul.

If in fact Rav Shaul wrote Hebrews, I am particularly impressed. He would most likely have written it while sitting in a prison cell, quoting scripture from memory (admittedly under the inspiration of the *Ruakh Ha-Kodesh* – Holy Spirit). I sit here with Bibles, commentaries, a computer, Bible software, and Strong's Concordance. Rav Shaul (or whoever the writer is) would have

done much of the writing from memory, quoting scripture that was written on huge windup scrolls, and with none of the study helps that I have. He then put together a masterpiece far beyond what most modern Bible scholars would ever be able to accomplish with all their Bible study helps. Just having a Bible in which the pages are all bound together on one side as we have today is a huge aid all by itself. Whoever wrote the Book of Hebrews was a man of incredible intellect.

The first Messianic Jewish commentary of the Book of Hebrews was done by the German Messianic Jew, Dr. Joiachim Heinrich Biesenthal in the German language in 1878. Between 1891 and 1904, Yechiel Lichtenstein published a commentary on the entire New Testament, and entirely in Hebrew, using the Hebrew block letters for the quotes from the Hebrew New Testament and the Rashi Hebrew script for the commentary. This is a rather remarkable accomplishment, because at the time, there were very few Jews who spoke Hebrew. Hebrew was basically a language for scholars to read and study or for Jewish prayer. Conversational Hebrew had fallen into disuse sometime after the completion of the Talmud in the First Millennium C.E.

In Israel, Eliezer Ben Yehuda settled in Israel in 1881, and advocated something of a revolution by proposing that Hebrew become

the spoken language of the Land. His household was the first Hebrew-speaking household in Israel in several centuries. However, by the turn of the century, there were still very few Jews who actually spoke Hebrew, which remained primarily a language for prayer and study, much like Latin in the Catholic Church. Nevertheless, Yechiel Lichtenstein chose to write his commentary in Hebrew.

Messiah: Divine, or merely human?

"God, who at sundry times and in diverse manners spoke in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He 'made the worlds.'" (Please note: The writer was aware of other worlds! RAC)

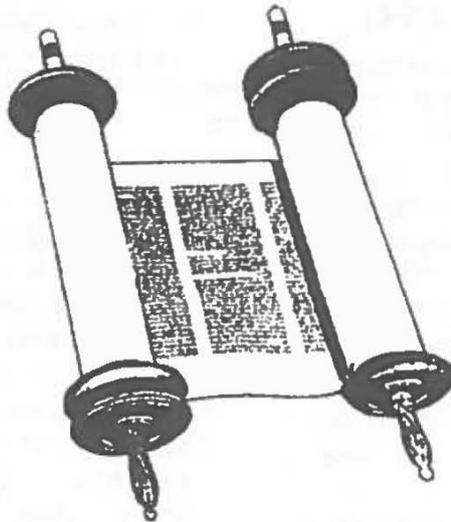
The passage just quoted represents the opening lines of the Book of Hebrews.

We find a contrast to the Tanakh (O.T.), in which God spoke through the prophets in those days, but has now spoken to us by His own Son. This is not a putdown on the prophets; however, consider how much better it is to have HaShem speak to us by His own Son! Also, we learn in this same passage that it is through Yeshua that God created the worlds! This is also confirmed in the opening lines of the Book of Yochanan (John), and is perhaps the reason that the plural word for God – Elohim – is used in the Genesis account of Creation. It is another indicator of the divinity of Yeshua the Messiah and his part in the Creation.

In Hebrews 1:3-4, we have reason for Yeshua entering our Time-Space continuum:

"And He being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself made purification for our sins, He sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."

Yeshua came to this tortured planet, to a persecuted minority group (the Jews) to be the Messiah who would redeem them – and all else who would believe – by the purification



brought about by his shed blood at Golgotha.

Also, we don't ever want to put down the angels, who were also present at Creation. However, the angels pale by comparison to Yeshua:

"For unto which of the angels did He ever say at any time, **'Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee'**? And again, **'I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son'**? And again, when He brings in the first-begotten into the world, He says, **'And let all the angels of God worship him.'**" (Hebrews 1:5-6)

These quotes from Psalm 2:7, 2 Samuel 7:14, and Psalm 97:7 demonstrate that Yeshua is far superior to the angels – or for that matter – any one of us. By the way, it is interesting to note that the name of the Messiah is not mentioned at all in the first chapter of Hebrews – no mention of Jesus or Yeshua. It is commonly assumed that this epistle is written to Jews who are already believers in Yeshua. However, this lack of any direct reference to Yeshua makes me think that the writer was in fact introducing Yeshua to Jews, many of whom had not yet come to believe in Yeshua, and is doing so gradually, quoting various passages from the Tanakh that refer prophetically to the coming Messiah, the so-called Messianic passages of scripture.

The most recent Messianic Jewish commentary on the New Testament was Dr. David Stern's *Jewish New Testament Commentary*, written and published in English in 1992. Although I find it to be extremely useful, I disagree with Dr. Stern, who felt (as do many) that the Book of Hebrews was written to only an audience of Messianic Jews. In fact, the term that he uses for the Book of Hebrews is "Messianic Jews." Messianic Jews in the First Century C.E. (and in later centuries) benefited from this book. However, Yeshua's name isn't even mentioned until halfway through the second chapter, making it highly likely that some (perhaps many) of the intended audience was among Jews who had not yet come to believe in Yeshua.

Most Jews of the First Century were looking forward to a Messiah who would push out the Romans and re-establish Israel as an independent nation, setting up the Messianic Kingdom with righteousness and justice. They were looking more for a political Messiah than a Savior/Redeemer. I can fully understand and appreciate the desires of the people for such a political Messiah. Israel had been delivered from the hated Syrian-Greeks with the Maccabean Revolution. After more than a century of

independence, the hated Romans came in, and the oppressive weight of Rome was on the backs of the Jewish people. Thousands of Jews had been crucified for resisting the Romans, and many thousands more lived lives of quiet agony, yearning for the Messiah who would come to defeat the Romans and send them fleeing out of the country.

I wish we didn't have to wait so long, but Yeshua is indeed coming back some day, hopefully in our lifetimes. At that time, He will set up the **Messianic Kingdom** that Jews were hoping for in the First Century C.E.⁵

It seems to me that the writer of Hebrews is patiently giving these Jews the opportunity to get adjusted to the concept of a Savior-Redeemer Messiah, as is discussed in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. This Messiah pays the penalty for their sins, and purchases eternal life for them. He is no mere human king, like the beloved King David of old, but is the Son of God. In Hebrews 1:7-8, we read:

"And of the angels He says, 'Who makes His angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.' But to the Son He says, 'Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Thy Kingdom.'" (Psalm 104:4; 45:6)

Again, we have the Messiah compared to the angels, who are ministering spirits, with the Messiah, who is divine, and will reign forever! This is particularly good news for Jews who were merely looking for a political leader. After all, men rarely live to be much more than 80 years old, whereas according to this prophetic quote from Psalm 45, King Messiah has a throne that will last forever!

We have encountered some Messianic Jews who don't believe in the divinity of Yeshua. I appreciate these people. However, I would tell them in love that they are in error when they reject the divinity of Yeshua. The divinity of the Messiah is a hard concept to wrap our minds around, but it is completely Biblical. We don't have to always understand something to believe it. I don't understand pictures flying through the air or through cables and coming out on viewing screens. However, television exists whether I believe it or not. Likewise, I accept Yeshua's divinity, whether I understand it or not.

This article is the opening chapter of the **Messianic Commentary of Hebrews** offered by **Petah Tikvah**.

⁵ "Common Era," equivalent to "A.D."

More and more people, both young and old, are becoming vegetarians, and not because they don't love meat. It's about our food industries. The abuse of our animals makes them sick to the stomach. And it's not a new problem. Long before the present-day protests and anger over animal rights, Jewish sages have for millennia been calling for compassion toward animals, but not for the reasons you might think.

Here are just a few of the many verses in the Bible that spell out how we should be treating our animals. God has mercy on all his creatures, says Psalm 145:9, including the millions of species of animal life, while promising to provide abundantly for the man who takes care to feed his animals well (Deut. 28:11). And we had better think twice before kicking an animal. Remember what happened when Balaam struck his donkey because it wouldn't move? The Angel of the Lord came down with wrath upon him for abusing the poor creature (Num. 22:32). Proverbs points out we can know if a person is righteous by the way he or she "cares for the *soul* of his animals." So animals have a soul? The Hebrew word for soul here is *nefesh*, which does mean "soul," but also indicates the entire life-being of both people and animals (Prov. 12:10).

The Torah commands us to show compassion for the *nefesh* of our animals in ways that are similar to how we should treat people. Like a worker in the field, an animal must not be deprived of his food, and we are even commanded to make sure our animals keep the Shabbat rest as required by the Ten Commandments. It is even wrong to make an animal go through a painful experience or be slaughtered for food on the same day with its offspring, as this would cause excessive, unnecessary psychological pain to the parent or offspring (Lev. 22:28).

Are we allowed to slaughter and eat our animals?

Right at the beginning of Genesis we are told that we should rule over all the creatures on earth (1:28). Then in Genesis 9:2 we are given the right to slaughter and eat animals for the first time in history. If the Torah is so sensitive to the needs and feelings of our animals, how is it that we are also allowed to use and even eat them?

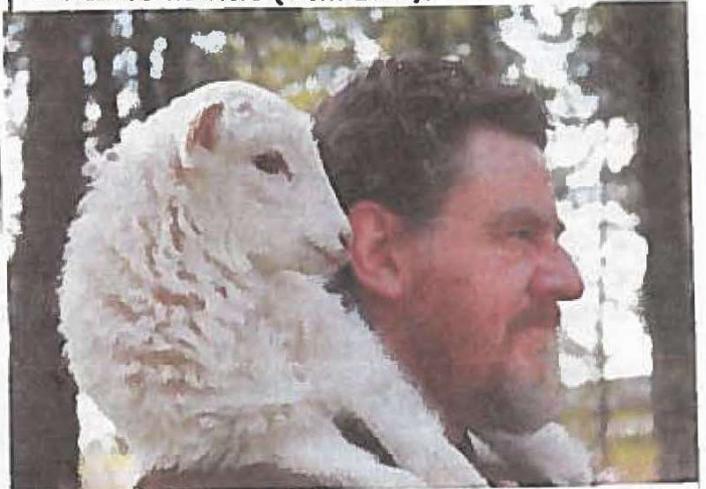
Knowing how to balance proper care for animals, while at the same time using them for our needs sums up the principle that guides Jewish law regarding animals.

Judaism and Animal Rights

by David Lazarus
www.israeltoday.co.il

The clearest example of this are the rules for *shechita*, or ritual kosher slaughtering. When an animal is to be used for food, it must be put to death in the most humane way possible, with the least amount of pain and suffering. The kosher knife used to slit the throat of an animal must be extremely sharp and take its life within seconds. Even the slightest nick or scratch on the blade renders the slaughtered animal not kosher, and thus it cannot be eaten.

In Jewish thinking, we must use animals for our survival, or the better good of people, and not for frivolous, trivial needs or vanity. Hunting as a sport, for example, is forbidden in Judaism. Ever notice that two of the most evil characters in the Bible, Nimrod and Esau, are called hunters (Gen. 10:9)?



In a show of just how important it is to use animals only for our legitimate needs, the Torah scrolls themselves are made until this day from the skins of clean animals.

Do animals grieve?

While recognizing our legitimate needs to use animals to meet our needs, the Torah also insists that animals, too, have rights. The Jewish law which prohibits us from causing "needless or excessive pain" to animals is movingly called *Tzar Baal Chaim*, or Animal Grief.

The sages understood long before modern man that animals experience not only pain, but even emotions like abandonment, fear, parental separation and trauma. Therefore, we must take heed of and sympathize with the "feelings" of the creatures God has given into our care.

The Bible noted long ago that someone who does not know how to treat his animals well will also not be kind or sensitive to people, and that the person who cares for his animals will know how to treat his fellow man equally well. Today, some people have twisted

this completely and care more about animals than they do about people. That is not biblical, or normal.

Wearing animal furs

Based on the principles we have discussed so far we can understand why the Jewish sages determined that if a coat can be made of other materials that will keep you just as warm, then it is preferable not to use an animal skin or fur. Of course, clothing can only be made of animal materials if the animal is not put through unnecessary suffering. It is also forbidden to wear clothing made of animal skins or fur only to "show off."

Animal experimentation

Here again, if there is a legitimate need, then animals may be used to find cures or prevent disease. However, the two conditions are that there is no better way to perform the experiment, and that no unnecessary pain or harm be inflicted on the animal during the experimentation.

As you can see, deciding what determines an appropriate use of animals for our benefit is not always easy to establish, and that is by design. Putting compassion or sympathy into a law doesn't always work. Real care requires considering each person, or animal, as a unique individual being.

Jewish law does, however, provide some guidelines. For example, using animal testing for cosmetics is forbidden, as these are considered mere vanity, and not necessary. On the other hand, using animals in experimentation to discover cures for diseases is not considered *Tzar Baal Chaim*, Animal Grief, as long as the animal's suffering is not excessive or unnecessary. In the end, the decisions we make concerning how we treat animals and what we use them for must be thought out carefully based on our understanding of the Bible and the God who has compassion on all His creatures.

A *midrash*, or ancient Jewish commentary, dating back to the 2nd century AD asks the question as to what qualities enabled Moses and David to become two of Israel's greatest leaders. The answer given is that they were both shepherds who went to great effort to care for each one of their lambs. The commentary notes that if they knew how to treat sheep with such compassion, they could be trusted to care for and lead God's people. To care for all of God's creatures, and how much more for those who provide for us, is to be created in the image of God, and this is why it is so important we take care for our animals.

This good spirit becomes the defining character of our greatest leader, Israel's Messiah, known also as the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for his sheep.

Humanity wiping out animal populations

Wildlife populations around the world have plummeted by more than two-thirds in the past 50 years—a "catastrophic decline" that shows no sign of slowing. That's the dispiriting conclusion of a major new study by the World Wildlife Fund that analyzed populations of 4,400 mammal, fish, bird, reptile, and amphibian species, reports *The Washington Post*. The report points to habitat destruction—such as the razing of rain forests for farming—as the key cause of decline. But overhunting, pollution, and climate change are also driving the losses. Overall, the wildlife populations dropped by an average of 68 percent from 1970 to 2016, but some areas and species have been hit particularly hard. In Latin America and the Caribbean, monitored species populations fell by an average of 94 percent. And the destruction of wetlands has caused global populations of freshwater species to drop by an average of 84 percent. There's "unequivocal evidence that nature is unraveling and that our planet is flashing red warning signs," says WWF Director General Marco Lambertini. The report echoes other research on biodiversity loss; the United Nations warned last year that human activity had pushed 1 million plant and animal species to the verge of extinction. Yet the study's authors insist that all hope isn't lost. They say urgent changes—most notably land conservation efforts and an overhaul of food production—could mitigate or reverse the damage.

THE WEEK



Write a Letter to the Editor!
Petah Tikvah, 165 Doncaster Rd
Rochester NY 14623-1348 USA

Blessed art Thou, Lord (YHWH) our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with your commandments, and commanded us to enwrap ourselves in the fringed garment.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַתְעִיף בְּצִיצִית.

Barukh Atah Adonai (YHWH) Elohenu Melekh HaOlam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav
v'tseevanu l'heetatef batsitsit.

THE ABOVE PRAYER is said as one is putting on the tallit (ritual prayer shawl). It is one of the first prayers that is said in the

morning, right after preliminary prayers including portions from the Psalms and Numbers 15:38:

"Bless YHWH, O my soul! Lord my God, Thou art very great. Thou art robed in glory and majesty. You wrap Yourself in light as in a garment. You spread the heavens like a curtain."¹

I am wrapping myself in the fringed garment in order to fulfill the command of my Creator, as it is written in the Torah: "They shall make fringes for themselves on the corners of their garments throughout their generations."² Even as I cover myself with the tallit in this world, so may my soul deserve to be robed in a beautiful garment in Olam HaBa (the world to come), in Gan Eden (Paradise). Amen.

At this point, the prayer at the top of the page is said, followed by another prayer quoting another Psalm:

"How precious is Thy kindness, O God! The children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They have their fill of the choice food of Your house, and You give them drink from Your stream of delights. For with You is the fountain of

life; by Your light do we see light. Continue Your kindness to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright in heart.³

May it be Thy will, Lord (YHWH) our God and God of our fathers, that my obser-

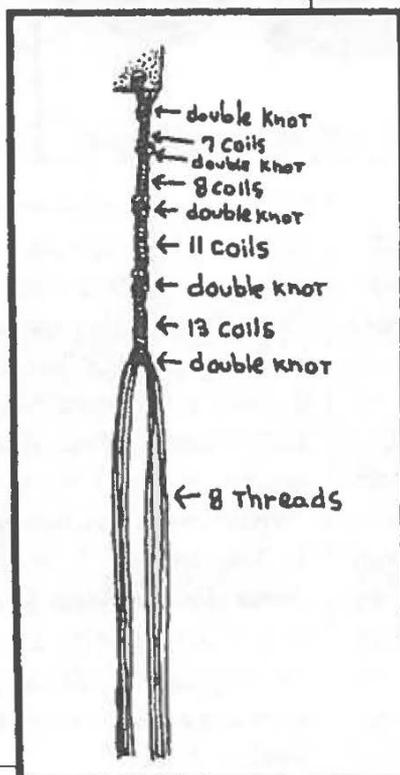
vance of this precept of tsitsit be considered as if I fulfilled it with all its particulars, details, and implications, together with the 613 precepts that are related to it.

Numbers 15:37-41 contains the commandment to wear the fringed garment with a "cord of blue. And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of YHWH, so as to do them and not follow after your own heart and your own eyes, after which you played the harlot, in order that you may remember to do all My commandments, and be holy to your God."

Thousands of years ago, men basically wore a rectangular sheet with a whole cut in the middle for the head to stick through. With the above commandment, Israel is instructed to include the fringes on the corners of that garment. As time went on, clothing became more sophisticated. As sheets were replaced with other types of garments, it became necessary to invent the tallit, which is the fringed prayer shawl worn by Jews today. By its construction and name, the tsitsit remind us of the 613 commandments. In Hebrew, tsitsit is spelled תצ"צ. Each tsadee (צ) has a numeric value of 90. Each yod (י) has a value of 10. The tav (ת) has a numeric value of 400. Altogether the word "tsitsit" has a nu-

"THE FRINGE OF HIS CLOAK"

Rick Aharon Chaimberlin



¹ Psalm 104:1-2.

² Numbers 15:38.

³ Psalm 36:8-11.

meric value of 600. Each of the tsitsit is made up of 8 threads, tied with 5 knots. $600 + 8 + 5 = 613$, which reminds us of the 613 commandments.

Today most Jews wear the fringed garment only when praying, although many Orthodox Jews also wear what is called a tallit katan, which is a small tallit worn under the shirt with the fringes hanging out. With the fringes actually hanging out, it actually effects your lifestyle. They constantly remind you that you are a child of God, so that you are more likely to do the things you should be doing, and less likely to do the things you shouldn't be doing. It's kind of like having religious bumper stickers on your car, which turn you into a better, more polite driver, since you want to be a better example to those who see your bumper sticker. Some men in the Messianic Jewish community have the tsitsit tied to belt loops, while some actually have tsitsit sown to their normal, everyday shirts at the four corners, even modifying their shirts to ensure that there are four corners to attach the fringes to.

The fringes can also be a witness to others. People are curious about those "strings" hanging outside of your pants. When people ask what they are for, it gives you the opportunity to talk about our Creator and His commandments. Who knows where it might lead?

In an article entitled, "The Tassles are Worth the Hassles," by Schneur Zalman Stern, I read about an Orthodox Jew, about to be mugged, robbed, and perhaps killed by two armed criminals in New York City. One of them stuck a .38 pistol into his chest and ordered him to "Empty your pockets before I kill you." The double meaning of this sentence led the Jew to believe that he was about to meet his Maker. He said, "Before I empty my pock-

ets, there is something you must know: God gave everyone seven basic commandments and one of them is, 'Thou shalt not steal.' Now that you know this, if you steal from me, you will lose your portion in the World to Come." One of the criminals responded with, "I hate Jews!"

The other criminal, coming out of the shadows with a big club, asked, "What's taking so long?" The gunman said, "This Jew is giving me jive." Club man retorted, "Shoot him."

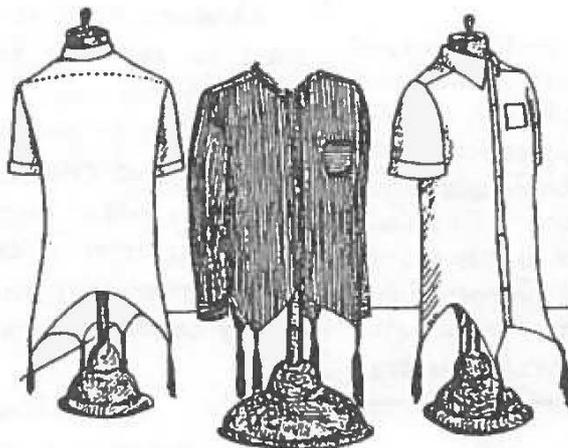
Again the Jew, Schneur Stern, told the gunman that he would forfeit Eternal Life if he carried out the crime. The club man said, "Is your God white? I don't like no white God." Schneur told him that God is invisible, "Yet,

He is the Creator of all colors." The club man said, "He's a jiving Jew! I'm going to empty his pockets." Club man's fingers got tangled in Schneur's tsitsit, and he became terrified. Frantically, he finally untangled his fingers. "This Jew's got pocket guards!" he said. They began to examine the tsitsit, and asked what they were.

Schneur told them about the purposes of tsitsit, and that they remind us of God and

his 613 commandments. There was long silence. "Naah, you puttin' us on." Schneur explained that God fills the world, and is continuously creating the world anew. "God is also creating you, but because you have chosen to do evil, you are nothing more than a stick in God's hands." Club man walked away, disappearing into the shadows. The gunman asked, "Where were you headed?" "I'm trying to get to the number 2 train," he said. "Man, you gonna die six times before you reach number 2. But don't worry. I'm going to protect you." He draped his right arm over the Jew's shoulders and escorted him to the platform for the number 2 train.⁴

When Messiah returns.....



Our shirts will all have fringes.

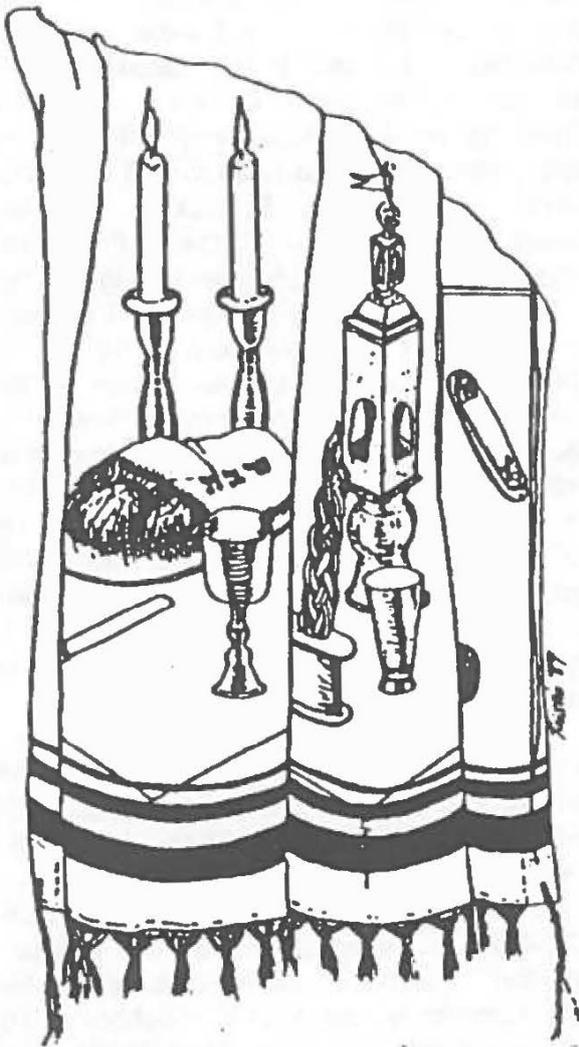
⁴ The source of this story is *Gates of Eden*, POB 2257, E Peoria IL 61611, Vol.2, #4.

Prophetically, we read in Zechariah 8:22-23: "So many peoples and mighty nations shall come to seek YHWH of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of YHWH. Thus saith YHWH of hosts, "In those days, ten men from the nations will grasp the garment of him that is a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you." I can't prove it, but I believe that they are grasping a tallit, perhaps even the tsitsit, something which is identifiably "Jewish." Israel is called to be a

light to the nations, and in the future will take her place as the missionary nation to the world. Torah, which was abandoned by the Gentile church for the most part, will be restored.

Zechariah also tells us, "And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations that came up against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, YHWH of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles). And it shall be that whosoever of the families of the earth goes not up unto Jerusalem to worship the King, YHWH of hosts, upon them there shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which YHWH smites the nations which do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Sukkot."⁵

Yeshua wore tsitsit. We know this because miracles were associated with the tsitsit which were worn by Yeshua. We read in Matthew 9:20-23 of the woman with the issue of blood which rendered her ritually unclean. She said to herself, "If I only touch the fringe of His garment, I shall get well." She did, and she was instantaneously healed. You are familiar with the miracles of Yeshua feeding thousands, and walking on the water. After Yeshua and his Talmudim (Disciples) arrived on the shore at Gennesaret, "The men of that place recognized Him, (and) they sent into all that surrounding district and brought to Him all that were sick. And they began to entreat Him that they might just touch the fringe (tsitsit) of His cloak; and as many as touched it were cured."⁶



"Jewish Traditions"

⁵ Zechariah 14:16-18.

⁶ Matthew 14:34-36.

Your tax-deductible contributions to this ministry are deeply appreciated.
Checks may be made out to "Petah Tikvah."

שְׁאַלוּ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַיִם

Sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim
("Pray for the peace of Jerusalem")

Psalm 122:6

Nachmanides' Commentary on Deuteronomy 30:6 (Circumcision of Heart)

Nachmanides remains a favorite of mine among the Jewish commentators on Scripture. He is also known as "the Ramban," not to be confused with Maimonides, who is known as "the Rambam." He was born in Catalonia, part of Spain, in about 1194. Like Maimonides, he was also a physician, and was already a practicing physician as a teenager! Obviously, he was another brilliant Jew. Unlike Maimonides, he favored a **literal** interpretation over the allegorical interpretation.

In 1263, he was forced into a Disputation in Barcelona, in which he was to debate a learned Christian. The cards were clearly stacked, since the judges were all Christian Catholics. However, the judges were impressed by the Ramban's logic, and declared him the winner. This meant that the Jews of Barcelona would not have to convert to Catholicism. However, two years later, Nachmanides was forced to leave Spain. He eventually made his way to Jerusalem.

When he arrived in Jerusalem, he found only two Jews living there. The Jewish community had been decimated by the Crusaders in 1099, and had not recovered from that devastation. Nachmanides managed to attract more Jews to Jerusalem, and established the Nachman Synagogue, which remains in Jerusalem to this day. He successfully revived the Jewish community in Jerusalem. He later died in 1270, in Acco (Acre) Israel.

What follows is Nachmanides' commentary on Deuteronomy 30:6, as translated by Avraham Yaakov Finkel. Nachmanides wrote this commentary almost 800 years ago, so I assume that the copyright has long expired. I will begin by quoting Deuteronomy 30:6.

"Moreover, the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul in order that you may live." Deuteronomy 30:6

Here is the commentary from Nachmanides:

Ever since Creation, man has had the freedom to choose to be righteous or wicked. Throughout the era of the Torah, man retains this freedom of choice in order to earn reward for making the right choice and to be punished for making the wrong one. But with the coming of Mashiach (Messiah), choosing to do good will come naturally. Man will have no

desire to do the unacceptable, and evil will have no allure for him.

This is the "circumcision" of which our verse speaks. Desire and craving are the "foreskin" of the heart. Circumcising one's heart means excising lust and desire. In the days of Mashiach, man will return to the mindset of Adam before he sinned, when he instinctively did what should be done, and had no (need for) freedom to choose between good and evil...

This idea is expressed in the verse, "Behold, days are coming—the word of HaShem—when I will seal a new covenant with the House of Yisrael and with the House of Yehudah; not like the covenant I sealed with their forefathers... For this is the covenant that I will seal with the House of Yisrael after those days—the word of HaShem—I will place My Torah within them and I will write it onto their hearts..." (Jeremiah 31:31,33). Jeremiah meant the elimination of the evil impulse, when the heart intuitively does the right thing.

Therefore, the verse continues, "I will be a G-d to them, and they will be a people for Me. They will no longer teach—each man his fellow, each man his brother—saying 'Know HaShem!' for all of them will know Me, from their smallest to their greatest" (31:33-34). Now, "the imagery of man's heart is evil from his youth (Bereishis [Genesis] 8:21), and a man must be taught (how to subdue his evil impulse, but then it will not be necessary to teach him, because the evil impulse will be gone completely.

Yechezkel (Ezekiel) said, "I will give you a new heart and a new spirit within you; I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh, and give you a heart of flesh...and I will make it so that you will follow my decrees and guard my ordinances and fulfill them" (Ezekiel 36:26-27). The "new heart" refers to man's nature, and the "new spirit" signifies his desire and will. Accordingly, the Rabbis (Shabbos 151b) expounded on the verse, "And those years arrive of which you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'" (Koheles 12:1)—"this refers to the days of Mashiach when there will be neither merit nor guilt." Because man will no longer have a desire (to do evil), but rather he will instinctively do the right thing. He will have no merit or guilt, because merit and guilt are dependent on desire.¹

¹ Selected Portions of Nachmanides' Commentary on the Torah, Volume 4, pages 109-110. Yeshivath Beth Moshe, Scranton PA.

"And the LORD appeared to him (Abraham) by the oaks (or terabinths) of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door

in the heat of the day;² And he lifted up his eyes

and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw *them*, he ran to meet them from the opening of the tent, and bowed himself toward the ground,³ and said, My Lord,¹ if now I have found favor in your sight, pass not away, I pray, from your servant." (Bereisheet (Genesis) 18:1-3)

These are the opening verses for Genesis 18 (above), and also the beginning of the parasha (Torah portion) *Vayeira* ("And he appeared"). However, please note the first word of this chapter: "And." In the Hebrew, it is simply the letter **vav** (ו), which forms a conjunction with the verses before, in Genesis 17. What happened in Genesis 17? I'm so glad you asked! In chapter 17, God made a covenant with Abraham:

As for Me, behold, My covenant *is* with you (Abraham), and you shall be a father of many nations.⁵ Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made you.⁶ And I will make you exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come out of you.

⁷And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed (descendants) after you in their generations for an **everlasting** covenant, to be a God to you, and to your seed after you.⁸ And I will give to you, and to your seed after you, the land wherein you are a stranger, **all the land of Canaan**, for an **everlasting** possession; and I will be their God.

⁹And God said to Abraham, "You shall keep My covenant therefore, you, and your seed after you in their generations.¹⁰ This *is* my covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your seed after you: Every

¹ The Hebrew word used in the Massoretic Hebrew Bibles is "Adonai." However, according to Ginsburg's *Introduction to the Massoretical-critical Edition of the Hebrew Bible* published by KTAV, Hoboken NJ, the original word used in this verse was יהוה (YHWH). This is one of many places in the Torah where the divine name was replaced by the term Adonai, including Gen. 18:27,30,32; 19:18; 20:4 in this parasha.

ABRAHAM:

A Man of Hospitality

male child among you shall be circumcised.¹¹ And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant between Me and you.¹² And he that is eight days old

shall be circumcised among you, every male child throughout your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, who *is* not of your seed.¹³ He that is born in your house, and he that is bought with your money, must be circumcised: and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.¹⁴ And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.

The covenant of circumcision was never abrogated. Neither was the promise of land. The land of Canaan belongs to the seed of Abraham. We are not anti-Arab. God has blessed the Arabs, who have 540 times as much land as the Jews. May God continue to bless the Arabs! But that tiny little territory formerly called Canaan belongs to the Jews. The problem, of course, is that the Arabs want it all. Non-Arabs (even if they are Muslims, such as the Kurds) are denied lands of their own. Also, the Jews were in Canaan long before the Arabs. And God says that this little piece of land belongs to the Jews.

In the concluding verses of chapter 17, we see Abraham getting circumcised when he was 99 years old, and Ishmael getting circumcised when he was 13 years old. Arabs to this day do their circumcisions when the boys become 13 years old. This is a relatively minor procedure for an infant male on the 8th day, but for a 13-year-old boy, it is a major ordeal. And Abraham was 99 years old! I was only a baby when I got circumcised, and I couldn't walk for a full year! ☺ Try to imagine the pain that Abraham endured at age 99.

According to the Rabbis, Genesis 18 opens with Abraham in third day after his circumcision, when the pain is the most severe and the man is most weakened. The three angels were fulfilling the **mitzvah** (commandment or "good deed") of **visiting the sick** (bikur cholim). "God visited him to show him honor for having carried out the commandment and to acknowledge that he had thereby elevated

himself to a new spiritual plateau."²

Abraham, however, saw this as an opportunity to show **hospitality to strangers**, which is another mitzvah in Judaism. Even in his weakened condition, even after the horrendous pain of circumcision, **even in the heat of the day of the hot desert sun**, Abraham still felt the need to search for strangers, in order to show them hospitality. Today in most Western nations, it is considered "bad manners" to drop in on people unannounced. However, in most Eastern cultures, it is fully acceptable, and the host does his or her best to take great care in showing hospitality to the guests.

By the way, we have all seen pictures of the three angels visiting Abraham. Each angel has wings in most pictures. In actuality, the angels looked like ordinary men. The cherubim and seraphim had wings, but most angels look completely human! Then in Gen. 18:4, Abraham offers to wash the feet of the three angels. In Abe's mind, these were simply ordinary men. However, in the Middle East, it was considered simply good manners to offer to wash the feet of the guests. Most journeys involved much walking. The feet were dirty and tired. It would be bad manners if the host were to refuse to wash the feet of the guests!

"But Abraham longed for guests, because a *tzaddik* ("righteous man") is never content with past accomplishments; he seeks to serve God at all times. In Abraham's case, his manner of service was through being kind to people, thereby drawing them into his orbit so he could inspire them with his example to learn about and serve God."³ Abraham was something of a missionary to the world. Judaism continued to be a missionary nation for many centuries. However, after the Council of Nicea in 325 CE,⁴ it became dangerous for Jews to proselytize, as both the Jew and convert might be subjected to severe penalties, including death. The rise of Islam made proselytizing even more dangerous. Today, a rabbi will agree to instruct a potential convert into Judaism, but usually only after the Gentile asks three times. He is refused the first two times. However, Zechariah 8:23 tells us that "ten men from all the nations will grasp the *kanaf*

('corner' of the garment) of him that is a Jew, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'" I would assume that they will be grabbing the *tsitsit* (ritual fringes). I would also assume that these would be Torah-observant Messianic Jews, in order to have these fringes!

Then Abraham offers to bring **fat-lechem** (a "piece" of bread). He offers to do little, but ends up doing much! The Talmud says that "the righteous say little and do much" (*bava metzia* 87a). He tells Sarah to prepare "three measures" of fine flour to make bread. This would have been matzah (unleavened bread), as it would not have had time to rise. Then Abraham ran to the herd to get a **ben bakar** (calf). Abraham was 99 years old, and was very sore from the circumcision, and he ran to get a calf for the guests!

Then he prepared the calf for a sumptuous meal. In verse 8, we read, "And (Abraham) took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had prepared, and set *it* before them, and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat." Today, based on Exodus 23:19 ("You shall not boil a kid [baby goat] in its mother's milk"), the Rabbis tell us not to have milk and meat in the same meal. We take Exodus 23:19 **very** seriously. We **never** boil a kid in its mother's milk! However, this verse does not forbid milk and meat in the same meal. The Rabbinic prohibition even extends to poultry, whereby Orthodox Jews will not even have dairy products when turkey or chicken is being eaten. However, my Chumash says that Abraham served the dairy items first, allowed the dairy items to be properly digested, and then brought out the meat. However, Genesis 18:8 strongly indicates it was all served at once!

SARAH LAUGHED!

In Genesis 18:10, the angels tell Abraham once again that he and Sarah would be having a son. Sarah was eavesdropping, a fairly easy task when you live in a tent. And just like Abraham in Genesis 17:17, she laughed! However, unlike Abe, she didn't fall down on her face laughing. According to the Rabbis, Sarah laughed in unbelief. Keep in mind that being childless was a shameful thing at that time. She would have loved to have had a child when she was young. However, I believe that God wanted a supernatural birth in bringing the Chosen People into existence. Sarah denied laughing, perhaps in fear. According to tradition, Sarah conceived on Rosh HaShanah. I wasn't there, so I'm not arguing with the Rabbis on this one! In Genesis 17:19, God gave the name **Yitzchak** (or **Isaac** - meaning

² Quoted from *Interlinear Chumash, Bereishis*, Schottenstein Edition, ArtScroll, © 2006, p. 86. This is also the source for information about what the Rabbis say about Abraham, which is repeated in many other Jewish sources.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Common Era, equivalent to "A.D."

laughter) to the child who would be born, a very appropriate name, considering that both Abraham and Sarah laughed!

WHY THREE ANGELS?

According to the Rabbis, the reason for the three angels is that each had specific missions. The angel Michael informed Abraham that Sarah would have a son, Gabriel overturned Sodom and Gomorrah, and Raphael healed Abraham and saved Lot (according to Rashi's commentary). However, since at least one of these angels is addressed as YHWH (pre-incarnate Yeshua?), it is apparent to me that the Rabbis don't quite have this one right.

Since Abraham had proven himself so worthily, and since he would become a great nation, the angels decided to tell him of their mission to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. Here we have the famous "bargaining" in which he begins by asking if God would sweep away the cities if there were indeed 50 righteous living in them. For the sake of the 50, they would not be destroyed. He finally gets it down to ten righteous people. For the sake of the ten righteous people, God would not destroy the cities. This lays the foundation for the **minyan**, the minimum quorum of Jews required for certain prayers, or for reading from the Torah scroll.

Abraham didn't attempt to bargain it down any lower. He knew that at the time of the Great Flood, there were only eight righteous people in the world, and the world was destroyed. However, the fact that Abraham interceded for these cities proves to the Rabbis that Abraham was more righteous than Noah. There is no record of Noah interceding for the people.

In Genesis 19, we have only two angels proceeding to Sodom, where they met Lot. Lot offered hospitality to the angels, even bowing with his face to the ground. Like Abraham, he prepared a feast, including matzah (unleavened bread). However, before they had a chance to lie down for the night, Lot's home was surrounded by the men of the city, both young and old, who demanded that the men (angels) be brought out of the house so that "we may know them." This is a Hebraism for having sexual relations, a Hebraism that is preserved in the KJV in Matthew 1:25 and Luke 1:34. Not only did the men of Sodom

show no hospitality to the strangers; they also wanted to sodomize them. The men at the door were struck with blindness, rendering them unable to do their evil deeds.

The men (angels) told Lot, his wife, his sons, his daughters, and the men who were engaged to his daughters to flee Sodom, because God was going to destroy the city. However, the only ones to believe the message were Lot, his wife, and his daughters. In Genesis 19:24-25, we read, "Then YHWH rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from YHWH out of heaven; ²⁵And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground." In verse

24, we see that there was a YHWH on earth, and another YHWH in heaven. In verse 25, we see that all the cities on the plain were destroyed. According to the Rabbis, this includes all the cities mentioned in Genesis 14:2.

You know the story. Mrs. Lot looked back and became a pillar of salt. If you go to Israel today, alongside the "Dead Sea" (Yam HaMelach - Sea of Salt), you

will come to a location where there is a pillar of salt. The sign beside it states that this is Lot's wife. I stopped the car, got out and licked that pillar. Lot's wife is indeed a salty woman! However, it is likely that Lot's salty wife would have dissolved in the rare desert rains centuries ago.

Finally, Lot's daughters are convinced that they might be the only three people left on earth. In order to save the human race, they decide to get their dad drunk with wine. On one night, the oldest daughter goes in, and has relations with her dad. Lot goes to sleep and wakes up, and has no idea of what has happened. On the next night, they get their dad drunk again. The younger daughter has relations with him. Both daughters become pregnant. The first-born daughter bears a son called Moab, the ancestor of the Moabites. The second-born also bears a son, named Ben-Ammi, the father of the Ammonites. Descendants of both the Moabites and Ammonites live to this day in the country called Jordan. n



Tisha B'Av (the 9th of Av) generally occurs in late July or early August each year on the Jewish calendar. It is the date that commemorates the destruction of the first Beit HaMikdash (Temple) by the Babylonians in 586 BCE.¹ Over 600 years later, in 70 CE, the Second Temple was destroyed by the Roman army under Titus. In both cases, there was also enormous human suffering. However, it is the destruction of the **Temples**, not the human suffering that is commemorated. Why is the destruction of a building commemorated with tears, while the suffering of millions of Jews is nearly ignored? The primary reason is that the Temple worship brought mankind into a closeness with the Creator of Heaven and Earth. With the destruction of the Temples, this intimacy with Adonai was lost.

According to the Rabbis, Tisha B'Av is also the date in which the ten spies came back with the bad report about the Promised Land, which caused the Israelites to lose trust in YHWH, resulting in the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for another 38 years instead of entering the Promised Land later that same year. According to the Talmud,² because the Israelites wanted to turn back to Egypt instead of trusting in God, the Jewish people would cry on that day "for generations to come."³

The Ninth of Av is a Biblical holiday, although not High Holy Day, so normal work and commerce can take place on this day. It is described in Zechariah 8:19 as the "fast of the fifth month."⁴ The same verse promises that the fasts of the fourth, fifth, seventh, and tenth months "will become joy, gladness, and cheerful feasts for the house of Judah." Thus far, these are all still days of fasting. Tisha B'Av is also a day of lamentation. In fact, it is the tradition to read the Book of **Lamentations** on this day. The fast is from sunset to sunset, just like Yom Kippur. However, unlike Yom Kippur, if the 9th of Av occurs on Shabbat (the Sabbath), then Tisha B'Av is observed on Sunday instead (Saturday at sunset until Sunday at sunset). Shabbat is supposed to be a day of feasting and joyful worship, unless Yom Kippur occurs then.

Tisha B'Av is on July 18 this year.

¹ "Before the Common Era," equivalent to "B.C."

² An encyclopedic commentary on Torah.

³ **The Jewish Connection**, M.Hirsh Goldberg, Bantam Books, p. 40.

⁴ In Ex. 12:2, the first month of the year was changed to Aviv (Nissan).

Additional tragedies occurred on this date in Jewish history. This is the date that the fortress of Bethar fell in 135 CE, ending the Bar Kochba rebellion against Rome, 65 years after the destruction of the Temple.

In 1290, the official decree expelling Jews from England was signed.⁵ This is the first time that the Jewish people received a nationwide expulsion. This occurred on Tisha B'Av. Over 200 years later, Spain expelled its Jewish population on Tisha B'Av in 1492. This was one of the biggest upheavals in Jewish history, because it uprooted one of the largest and most successful Diaspora Jewish communities in history.

On the following day, Columbus set sail for the American continents, which have become a sanctuary for millions of Jews.

The Nazi Reinhard Heydrich ordered the "Final Solution" (the extinction of Europe's Jews) on July 31, 1941. The next day, his orders began to go into effect on Tisha B'Av.

The bombing of the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires killing 86 people occurred on Tisha B'Av in 1994.

On Tisha B'Av in 2005, over 7,000 Jews were expelled from Gaza by Israel's Ariel Sharon. It was a failed attempt to achieve peace with the Palestinian Arabs.

Traditionally, no meat or wine are served during the first nine days of Av, except for Shabbat. As with Yom Kippur, bathing is avoided on this day. It is also traditional to visit cemeteries at this time. Good news: No hair cuts for these nine days! At the end of Tisha B'Av (as well as Yom Kippur), a pleasant tradition is to break the fast with loved ones.

Although Jews still mourn the destruction of the Temples on Tisha B'Av, it is not as mournful as in past generations, because of anticipation for a rebuilt Temple. The Temple Institute has already manufactured the vessels that will be used in the Temple, which we see when we visit the Temple Institute in Jerusalem. Hundreds of kohanim ("priests") are being trained for Temple worship. According to Dr. Asher Kaufman, the Temples stood 100 meters north of the Muslim Dome of the Rock. Tuvia Sagiv's research indicates that the Temples were 100 meters to the south. In either case, it would be possible to rebuild the Temple without knocking down the Dome of the Rock Mosque, which would be in the "outer court," as suggested in Revelation 11:1-2.

⁵ **The Jewish Connection**. p. 41.

Tisha B'Av (9th of Av)

Rav Richard
'Aharon'
Chamberlin

"Is Israel safe?" "Do you feel safe there?" "Are you ever afraid?" These are the questions friends and family ask—from the day I announced I was moving to Jerusalem and all throughout the past three years of living in Israel. In describing what they think of Israel, most people who have never set foot in the Holy Land paint the same picture: war, explosions, stabbings, a violent desertscape flowing with blood and plagued by terror attacks and killing. Yet the reality on the ground is very different from what people see in the media.

There certainly have been times throughout its history amid wars and conflicts with Israel's neighbors—as well as periods of spiked violence within the Land during the *Intifadas* (Arabic for "uprising")—when traveling in Israel was deemed unwise. Yet despite the relative calm of the past few years, many Western governments continue to issue travel bans and warnings against the Jewish state, urging potential visitors to use extreme caution—especially within the contested biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria. Of course, there are areas today within the tiny nation where travelers should exercise more caution—but no, Israel is not unsafe, especially compared to other countries with significantly higher crime rates and violence.

Good News and Bad News

Unfortunately for Israel's security forces but fortunately for tourists, most of the terror attacks over the past few years have targeted Israeli soldiers, Border Police at security checkpoints and police officers. While tragic attacks against Jewish civilians occur occasionally—most often within Judea and Samaria, the so-called West Bank—few tourists have been attacked over the past several years. The last recorded death of a visitor to Israel took place in 2017.

The *Jewish Virtual Library* keeps a comprehensive list of terrorism victims in Israel, recording 11 deaths in 2019. Five of those deaths were related to rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip. 2018 saw 13 Israeli fatalities, 12 of which took place in Judea and Samaria, where tensions run higher—and four of those 12 victims were uniformed soldiers.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) also regularly announces terror attacks it has thwarted, most of which are targeting IDF soldiers and other security personnel. Very often, terrorists are neutralized within minutes or seconds of beginning an attack—because in Israel, there is almost always a good guy nearby with a gun.

Putting it into Perspective

Don't let the few acts of terrorism scare you out of visiting the Holy Land. Remember, these at-

tacks are few in number when taken in context of a tiny country boasting a population of 9.2 million—nearly 2 million of those people being Arabs.

Many of the people from Western countries who fear visiting Israel are actually living in countries with higher crime rates than the Jewish state. Israel is ranked for crime index 105 out of 135 countries (with number 1, Venezuela, being the most crime-ridden and 135, Qatar, being the safest). That makes Israel safer than France, which ranked 47, the

United States, which ranked 56, the UK at 65, Canada at 82 and Germany at 94.

Some Israelis who have never traveled to the US ask if it is safe to visit the Land of the Free. And from their perspective, it's a good question. In 2019, the US suffered an estimated 366.7 violent crimes per 100,000 people, according to the FBI. That same year only saw one homicide in the city of Jerusalem—a city with a population of 936,000. Chicago, which boasts 2.71 million residents, saw 492 murders in the same year. That's nearly three times Jerusalem's population and almost 500 times the murder.

The entire nation of South Africa averaged 57.6 murders per day from April 2018 to March 2019, according to *BusinessTech*, giving the country a rate of 35.8 homicides per 100,000 people. Even London, a relatively safe city, saw 149 of its nearly 9 million citizens murdered in 2019. That's low, but still more than Jerusalem's one victim throughout the entire year.

Overcoming Fear

While people are cautioned not to go out after dark or alone for safety reasons in other places across the world, the reality in Israel is very different. Walking around Jerusalem and other Israeli cities late at night, it is very common to see teenagers chatting on the sidewalk, unaccompanied kids playing in the park and parents leisurely pushing young children in strollers. If anything, the biggest threat in this country seems to be insufficient sleep rather than terrorism...

Remember, if anything does go wrong, most Israelis go through required military service—meaning at any given moment, there are at least a few people in the crowd who are not only carrying guns but also went through military and weapons training. Many attempted attacks are unsuccessful because they are thwarted by nearby soldiers—even those who are off duty but are still required to carry a gun—or other citizen vigilantes who are prepared for such a time.

The people of Israel make a point to go about their daily routines and live life to the fullest in order to show the terrorists they will not be overcome with fear. Follow their example...

ISRAEL: A Safe Place

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For a Jew, discussing belief in Yeshua usually focuses on how Christians who claimed to represent Yeshua have proven to be the most significant existential threat to the Jewish people. It is a dark and sad history, but a history that, once realized, can be redeemed in our day!

Last year a Christian ministry posted a video on Facebook showing a preacher walking down a main street in Jerusalem declaring the Gospel. The street happened to border what is arguably the most religious Orthodox Jewish community in the world. He used a Bluetooth mic with a speaker hanging from his belt and a cameraman following behind to capture "the action."

"Furious Jews threatened to stone us for preaching the Gospel," and, "angry men, teenagers and even the IDF tried to stop them but essentially had no legal leverage," the text above the video post read. I'll set aside the obvious—that any loud person walking down a pedestrian street is going to get on peoples' nerves even if he's selling ice cream. But this man wasn't selling anything sweet. He was selling Christianity.

Had this preacher taken time to study what Jews have endured from Christianity for nearly 2000 years, he would have more appropriately come humbly, begging for forgiveness from the Jewish people rather than declaring that Jews need to convert—or else.

Today when Jews explain why they don't believe in Yeshua—the list begins, but doesn't end with the Holocaust, the Crusaders and the Inquisition. For a Jew, discussing belief in Yeshua rarely relates to the actual person of Yeshua. It focuses on how Christians who claimed to represent Yeshua have proven to be the most significant existential threat to the survival of the Jewish people. **It is a dark and sad history**, but a history that, once realized, can be redeemed in our day!

The Good 'Ole Days

For a full generation after the crucifixion, Jewish followers of Yeshua crisscrossed the land of Israel, preaching the glorious news that Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah, had come to earth to die for the sins of His people, the children of Israel. Some estimate there were at least 50,000 Jewish believers in Jerusalem, in a city of about half a million people. That is far more than all of the Jewish believers in the land of Israel today. The former Israeli statesman and scholar, Abba Eban, went further, and wrote that he believed around one third of all Jerusalemites were followers of Yeshua.

Soon, a number of Jews, led by Shaul (Apostle Paul) were commissioned by God to take this

amazing news to non-Jews. The number of non-Jews who abandoned their pagan lifestyle for the new message began to grow and grow into the hundreds of thousands throughout the Roman Empire.

Then came the year 70AD.

Three days before Passover, as Jerusalem filled with masses of Jewish pilgrims who had come for the holiday, Titus surrounded the city with three Roman legions. They besieged the city for four months until the Roman army breached the walls.

Rome ravaged Jerusalem and burned down the Temple. Starving Jews who survived snuck out of the city, hoping to find food. Some of those who were caught were sold as slaves. The rest, some five hundred a day, were crucified. Those who were fortunate enough to escape, fled to areas around the Mediterranean. Those who remained in Judea would be eradicated by the next Roman ruler, Hadrian. By the end of his rule in c. 138 virtually all evidence of Jewish believing communities had vanished.

The New Gospel

Nevertheless, the New Testament seeds sown by the Jewish followers of Yeshua in fertile Gentile soil had taken deep root and began to sprout, despite heavy persecution by the Roman Empire. Though all the books of the New Testament had been written by now, circulation among new Christians was slow and uneven. As the numbers of Christians grew while the number of Jewish believers almost disappeared, the first hints of anti-Semitism became discernable. As a result, just 50 years after the last Apostle died, Justin Martyr (who was martyred by the Romans) allowed a hateful, unloving, and even jealous spirit to enter his life. He asserted that the Jews were a blind and stubborn people, clinging to a now defunct faith.

Justin's dual influence as a Christian hero and inciter against Jews affected the mainstream of Christian thought by planting the sinister seed of Christian anti-Semitism. It would grow into a monstrous, inseparable axiom of the Roman Catholic church.

Fathers of the Faith

The Church Fathers listed below are revered for the growth and expansion they brought to Christendom. However, despite what good influence they may have had, their expressed hatred toward the Jewish people not only cost countless Jewish lives, but is probably the saddest case of repaying evil for good in recorded history. Many Christians today would be surprised to realize some of the most widely accepted Christian doctrines were birthed during these dark times.

The Church History They Don't Teach You

By Shira Sorko-Ram
www.MaozIsrael.org



The Judensau (Jewish sow) image was replicated in carvings, paintings and church architecture throughout the Middle Ages. It depicted Jews suckling milk from a pig's teats while a Rabbi eats its excrement from behind. As recently as February of this year, German courts refused to have a sculpture of this image removed from a protestant Church—sighting the historical nature of the building.

Credit: Wikipedia

Origen of Alexandria (c. 184-254) was one of the earliest voices to blame the whole nation of Jews for the death of Christ. He also insisted Christians were the "true Israel." These two declarations soon became precepts in Roman Catholic Church doctrine.

Tertullian (c. 155-240) followed suit and argued that 1. Christians have taken over from the Jews as the people of God, 2. The New Covenant replaces the Old Testament: circumcision, observance of the Sabbath and the temple sacrifices belong to the past, and 3. The Church is now the (sole) heir to the promises of the Old Testament.

Eusebius of Alexander (c. 270-340) saw good reason to want to convert the Jewish people, but simultaneously detested what they represented as the people who rejected the Messiah. He once gave a sermon beginning every paragraph: "Woe to you, stiff-necked and uncircumcised, from being the Elect of God you became wolves, and sharpened your teeth upon the Lamb of God. Hell...shall imprison you with your father the devil." With an invite like that, it's no wonder he drew no interest from Jews.

Emperor Constantine who ruled from c. 306-337, became a 'Christian,' absorbing the growing hatred toward Jews from his advisor, Eusebius. His position of power allowed him to act on the animosity the Church Fathers had for the Jews. He forbade mixed marriages, decreed a separation between Easter and the "dirty" Jewish Passover. Conversion of a Jew to Christianity was always encouraged, though the conversion of a Christian to Judaism was punishable by death. By the end of the 4th Century, hatred of the Jewish people was in full bloom.

John Chrysostom, (c. 347-407) the renowned theologian preached, "Eight Sermons against the Jews" in which he asserted, after a long list of crude insults, that for the Jews there is "no expiation possible, no indulgence, no pardon." He declared that, in accordance with the sentiments of the saints, he hated both the synagogue and the Jews, as demons dwelled in both.

Chrysostom's sermons were written down verbatim by his audience and subsequently circulated throughout the Christian world. These sermons are considered to be the turning point in the history of Christian anti-Judaism.

During World War II, the Nazi Party in Germany used Chrysostom's work in an attempt to legitimize the Holocaust in the eyes of German and Austrian Christians.

Martin Luther (c. 1483-1546), one of the most influential Christian leaders in history, was the founder of the first Protestant movement. In his early life, he wanted to convert Jews to Lutheranism (Protestant Christianity). His early writings express empathy towards Jews who had been badgered and forced to become Christians by Catholic authorities:

"If I had been a Jew and had seen such dolts and blockheads govern and teach the Christian faith, I would sooner have become a hog than a Christian. They have dealt with the Jews as if they were dogs rather than human beings; they have done little else than deride them and seize their property."

Yet in his later years, Luther himself would tire of the Jews' continued rejection, and wrote that Jews were "full of the devil's feces ... which they wallow in like swine."

He argued that Jewish synagogues and schools should be set on fire, their prayer books destroyed, rabbis forbidden to preach, homes burned, and property and money confiscated. "These poisonous envenomed worms should be drafted into forced labor or expelled for all time." And concluded, "We are at fault in not slaying them."

In his book *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, William L. Shirer wrote:

It is difficult to understand the behavior of most German Protestants in the first Nazi years unless one is aware of two things: their history and the influence of Martin Luther. The great founder of Protestantism was both a passionate anti-Semite and a ferocious believer in absolute obedience to political authority. He wanted Germany rid of the Jews. Luther's advice was literally followed four centuries later by Hitler, Goering and Himmler.

England – The Crusades

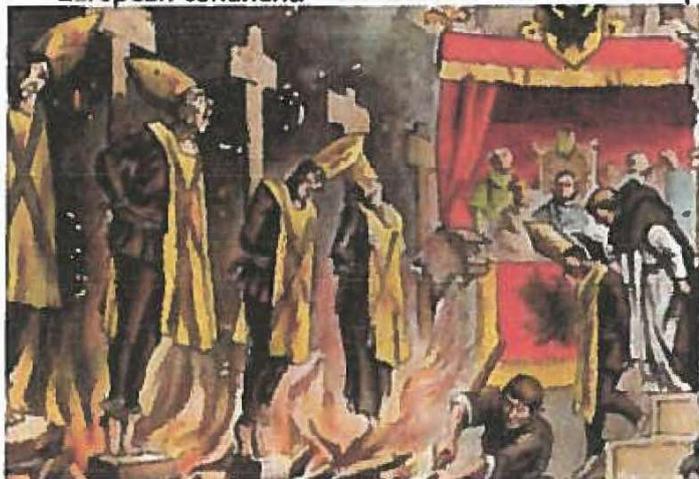
The end of the 11th century saw the rise of the Crusaders—essentially the militant wing of the Church. They were on a mission to conquer the Muslim-occupied land of Israel for Christianity.

But on the long road to the Holy Land, Crusaders found it in the public interest to round up and lock Jewish families in their synagogues, burning them alive. Some accounts record the Crusaders marching around the burning synagogues singing worship hymns.

At times, burning Jews and their possessions was sometimes seen as a waste. So the Crusaders would sell captured Jews as slaves and take their possessions. Some Jews were converted by force to Christianity. Many chose to die rather than join the idol-worshipping Church. Still others who were selectively left alive committed suicide fearing the horrors awaiting them.

The attacks found public support as false stories of Jewish depravity were spread. The murder of a 12-year-old English boy in 1144 generated a new kind of rumor. While Jews were a fantastic scapegoat for any bad situation, the story behind the murder would mutate until Jews would be blamed all over Europe for their supposed annual ritual of murdering Christian children and using their blood to make matzoh for the Passover. The accusation was especially offensive as Jews have strict laws against consuming any blood—let alone human sacrifice. But the masses believed it, and now Jews were not only evil, they were a threat to Christian families. To this day, many in the Muslim world believe this fabrication known as Blood Libel.

In the year 1290, in the middle of this mayhem, King Edward I of England expelled all Jews from the Kingdom of England. Yes. Every single British Jew was thrown out of the country. Most were only allowed to take what they could carry. For almost 400 years, Britain was void of Jews. The same hatred toward Jews was replicated in France, Germany, and across the entire European continent.



Jews who refused to convert or leave Spain were called heretics and could be burned to death on a stake. – Credit: Wikipedia

Spain – The Inquisition

The Spanish Inquisition is remembered even today for its brutality and thoroughness. Few people know this, but of the hundreds of thou-

sands of Jews living in Spain in the Middle Ages, multitudes converted to Catholicism as a result of violent persecution, known as pogroms in the late 14th century.

There were few things the hierarchy and the common people agreed upon; the need to convert Jews to Christianity, however, was one of those few things. So, in the summer of 1391, a public mob had gathered outside the Jewish community in Valencia demanding that all Jews convert. A riot broke out. Of the 2500 Jews present, 200 were converted on the spot, the rest were murdered. The city of Seville was next with 4000 Jews murdered. Similar riots continued across Spain.

Jews who converted were known as "conversos," but those who continued to secretly practice their Jewish faith were called "Marranos" (swine). To make sure these conversos, or "new Christians," stayed true to their new faith, the Catholic monarchs established the Holy Office of the Inquisition in 1481. Their role included the standard duty of purging the fakers by torture, death or exile. Of course, offenders were always given a last chance to renounce their evil ways and be baptized.

Finally, in 1492, after 100 years of Church leaders struggling with who is really a Catholic and who is not, the new Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand had had enough. Jews and Marranos were to be exposed and expelled. This decree brought with it one final wave of Jews who gave into Catholicism. Those who chose exile would wander for years from region to region in search of a safe place to exist. Some fled to Portugal but were soon expelled. Others escaped across the sea to South America. According to DNA* tests today, Modern Spaniards and Portuguese have an average 20% Jewish ancestry DNA! In Latin America, the figure is even higher: 23%, where many Marranos fled. This gives a scientific window into the massive number of Spanish Jews who were forced to convert and were absorbed into the Christian population.

*The American Journal of Human Genetics

Russia – The Pogroms

If it's possible to rate on a scale, the Russian Orthodox Church (which separated from the Roman Catholic Church in the 11th century) was perhaps the most consistently hostile to the Jews who lived among them.

Of course, the first option was always conversion to Orthodox Christianity. Though having rejected that, Jews were rarely allowed to live in or near the rest of the Russian people. This resulted in highly isolated Jewish communities. Despite the segregation and discrimination, Jews excelled in every part of society where they were allowed to participate, including education.

However, while Europe entered the Reformation and Renaissance, Russian rulers bore down

on their Jewish citizens. In 1791, Catherine the Great drew a circle around an area in Russia, and ordered all Jews to live only there. Five million Jews who were scattered all over Russia were forced to leave behind everything and move to this area called the Pale of Settlement. Still, the hate festered and mobs of rioters led by Church leaders would invade the Pale and attack the Jewish *shtetits* (villages), killing, raping and stealing (violent activities called **pogroms**).

During the period 1880-1920, these pogroms were rampant and over two million Jews fled Russia. Some 50,000 of them landed in Israel and became the early pioneers who built the infrastructure for what would become the State of Israel. Ari Sorko-Ram's mother fled Russia during this time, as well. The boat she was on attempted to dock in Israel but was denied entry. Eventually sailing from France, she ended up in the United States. She wouldn't live to see it, but the youngest son of her seven children, Ari, would eventually immigrate to Israel. He would fulfill her dream of planting the family roots in their ancestral land, and would become one of the pioneers of the Messianic movement in modern Israel.



Thousands of Evangelical Christians from dozens of countries march through Jerusalem in solidarity with Israel. Israeli security forces smile as a Christian from the UK stops to bless them. — Credit: Dreamstime

In conclusion, it is very important to remember that by no means did all who called themselves Christians despise the Jewish people. In addition, Christians — and Christianity — have come a long way since the Dark Ages. Since the birth of modern Evangelical denominations — the ones who have walked out their faith based on the Word of God, not church doctrine — have shown, by far, the most love for the Jewish people. However, if you know what to look for, you can still find an anti-Jew residue in modern church ideology. And entire denominations still exist that exclude and even shun Israel's place in God's plan.

Most significantly, however, Israel is still reel-

ing from this history. Wounds of thousands of years don't heal overnight. If anything can be said about Jews who did not recognize the gift of Yeshua, it is that out of devotion to the God of Israel they rightly rejected the idolatrous and heretical religion that was being forced on them.

While the Lord had always planned to use the Jews to reach the world and the world to, in turn, reach Israel, it is clear the enemy had its own plans. First, in order for God's plan to succeed, Israel had to exist! Exterminating Israel from the earth would render God's word void; as such you will find this evil pattern repeat itself throughout history even before the dawn of Christianity. Second, knowing the Church's calling to provoke Israel to jealousy (Romans 11:14), what better way to render that calling void than to make the mere mention of the Church a stench in the nostrils of Israel?

These facts don't change the truth that Jews need Yeshua for the same forgiveness of sins as anyone else who desires to be reconciled with the Father. But it does mean that this is a history that won't be overcome with a smile and a handshake. (Jews rightfully rejected the counter-felt anti-Semitic, anti-Torah Christ. **RAC**)

It will take intentional humility, compassion and patience to rebuild bridges based on love and trust—not with the demand of "conversion" but for sheer gratitude towards the people who brought the knowledge of God to the world. Today, though Israelis still consider Christianity taboo and even dangerous, they do recognize the change in overall attitude and even use the term Evangelical to differentiate between the traditional Church and "born-again Christians" who love Israel. It's not a complete healing but it is a good first step towards the plan God had from the beginning.

Shalom from Jerusalem!

I (Shani Ferguson), recently found a letter my grandfather, Gordon Lindsay, wrote to his supporters in 1966 about Israel.

In it he explained two things that were wildly out of the box for the thinking of the day: 1) The Jews have given us so much, it's time we did something for them in return, and, 2) We must reach the Jewish people with a "Messianic message."

His first idea seems to have found overwhelming traction these days. I can't count how many organizations thrive on the message of "blessing Israel." The second idea, however, has proven much more difficult to fulfill. There's a lot of water under that bridge, and so many terms such as mission, Gospel, crusade and even Christ carry with them centuries of cruel baggage. Many Jews will never listen to the full Message of Life because they can't get past the first few words.

My father passed away 3 weeks ago. He was 94 years old and during his final months, he had sunk into the depths of dementia and no longer recognized me. It had been many months since I had been able to have even the most rudimentary conversation with him. In a way, we had been departing from my father for many months and his death completed a process...

For months, I had been intensely involved in my father's care. My mother was the one actually caring for him on a regular basis, but my siblings and I were constantly visiting, discussing care options, and involved in many ways in the decision-making process. And for all those months, we hardly thought about my father as he had been in his younger, healthier years.

That became a dim memory as we became so intensely involved in his present situation. And I asked myself repeatedly during that time what my lasting memory of my father would be. Would it focus on his last years or would those hard years fade into the background and give way to happier times?

As I experienced the mourning process steeped in Jewish custom, I came to realize how brilliant the Jewish traditions of death and mourning really are. And I found my answer to this question. I want to share some of these experiences with you, to give you a sense of what we do and why we do it, but even more importantly, to share my own personal response to this difficult time.

Jewish tradition dictates an immediate burial, preferably the same day, but if that is not possible, then on the day following. My father passed away on Shabbat, and the funeral took place on Sunday morning. Because of Corona restrictions, only immediate family could be at the funeral which created an unusual intimacy. Just my mother, my siblings and our spouses, and our children and their spouses were present. But that was special in its own way, as everyone there loved my father and felt so close to him...

There is no casket in a traditional Jewish funeral. My father was buried in a simple shroud so that his body would have direct contact with the earth from which he had come. "*For you are dust and to dust you will return*" (Gen. 3:19). There is no embalment—a person is buried as he died, ready to meet his maker in his most honest state... No one views the body; his dignity in death, as in life, is honored. He was carried by those who loved him on a simple stretcher. And he was buried in Israel. The immediate mourners, my mother, my sisters, my brother and I, stood at the gravesite as my sister-in-law tore our shirts as a sign of mourning. Family members helped cover the

**IN MEMORY OF MY FATHER:
JOSEPH OSTER ל"ט**
by Sondra Baras (CFOIC.COM)
ChristianFriends of IsraeliCommunities

grave. Those present then offered condolences to us, with the traditional blessing: May G-d comfort you together with the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

When the simple ceremony was over, we went to my home in Karmel Shomron where we all spent the week. This formal mourning period is called Shiva and the mourners sit together in a house, on low chairs, wearing our torn shirts and receiving visitors who come to pay condolence calls. It is considered a huge blessing to visit a mourner. Generally, many come at once without appointments but because of Corona, we had to limit the visits and schedule them carefully...

But it was the shiva experience that enabled me to return to the memory of my father as he had been for most of his life—the loving, strong, and deeply believing man we had all known. As we sat together, we looked at photos and told stories of my father, including stories of his childhood that we had, in turn, heard over the years from older relatives no longer with us.

My father was a committed Jew and very active in the Jewish community of Cleveland before moving to Israel more than a decade ago. When we were children, he supported the local Bnei Akiva religious Zionist youth group, ensuring that his children and all our friends had quality activities and meaningful Jewish experiences. He was active in the synagogue, the Jewish school, the Jewish federation. He loved Israel and was always there, whenever Israel faced a crisis.

Cleveland was always a very Zionist Jewish community and most of my childhood friends made Aliyah (moved to Israel). And my parents' closest friends have all moved to Israel... And they told stories that painted a picture of the active, committed and dedicated father we had all known so well...

The Kaddish is a prayer recited at every service and it consists of praises to G-d, acknowledging His power over the universe and over all of us. There is a version of this prayer that is said by mourners during the shiva and for the 11 months following the death of a parent. It must be said in a formal prayer quorum so saying it demands commitment — to participate in regular prayer services each day. Mourners see this commitment as a way of honoring their parent's memory, but actually, it is a declaration on the part of the mourner that despite the grief and the sorrow, and sometimes the anger that accompanies a tragic death, we affirm that G-d is in charge. That in His infinite wisdom, He has taken someone to Him at the right time. It is also an understanding that when someone dies, they leave an empty space amongst us and it is that space that we are filling with a heightened sense of G-d's presence...



SEPTEMBER 2021

Year and Page Info
 LIAH 5781 -- TSHIREI 3782

			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				

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Shalom R' Rick ~

I have been teaching a series on the book of Galatians. In chapter 4, Paul used a Midrash in verse 21ff. I used the lesson to introduce PaRDeS.

Is it right for me to say that in "Biblical Exegesis" we use the Literal, Allegorical, Methaphorical, and Mystical levels (P'shat, Remez, D'rash, Sood) in inter-pretng scriptures one way or another (minus the Sood, that is)? Is there a better way to say it?

Louwell, CANADA

OUR REPLY: As you already know, the P'shat (Literal) is the most important level of interpretation. I've heard it said, "If the literal sense makes sense, seek no other sense." I am not opposed to other levels of interpretation, and fully recognize that other levels of interpretation may take priority on occasion. For instance, Yeshua was not telling his talmidim (disciples) to literally eat his flesh and drink his blood. I also do not believe that Yeshua was telling us to literally gouge out our eye if it causes one to stumble. Therefore, there are indeed times when the P'shat level of interpretation is **not** correct. In **most** other cases, if the Remez or D'rash contradicts the P'shat, then it is possible that the P'shat level of interpretation is **not** correct. That's my opinion. I don't claim to be the final authority, and I am open to correction.

Regarding Galatians 4:21, in the New Covenant, nobody is "under the Law." In the New Covenant, the Torah should be internalized, written on our hearts, as in Jeremiah 31:31-33 and Hebrews 8:8-10. I am not opposed to a healthy "fear of the Lord." However, our primary motivation should be love. We obey the mitzvot as an expression of our love for HaShem. All of that having been said, most of us fall woefully short, especially Dispensational Christians who believe that "the Law has been done away with." Galatians 4:34 is a bit more problematic. However, Torah remains foundational, per Deuteronomy 4:1-2. Any interpretation that contradicts Torah should be rejected. Even the Rabbls recognize different degrees of inspiration in the Bible, with Torah (the first five books) being the highest, followed by Nevi'im (the Prophets), followed by the Ketuvim (the Writings).



More Information About PaRDeS:

P'shat: The basic literal interpretation.

Remez: "Hint." Other passages of Scripture can be used to clarify the meaning.

D'rash: This is often what the rabbi does. He takes passages and makes a sermon with them.

Sood: The "secret" or mystical meaning. This can lead to dabbling in Kabbalah, which we do not recommend.

PaRDeS is a word created by the first Hebrew letter of each of these levels of interpretation. This is the source of the English word "paradise."

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

Enclosed is a donation to help provide **Petah Tikvah** magazines and calendars to inmates. Thank you for your quarterly publication which is chock full of gems that can be read and reread. Suzanne Liu, SINGAPORE

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Rick ~

Those who follow the teachings of Yeshua should remember what he said in Matthew 23:2-3: "The Scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. All therefore whatsoever they bid you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do after their works, for they say and do not." John S., PENNSYLVANIA

OUR REPLY: I do have some comments regarding these verses.

First of all, even the Pharisees were divided among several major sects. The two biggest sects where the school of Hillel and the school of Shammai. There were often major differences of opinion. The Talmud records many heated arguments between Hillel and Shammai, including some name-calling and insults on occasion. Yeshua also followed this custom, occasionally calling his Jewish opponents such things as "You brood of vipers." However, He certainly was not condemning all Pharisees.

Even within the various sects of Pharisees you often find major differences of opinion. Also, in modern-day yeshivas,¹ the talmidim² will often have heated arguments regarding different interpretations of the Torah, sometimes even name-calling. If I were to do the same with the good people who attend **Petah Tikvah**, I would probably lose some people. But all's well that ends well. At the end of the day, these yeshiva opponents will often put their arms around each other as they walk out of the school as best friends.

Many times Yeshua contradicted the teachings of the Pharisees. He was sometimes harshly criticized for healing people on Shabbat. Curiously, today's religious Jews see nothing wrong with healing on Shabbat. Orthodox Jewish doctors work in hospitals even on Shabbat. However, they will have a nurse come along to take notes, because they don't write on Shabbat. In Mark chapter 7, Yeshua and his talmidim were criticized by the Pharisees for not doing the ritual washing of hands³ before eating. Without the ritual washing of hands before eating, the food that is eaten is considered ritually impure. In Mark 7:7, Yeshua condemns this practice as "teaching as

¹ Jewish religious schools.

² Students.

³ This had nothing to do with actual cleansing. It is traditional to pour water over each hand while saying a blessings. No soap or scrubbing is done.

doctrines the precepts of men (Isaiah 29:13)."

"Moses' seat," or, as also called, "the Chair of Moses," was where the rabbi would quote from the Torah. Such a chair (from Korazim) is on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Whatever the rabbi said in Moses' seat while quoting Torah is binding. However, when he stood up to give a d'rash ("sermon") on these verses, this would not be equally binding.

Also, if all that the Scribes and Pharisees said was binding on us today, we would be

forced to renounce Yeshua as our Messiah and Savior, as did most Pharisees of old. However, there were also many Pharisees who were believers in Yeshua, as we see in Acts 21:5, which mentions "the sect of the Pharisees who had believed."

I can name a couple very famous Pharisees who were believers. Yeshua was called "Rabbi" by both his followers as well as his opponents (John 1:39,39; 3:3,26). In the First Century, all rabbis were also Pharisees. Pharisaic Judaism became the basis of what we sometimes call Rabbinic Judaism today. In Acts 23:6, Rav Sha'ul (Paul) says, "I am a Pharisee." Christians need to be careful to not condemn all Pharisees. Otherwise they would also end up condemning Yeshua and Paul. Nicodemus was also a believer in Yeshua.

Even though I may often disagree with Pharisaic Judaism and modern day Rabbinic Judaism, I have great respect for both. We follow many Rabbinic customs and traditions, and we follow the Torah-Haftarah readings each week. On Shabbat, we do many of the Rabbinic prayers. However, we do not consider Rabbinic Judaism as being the final authority. When the Scriptures say one thing, and Orthodox rabbis say something else, we will go with Scripture.

We also study Rabbinic commentary and occasionally read some Talmudic references. There are some real gems in both. But they are not Scripture. When they support Scripture, we will agree, but when they are contrary to Scripture, we will disagree. We have learned much and benefited from Rabbinic commentary. However, we are not bound by Rabbinic commentary or Halachah.

If we were bound by Rabbinic Halachah, we would not be able to drive to services, answer a telephone, write, or do a host of other things that Rabbinic Judaism prohibits on Shabbat. However, we do honor Shabbat as a day of rest, with no shopping or secular entertainment, and as a day of holy convocation.

The Scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' Seat



EVE: "But God said that
I am not to eat it."

SERPENT: "Don't be so legalistic."

What Symmetry? Muslims Torch 10 Synagogues, 112 Jewish Homes and 849 Jewish-Owned Cars

by **TPS / Taznit News Agency** 7 Sivan 5781

At least 10 synagogues were attacked and burned in one week (May 9-15) of Muslim pogroms and riots across Israel, while **28 mosques were exposed as weapons storage sites**, the data show. Similarly, 22 Muslim prayer houses were being used to incite riots against Jews.

Data from the Central District of Fire and Rescue show that on May 11, 10 synagogues and government institutions in the city of Lod in the center of the country have been set on fire. No mosques were attacked or burned.

112 Jewish homes have so far been burned in Muslim riots, compared to one house of an Arab family in Jaffa, which turned out to have been set on fire by Arabs.

No looted Arab homes have been reported so far while 386 looted Jewish homes were documented. A total of 673 Jewish homes were vandalized and 12 Arab homes were damaged. 849 Jewish-owned cars were set on fire, as opposed to 13 Arab-owned cars.

Conversely, Jews who used weapons in **self-defense** were arrested by the police, while so far, **no Arabs** were arrested for the use of firearms, despite the injury of several Jews in shooting incidents. Over 5,000 incidents of rock-throwing at Jews were recorded, as opposed to 41 such attacks on Arabs.

Synagogues Torched by Arabs: 10
Mosques Torched by Jews: 0

Jewish Homes Burned by Arabs: 112
Arab Homes Burned by Arabs: 1
Arab Homes Burned by Jews: 0

Jewish Homes Looted by Arabs: 673
Arab Homes Looted: 0

Jewish Homes Vandalized by Arabs: 673
Arab Homes Vandalized: 12

Jewish Cars Burned by Arabs: 849
Arab Cars Burned: 13

Rock Throwing by Arabs on Jews: 5000+
Rock Throwing on Arabs: 41

Editor's Comments: There are those who make this into a human rights conflict. That's a lie. Hamas began the war by launching dozens of rockets against Israel. Israel has every right to defend herself. After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, the USA went to war against Japan. The United States dropped atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, killing over 100,000 people (mostly civilians) at the time. However, it quickly ended the war. Ultimately, the bombs may have saved lives. Japan then became a democracy, where human rights are protected.

Hamas is a terrorist organization. Their ultimate goal is the destruction of Israel and the murder of as many Jews as possible. Interesting, Hamas means "violence" in Hebrew. Israel did a complete withdrawal from Gaza in 2005. Gaza is not occupied by Israel. Hamas is also a brutal dictatorship. Human rights are not respected. Religious minorities, such as Christians, are heavily persecuted. The Palestinian Authority isn't much better under the corrupt and harsh regime of Mahmoud Abbas, who is in the 15th year of a 4-year term.

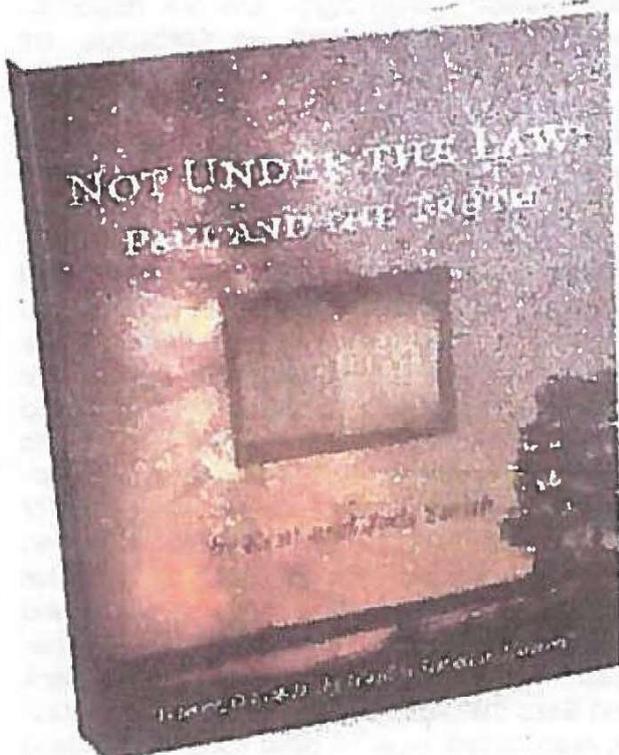
Arabs living in Israel are full citizens, enjoying more rights than Arabs living in any Arab country. Arabs in Israel vote, serve in the Israeli Knesset (Parliament), attend Israeli colleges and universities, shop in Israeli stores, ride on Israeli buses, have automobiles, and freely demonstrate against Israel. Arabs in other countries would love to have these freedoms. And if they dare to demonstrate against their government, they suffer severe consequences. (Just ask the people of Syria about that.) If you care about human rights, you should demand that Israel not give up any more of the Biblical heartland (Judea and Samaria—the so-called West Bank) to the Palestinian Authority. The portions of the West Bank and Gaza that have been given over to Palestinian Arab control have all been used as launching pads for attacks against Israel. Their children are also indoctrinated to hate Jews and Israel. Israel would be foolish indeed to give up any more land to her enemies. **RAC**

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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:

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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)

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 for the above: www.gatesofeden.online

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

What a delight and challenge it is to read and absorb the articles in **Petah Tikvah**. I return to them and re-read various entries just for the joy of learning the new material which you are sharing.

Thank you for the Messianic Jewish education you offer... And thank you for the bold and beautiful expression of your faith in Yeshua as Lord and Savior. God bless you!

Susan Brown, Webster NY

Editor's Note: Susan happens to be a neighbor of my mother. My Mom shared an issue of **Petah Tikvah** with her, which is how she happened to come into contact with us. Don't discard your old PTs: Share them with a friend or neighbor! That's one way in which we acquire new readers. **RAC**

Shalom Rav Rick & Miriam ~

I'm writing with the glad tidings of my change of address – to the outside of prison! The grace of God in Messiah Yeshua has sus-

tained me, and has now opened the door of my release!

Please transfer my subscription to my new address. I'm looking forward to being able to support your ministry with more than a few postage stamps.

Thank you, and thanks to all of your supporters and contributors for your wonderful ministry and kindness to us – the least of His brethren behind bars. James Leach, MO

A Short Word About the UMJA

We would like to introduce you to the Union of Messianic Jewish Assemblies. This is a pro-Torah, pro-Messiah union of Messianic Jewish congregations and ministries. You can learn more about the UMJA by visiting our website at www.umja.net. **Petah Tikvah Magazine** is now the official publication of the UMJA. You can also write to the UMJA at:

United Messianic Jewish Assemblies
325 Mellon Rd, Winchendon MA 01475

Our readers can go to the Petah Tikvah website to make purchases, get subscriptions, and make contributions. This can be done safely and securely with 21 different currencies, using many different **credit cards**, or with a **Paypal** account at our website: WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM

Shalom to all at Petah Tikvah ~

My wife and I pray that all is well there, and that your lives continue to bring glory to the Most High, blessed be He. Please use this small donation as you choose. My only desire is that it is used in some way to minister to our brothers and sisters who are incarcerated or recently released. John Montgomery

Editor's Comment: This is one of many readers who recognize the spiritual needs of our inmate friends. This has enabled us to reach several hundred inmate subscribers with each edition. Many times, each issue is passed around to other inmates. Most of them read each issue voraciously, often at least twice. Toda raba for your kindness to the prisoners.

Shalom Aleikhem Rav Richard & Miriam ~

Each time I receive **Petah Tikvah**, I cannot put it down until I have finished reading it. I have been reading it since 2012. We have been on lockdown much of the time, often unable to have Shabbat services. When able to do so, we conduct our own Mikra Kodesh (holy convocation) services.

Terry Ree, Sayre OK

Dear Friends at Petah Tikvah ~

Your teachings have really changed my life. You have given me a better understanding on how to understand the Scriptures. Thank you! I am also including 3 stamps for the Shabbat siddur.

Brian Gouvella, Delano CA

Shalom ~

On page 34 of the Jan—March 2021 issue of **Petah Tikvah**, you printed your apology to Jerry Healan of Yahweh's Evangelical Assembly for having printed my letter in the previous issue of **PT** accusing him of being antisemitic. I'm enclosing Jerry Healan's Jan—Feb issue of **YEA Newsletter**. You can see for yourself that Jerry Healan is indeed a rabid anti-Semite who truly hates Jews.

Frank Byrd, Livingston TX

Editor's Response: I blew it big time when I printed that apology to Jerry Healan. I took his word when he told me that he was falsely accused of antisemitism. I read through his Jan—Feb newsletter. It is filled with some of the most vile attacks against the Jewish people that I have seen from someone who proclaims himself to be a believer, from the first article to the last.

Either Healan actually believes all of these antisemitic conspiracies, including the infamous Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion forgeries, or he is deliberately promoting falsehoods. Either way, he is dangerous, and Frank Byrd was absolutely right to uncover the evils that Healan is promoting. Healan also should not call himself "Messianic," as this casts a false and misleading picture of what real Messianic believers happen to be. This seems to be the age of **disinformation**, along with the many wacked out conspiracy theories during the last few years.

I also must apologize to Frank Byrd. Frank was telling the truth about Healan. It is not **lashon hara** (the "evil tongue") to warn others about false brothers. **RAC**

Shalom Rabbi Chaimberlin ~

This is my last year in prison. I will be released in January 2022. The last five years have been an incredible and enlightening journey. I wouldn't trade it for anything. I am grateful for **Petah Tikvah** being there for me through it all.

I have found a good congregation to attend. Thank you for your service. I will continue my subscription once I am released.

Shalom U'vrachah – peace & blessing,
Justin Snyder, Grafton OH

Shalom Rav Rick ~

Do you believe in the "once saved, always saved" doctrine? Many people here believe that, and teach it to this day. They say, "No matter what you do, you can never lose your salvation."

Malakim, Dillwyn VA

OUR REPLY: "Once saved, always saved" is a great doctrine! It would be nice if it was true, but it isn't. We read the following from Rom. 11:17-24:

Rom. 11:17 "And if some of the (Jewish) branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them partake of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

¹⁸boast not against the natural branches. But if you boast, you do not bear the root, but the root bears you. ¹⁹You will say then, 'The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.' ²⁰Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear: ²¹For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also not spare you. ²²Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, *if* you continue in *His* goodness: otherwise you also shall be cut off. ²³And they also, if they do not abide still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴For if you were cut out of the wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree, how much more shall these, which are the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?"

The natural olive tree represents Israel – the Jewish people. First of all, I don't believe many antisemitic people would want to be grafted into a Jewish olive tree. Jews were broken off because of unbelief, and Gentiles were grafted in. However, as it says in verse 22, Gentiles (the wild branches) can continue to be grafted into the Jewish olive tree, "*if* you continue in *His* goodness: otherwise, you also shall be cut off."

Ezekiel 18:20-26 also speaks strongly against eternal security. Let me rephrase that: You are eternally **secure** in Him if you remain in Him. You are free to leave God much as the Prodigal Son left his earthly father. The good news is that the Father will gladly welcome back those who had become backslidden when they return with repentant hearts. Check out Colossians 1:21-23 and Revelations 22:15.

However, please keep in mind that God is our loving Heavenly Father. He isn't going to kick you out of the Kingdom each time you fall short.



Shalom Aleichem ~

I received the new issue of **Petah Tikvah**. I have read through the entire magazine, and am re-reading a few articles before I pass it on to my friend. I also passed a **PT** mag from 2020 to him. We have discussed a few of the articles from the magazine, and he started to embrace (Messianic) Judaism. He will be the second friend who is embracing Judaism and pulling away from the Roman Catholic Church. Praise YHWH!

Please send the new **Petah Tikvah** calendar, and your one-time Spanish **PT**. I am enclosing a book of stamps. I thank YHWH for putting you and your ministry in my life. I also thank you for being such an awesome teacher to me. I can't wait for the next issue! May YHWH bless you.

Rosalio Rodriguez, Pampa TX

Editor's Note: There is a Messianic Jewish revival going on in the prisons of America. There is also a Messianic Jewish revival of those of Hispanic ancestry, many of whom may also have actual Jewish ancestry. During the Inquisition, many Jews were forcibly converted to Catholicism under threats of torture or being burned alive. They were then burdened with being called **Maraños**, the Spanish word for pigs.

The preferred term for these people is **Anusim**, Hebrew for "forced converts." Many descendants of these Anusim are now either converting to Judaism, or becoming active Messianic Jews. We have many Hispanic readers on our mail list, both in prison and in the free world. We receive many requests for materials "en español," such as for siddurim and other publications in Spanish, preferably at low costs that inmates can afford. **I am asking our readers to point me in the right direction for these things.**

Dear Rav ~

As a prisoner here, your ministry is priceless to us. I am an elder in the Messianic Jewish assembly, and HaShem is moving mightily here. The Ruach HaKodesh¹ is flowing through the men, causing a genuine revival to begin.

As men come back to their biblical roots (Sabbath-keeping, Feast Days, etc.), they need

to know when these days are. Your calendars are an invaluable tool. I am enclosing 8 stamps to send to two men who attend our ministry. Thank you for your ministry to HaShem!

Robert Gonzales, Canon City CO

Shabbat shalom Rav Rick & Rebbetzin Miriam

I ask that you guys keep me in your prayers. During my last transfer, the DOC lost all of my property, including Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, the Interlinear Hebrew-Greek-English Bible, and the Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary.

Timothy Cole, Raiford FL

Editor's Note: Regretfully, this is

not an uncommon com-

plaint. Inmates get

moved from one

prison to another, or

even from one location

in the same prison to another.

Then they discover that

their possessions are lost, often

including notebooks in which they have been

recording many things they have learned over

the years. Timothy (above) had an excellent se-

lection of resources which, for a prisoner, were

accumulated at a very high cost. We pray that

these books show up soon.

RAC

"I am Adonai... I will appoint you... to open blind eyes, to bring prisoners from the dungeon, and them that sit in darkness from prison."

Yeshiyahu (Isaiah) 42:6-7

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 to: **Hope of Israel**, PO Box 915, Culloden WV 25510.

Dear Rav Richard~

May Yeshua bless you continually! I am grateful for **Petah Tikvah**. The April-June has an article called "Depression and the Believer." YHWH knew I needed some guidance in this area. I am a combat veteran with nearly two decades of service and multiple deployments in the Middle East. I suffered brain injuries and other mental

health conditions in the service. Articles like this one help me to focus on my Creator when depression, migraines, and sleep issues arise from my service and broken childhood. I thank the Almighty for people like you serving His Kingdom. Toda raba!

Steven Velez, Concord NH



¹ "Holy Spirit."

Turkish Police Find, Seize 2,000-Year-Old Torah Scroll

Police in Turkey says they have seized a 2,000-year-old Torah scroll in a coastal city 300 miles east of Istanbul. Separately, remnants of an abandoned synagogue in Istanbul caught fire in what police say may have been arson.

The scroll was seized on 26 March 2021 when police, acting on intelligence, stopped two cars for an inspection in Samsun, Sputnik reported. In one of the cars, police said, they found 19 pages of an ornate Torah with golden letters with pages framed by an engraved leather passe-partout.

Five people detained in connection with the find are suspected of illegally dealing in archaeological finds. The Sputnik report did not contain further details about the document, which would be one of the world's oldest if the information reported is accurate. (TOI / VFI News)

Vision for Israel · P.O. Box 7743 · Charlotte, NC 28241-7743 ·

Almost All Remaining Jews in Yemen Deported

Source: Barry & Batya Segal, Vision for Israel · P.O. Box 7743 Charlotte, NC 28241-7743 ·

The last three Jewish families in Yemen were deported by the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, leaving only four elderly Jews in the country, the London-based Saudi daily Asharq Al-Awsat reported in May 2021. The move marks the virtual end of a 2,600-year-old Jewish community in Yemen.

The families, totaling 13 people, told Asharq Al-Awsat that they were now searching for a new home. The families had resisted leaving but finally agreed after the Houthis made their departure a condition for the release of Levi Salem Marhabi, a Jew who was captured by the rebels about six years ago. (JPost / VFI News)

The following is from **Wikipedia**:

Yemenite Jews or **Teimanim** (**Hebrew**: יהודי תימן *Yehudei Teman*; **Arabic**: اليهود اليمنيين) are those Jews who live, or once lived, in Yemen. Between June 1949 and September 1950, the overwhelming majority of Yemen's Jewish population was transported to Israel in Operation Magic Carpet. After several waves of persecution throughout Yemen, the vast majority of Yemenite smaller communities live in the United States and elsewhere. Only a handful remain in Yemen. The few remaining Jews experience intense, and at times violent, anti-Semitism on a daily basis.^[8]

Yemenite Jews have a unique religious tradition that distinguishes them from Ashkenazi Jews, Sephardi Jews, and other Jewish groups.

They have been described as "the most Jewish of all Jews" and "the ones who have preserved the Hebrew language the best".^[9] Yemenite Jews fall within the "Mizrahi" (eastern) category of Jews, though they differ from other Mizrahi Jews who have undergone a process of total or partial assimilation to Sephardic liturgy and custom. While the Shami sub-group of Yemenite Jews did adopt a Sephardic-influenced rite, this was mostly due to it being forced upon them,^[10] and did not reflect a demographic or general cultural shift among the vast majority of Yemenite Jews.

Elephantine Island: The Jews who returned to Egypt

by *Bill Gladstone*

Eight centuries after Moses led the Children of Israel from Egypt, a Jewish community thrived on Elephantine Island, a small isle on the Nile River in Southern Egypt near the present-day Aswan Dam. Archaeologists date the origin of the Elephantine community to the dispersion and exile of the Jews from ancient Israel following the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE.

Almost everything we know about this interesting chapter of Jewish exilic life comes from the discovery by American Egyptologist Charles Edwin Wilbour in 1893 of a large collection of scrolls, known as the Elephantine papyri, dating back to antiquity.

Five hundred years older than the Dead Sea Scrolls, the papyri provide historical information about marriage, labour conditions, real estate, religion and burial among the Jews of Elephantine in the 5th century BCE. They are a fascinating reflection of the Biblical accounts given in II Kings and Jeremiah that Jews returned to Egypt after the destruction of Solomon's Temple.

Having seen the Jerusalem Temple destroyed, the Elephantine Jews built a new Temple in which they burned incense, performed animal sacrifice, and worshipped the God of Abraham. As the papyri indicates, the Jews of Elephantine observed the Sabbath and the Feast of Matzah (Passover) like their modern counterparts. However, they also worshipped secondary gods and borrowed many sacred rituals from their Egyptian and Persian neighbours, with whom they lived in multicultural harmony.

Astonishingly well preserved, the papyri are written in Aramaic and belonged to an official of the Temple named Ananiah; they are filled with details about his wife Tamut, an Egyptian slave, and their son and daughter, Palti and Yehoishema. The presentation of the papyri is enhanced with numerous ancient artifacts related to the life of the period. © 2004

Enclosed is a donation. Your commentaries on Acts, Revelation, and Hebrews have been awesome! I want to learn all I can from the Jewish perspective. Thanks to **Petah Tikvah**, I've gotten correspondence classes from Shalom Bible College (4007 High St; W Des Moines ID 50265). And thanks to **PT**, I've come to experience Yeshua in a more intimate and personal way. Please renew my subscription.

Lenora Scott, McCloud OK

Dear Rav Aharon ~

Thank you and your wife Miriam for y'all's servant hearts toward us the incarcerated. I enjoy y'all's **Petah Tikvah**, and it is due to James Ya'akov Cates that I receive a subscription.

When I first began my walk as a 'baby' Messianic Jew, I was a fan of **Petah Tikvah**. But an older brother in the faith made some harsh comments about it, and in my infancy, I took it at face value without praying first and studying your writings for myself. This was in the summer of 2015 when I was at the Wynne Unit.

Then in the spring of 2019, a Ruach HaKodesh filled brother, Jesus Ayala, handed me two **Petah Tikvah** magazines. Once again, I was captivated. Plus, I read a ton of old issues of **PT** that were in our library.

It was in one of those issues that I learned of the Kh'rev Torah Yeshiva and of the United Messianic Jewish Ministries (UMJM), of which I am a member today. (For either or both, write to PO Box 618, Windsor VA 23487. **RAC**) Rav Michael Everage said that I will begin my studies with the Yeshiva this fall. I also received the beautiful UMJA siddur. I sent you a \$__ donation. Please use where it is most needed.

Our chaplain is grouping our Messianic Jewish group with Protestants. We are not Protestant Christians. We desire to place ourselves under the banner of Messianic Judaism, and nothing else. We are also not Yahwehists, Seventh Day Adventists, or Church of God, who are all grouped together under the category of Sabbatarian. Yishai Villarreal, Palestine TX

Rick & Miriam ~

Thank you for your letter. I have been meditating on the 850 Holocaust survivors who are over 100 years of age, living in Israel. There is a total of 179,000 Holocaust survivors living in Israel. I would like to give each of them a hug. Please use the donation in the best possible way to help Jews. Dave Asmussen, Sioux Falls ID

Editor's Note: There are various charities that help Holocaust survivors. At this time, I would like to recommend:

International Fellowship of Christians and Jews
30 N LaSalle St #4300
Chicago IL 60602-2584

Dear Rav Rick ~

For the past 15 years I have kept a subscription to **Petah Tikvah** Magazine for all of these years. I have been blessed with stimulus funds, and the Ruach HaKodesh has led me to send this tithe to your ministry.

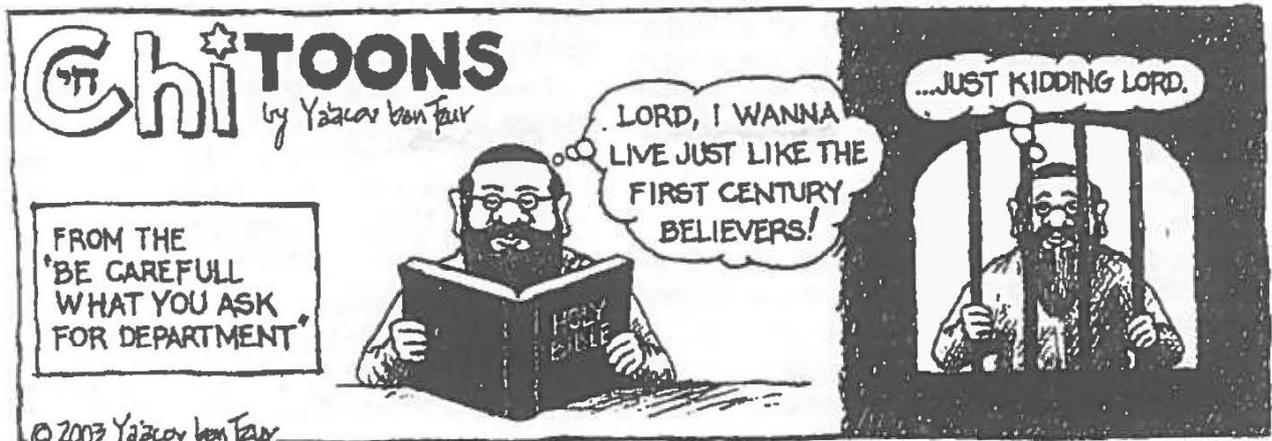
I have only been able to send you donations of postage stamps before. Please use this tithe as you see fit. Toda raba for the blessings your ministry has showered me with over the past 15 years. I ask that you do not print my name or address, as it is a personal donation to HaShem.

Anonymous

Special Note to our Inmate Friends

We are very deeply appreciative of all of our friends behind bars. When **Petah Tikvah** started out in the early 1980s, we had no intention of having a prison ministry. However, today we have a very active prison ministry, and we are pleased that it happened. The vast majority of the correspondence we receive is from inmates. We regret that we are unable to answer all of the mail that we receive from prisoners. We simply do not have time for it.

WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM



Dear Rav Richard ~

I am so impressed with **Petah Tikvah**. It has helped me so much in my learning and has opened my eyes to Messianic Judaism. I love to read the Scriptures in the original Hebraic and Jewish context of the First Century CE.² I am enclosing a donation to receive your various commentaries. Jeremiah Jones, Chowchilla CA

Richard Chaimberlin ~

Way to go on another informative issue of **Petah Tikvah**. The article "Depression and the Believer" really hit home for me. I suffer from depression, PTSD, and other disorders. Treatment in prison is inadequate. It is a struggle dealing with depression outside of prison, but within prison walls it can be overwhelming. Thank Yahweh for prayer, Scripture, fellow believers, and fellow inmates. Without these support systems, I would not have made it this far.

Do you recommend any particular Chumash?³ Toda raba for your wisdom and input.

Lathen Douglas, Tennessee Colony TX

OUR REPLY: There are two Chumashim that I would recommend:

Penteteuch & Haftarahs, Dr. JH Hertz
Soncino Press, 5 Essex St, New York NY 10002

Schottenstein Interlinear Chumash
4401 Second Ave, Brooklyn NY11232

The second Chumash would be too pricey for most inmates, but both are excellent. The commentaries on some passages are sometimes rather fanciful, and sometimes brilliant.

Shalom Rick & Miriam ~

I am incarcerated in a prison with no Messianic Jewish services. **Petah Tikvah** is indeed a great blessing to me, and no doubt to many other prisoners. I am sending a tithe from my stimulus check. I hope this helps you continue to bless others as you have blessed me! Thank you also for the commentary on Matthew.

April Rose Wilkens, McCloud OK

Dear Elder Chaimberlin ~

On p. 41 of the new **PT** there is a paragraph-length article called "Prison Reform." It states, "Yes, there are crimes for which the perpetrator should be locked away and the key thrown away." Really? So, no one can ever rehabilitate themselves and cannot prove their remorse? That they cannot be redeemed as a valuable member of society?

Another sentence says, "We also need to ensure that they (the criminals) are not allowed

to earn an honest livelihood upon release." Well, how are they to support themselves? DUH!!

Mike Bidwell, Abilene TX

OUR REPLY: We have encountered many men and women who have indeed become fully rehabilitated, some of whom committed awful crimes. There are, however, dangerous criminals who must remain locked up for life, and justice for the victims. However, we believe in miracles. **One of the biggest miracles is changed lives.** The prisoners on our mail list have also impressed us greatly with their changed lives as well as great insights into the Scriptures.

Regarding that word "not" that Mike made reference to: That was an error on my part. It should read: "We also need to ensure that they (the criminals) are allowed to earn an honest livelihood upon release." Without the ability to earn an honest livelihood, they would be forced to earn a **dishonest** livelihood.

I hasten to add: Prisoners should also be paid better for their work. Many are paid mere pennies per hour for their work while in prison. Honest work is also good for developing job skills upon release. Families of the incarcerated also suffer when their loved ones are in prison. **RAC**

Dear Rav Rick & Miriam ~

I thank Father Yahweh for your ministry. **Petah Tikvah** has made a huge difference in my walk of faith. The Ruach HaKodesh has taught me so much in such a short time and revolutionized my walk in the Spirit. The Ruach HaKodesh showed me that I needed to search the Jewish roots of the faith last year, but being a stubborn Gentile, I resisted. Then I met two men on my unit that got my interest in Messianic Judaism going even more. One of them is a Messianic Palestinian from Israel of all places! Through them, I have become a Messianic Jew. You cannot divorce Jewishness from the Messiah and get the fullness of the Word. Now I read His Word and get the truth I was always meant to receive. I had to save for a bit, but have enclosed stamps for the commentaries on Matthew, Acts, Hebrews, and Revelation.

Sherman West, Tennessee Colony TX

Petah Tikvah ~

I was reading the genealogies of Yeshua in Mathew chapter 1 and Luke chapter 3, and they are different. I'm not trying to be a skeptic, but I was a Christian and am new to the Messianic Jewish faith. I am just trying to understand.

Brian G., French Camp CA

OUR REPLY: According to most Bible scholars, Matthew gives the genealogy of Joseph, Yeshua's adoptive father, whereas Luke gives the genealogy of Miriam, his mother. I agree. **RAC**

² "Common Era," equivalent to A.D.

³ First 5 books of the Bible with Rabbinic commentary, often also containing Haftara portions.

SHLOMO HILLEL: 1923-2021

Shlomo Hillel, Who Helped 120K Jews Flee Iraq, Dies in Israel

by Clay Risen, New York Times

Shlomo Hillel, a Baghdad-born Israeli operative who in the late 1940s and early 1950s used bribes, fake visas, and a network of smugglers to move more than 120,000 Jews from Iraq to Israel, died on 8 Feb 2021 at his home in Ra'anana, Israel. He was 97.

Hillel was just 23 when the Haganah, a Jewish paramilitary organization in what was then British-controlled Palestine, sent him undercover to Iraq. Jews had lived there for centuries, mostly in harmony with their neighbors, but growing Arab nationalism and anti-Zionist sentiment, including a 1941 pogrom in which several hundred Jews were killed, were making their situation precarious.

Hillel, disguised as an Arab, was there to lay the groundwork for migration, teaching Hebrew and rousing pro-Zionist sentiment. He also helped smuggle small numbers of Jews to Israel in trucks travelling between Baghdad and Haifa, a major port in Palestine.

After a year he returned to Israel, but he soon grew restless. As he watched ships full of Jews arrive from Europe – one carried his future wife, Temima – he decided that Iraqi Jews deserved the same opportunity. But Iraq forbade them to emigrate, and the British had severely limited how many Jews could move to Palestine. Hillel would have to act in secret.

With the Haganah's support, he found American pilots who had a cargo plane and an itch for adventure. "Someone in the United States had told two of them, 'Look, in Palestine there are some crazy people who are willing to pay a lot of money to smuggle Jews to Palestine,'" Hillel said in a 2008 oral history.

The plan went perfectly. They took off just after midnight so they could arrive at daybreak, before the British were awake. When they landed in a field near Yavne'el, a town on the Sea of Galilee, an agent from the Mossad, Israel's intelligence service, handed the pilots a bag of gold coins.

1948 War of Independence

The Haganah ran the operation, called Michaelberg – derived from the pilots' names – one more time, bringing back 50 more Iraqis, before the outbreak of the Israeli war for independence in 1948 rendered the flights too risky. In June 1948, with the war still raging and the situation growing worse for Iraq's Jews, Hillel went to Iran, this time disguised as a Frenchman. He had passed through Paris, where he encountered a priest named Alexan-

der Glasberg, who had converted to Roman Catholicism from Judaism. He had saved some 2,000 Jews during World War II by hiding them in monasteries, and was now involved in getting European Jews to Israel.

The two decided that if Jews could make it across the porous border to Iran – and if Hillel could bribe Iranian police to look the other way – then Glasberg, who was friends with the French Interior minister, could arrange visas for them to get to Israel. Over a few months, about 12,000 Jews made the trip.

But even this was not fast enough for Hillel, who had since returned to Israel. In 1950 a new government in Iraq passed a law allowing Jews to migrate for one year. Here was his chance to get tens of thousands of Jews out of the country. Hillel travelled to Baghdad once more, this time disguised as a Briton named Richard Armstrong, representing an American charter company called Near East Air Transport. The company, owned by a pro-Israel American, was real, although it received much of its funding from the Mossad.

Despite severe restrictions – they could take only one suitcase each, and a small amount of money and valuables – about 90,000 Jews registered to emigrate in the first two months. By 1952, about 124,000 had migrated to Israel on 950 flights in what the news media called Operation Ezra and Nehemiah, after the Old Testament prophets who had led the Jews out of Babylon. Just a few thousand stayed behind, and by 2008, there were fewer than 10 Jewish men left in Iraq.

Although Hillel was later lauded for his work – in 1988 he received the Israel Prize, the country's highest civilian award – he remained modest about his place in history. "I was lucky to be in the right place at the right time," he said in a 2006 interview.

Background

Shlomo Hillel was born on April 9th, 1923, in Baghdad, the youngest of 11 children of Aharon and Hanini Hillel. His father ran an import-export business, and his family was part of the city's sizable Jewish middle class. In 1933, Iraqi soldiers massacred about 500 Assyrian Christians near the city of Mosul. Shlomo and his father watched the Iraqis march triumphantly through Baghdad. "If this is what they do to Christians, what will they do to us?" he recalled his father saying.

The next year the Hillels moved to Israel, where Shlomo attended Hebrew University before becoming a co-founder of Maagan Michael, a kibbutz in northern Israel. He married Temima Rosner in 1952. She died in 2011. In addition to his son, Ari, he is survived by three granddaughters. His daughter, Hagar, died in 2005.

God Has Been Arranging Encounters in Human History Since the Beginning of Time. The Next Time You Feel Like God Can't Use You, Just Remember:

Elijah was suicidal. Noah got drunk.
Joseph was a dreamer. Peter denied Yeshua.
Zaccheus was too short. Abraham was too old.
Timothy had an ulcer. Jonah ran from God.
Jacob was abused. Naomi was a widow.
John the Baptist ate bugs. Paul was a prisoner.
Martha was a worrier. Moses was a stutterer.
Samson was a womanizer, Lazarus was dead!!
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young.
David committed adultery and murder.
The Samaritan woman was divorced: 5 times.

No more excuses. God can use you to your full potential. You aren't the message. You are the messenger.

Thanks to Zollie Bird ☺



Israel's Eden Alene Advances to Eurovision Final

Eden Alene, Israel's contestant in the Eurovision Song Contest, advanced to the finals on the opening night of the 2021 event, which was held in Rotterdam on May 18. While there was some concern that the Israel/Gaza war would turn Eurovision audiences against Israel, Alene's flawless performance of the song, "Set Me Free" charmed voters.

Alene, a rising star and Israel's first representative of Ethiopian descent, managed to contain her disappointment over the postponement of the 2020 contest due to the coronavirus pandemic and conducted herself with quiet grace throughout the year. In addition to her high note, her performance was notable for her dancing and the striking black-and-white Alon Livne costume she sported. (JPost / VFI News)

Barry & Batya Segal, **Vision for Israel**
PO Box 7743, Charlotte NC 28241-7743

Editor's Note: Vision for Israel is a great source for news from Israel. We also recommend VFI as a worthy charity for the poor and needy in Israel, giving out food, school supplies, etc.

IDF Attacks Hamas Missile Launcher Inside a School

An IDF aircraft attacked a Hamas target in Shejaiya in Gaza immediately after it fired missiles into Israeli territory. The rocket launching station was also destroyed. "The position is located inside a school, which proves once again how Hamas deliberately places its military assets in the heart of the civilian population," the IDF said.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have launched over 3,000 rockets at Israel since last Monday. According to Magen David Adom, 12 people have been killed by the rockets and 134 injured. The Palestinian death toll is over 200. (INN / NPR / VFI News)

Editor's Note: Regretfully, this is common practice for the Hamas militants to place military assets in or near schools, hospitals, and civilian high rise buildings. This provides them with human shields, causing Israel to be reluctant to attack those sites. However, Israel cannot properly defend herself by not attacking these sites in times of war. Israel does all she can do to prevent the loss of civilian lives, even warning the people in those buildings ahead of time to leave before the bombs come. However, there will still be some collateral damage. Hamas cares nothing about the loss of civilian lives. It makes for good publicity for Hamas when Palestinian lives are lost.

Merkel Condemns Anti-Semitic Abuse and Attacks on Synagogues

Angela Merkel's spokesman has warned that Jews no longer feel safe in Germany as he condemned anti-Semitic abuse hurled by pro-Palestinian protesters in May. Police were deployed outside synagogues across the country after protests against Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip descended into racial abuse.

'What has been heard in the last few days of hatred of Jews and anti-Semitic abuse is shameful,' Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said on Monday. He called it 'particularly outrageous' that a Jewish journalist had been attacked on the sidelines of a demonstration in Berlin at the weekend.

Seibert said this 'highlights the fact that Jews in Germany cannot move around as freely and safely in some areas and in some situations as is the right of every citizen in Germany. And that makes us angry and it is shameful for all of us.' (DM / VFI News)

JEWISH BASICS

Music CDs and
Deluxe Lyric Booklets



melodies
are well suited for

JEWISH BASICS is the perfect tool for anyone wishing to learn the traditional Jewish liturgy and to practice Hebrew. The lyrics and the familiar from both the Sephardic & Ashkenazic traditions study, meditation, and liturgical worship.

We have various liturgical CDs in our possession. However, none are as well done as this CD. There is both a male and a female cantor on this disk, both of whom are superb. It is a pleasure to listen to them. The music is genuinely worshipful. In addition, there is piano accompaniment to add to your listening pleasure. This CD is professional, high-quality material.

We highly recommend this CD for those wishing to learn Jewish liturgy. This CD is useful both to cantors and to congregants. Many also use these CDs for worship in their homes. The CD and the accompanying booklet contain most of the liturgy commonly used for Shabbat (Sabbath) worship, including the blessings and songs used in the Torah service. We make it available to inmates at an extremely reasonable cost - the cost of shipping and handling.

The booklet contains the Shabbat liturgy in Hebrew, transliterated Hebrew using the Roman alphabet, and also the English translations for all the pieces. This booklet serves very well for personal or congregational use as a Shabbat *siddur* (Jewish prayer book). As you listen and read along (or sing along!), you will greatly increase your ability to correctly pronounce Hebrew. We are also including a Hebrew alphabet chart for those who are unfamiliar with written Hebrew. The cantorialis are all in Hebrew, using the Sephardic pronunciation, much as Hebrew is spoken in Israel today.

- The cost for both the music CD and the Lyric Booklet is now \$10, US currency.
- Additional Lyric Booklets can be obtained for \$3 each (or 3 stamps for inmates).
- No extra cost for Shipping and Handling, worldwide.
- Send check, cash, or money order to **Petah Tikvah, 165 Doncaster Rd, Rochester NY 14623-1348.**



Q & A

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.

Q: Can anyone know for sure how God's name in Hebrew (spelled *yod-he-vav-he*) was originally pronounced?

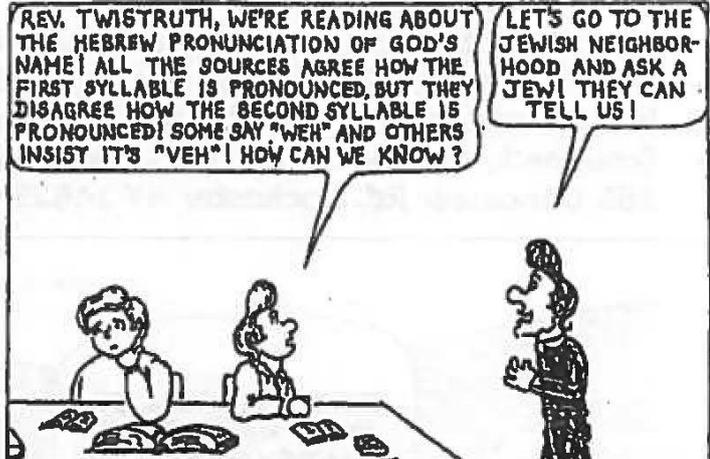
A: No. As the late Brad Scott once pointed out, there were no tape recorders in Bible times, so no one can prove with absolute certainty exactly how the Tetragrammaton was originally pronounced. This is one reason that Jews do not pronounce God's name, and just refer to it as *HaShem* ("the Name"), or call God *Adonai* ("the LORD").

Many people make educated guesses about the pronunciation. The most common guesses seem to be Yahweh, Yahveh, and Yehovah. According to the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, the majority of scholars believe it was probably pronounced Yahweh. Of course, the majority can be mistaken. However, unless I have compelling evidence

that convinces me to reject the majority opinion, I have no good reason to reject the majority opinion. Therefore if I say or write the Tetragrammaton, I use Yahweh. However, in recent years I find myself reluctant to say the Name at all, except in my private prayer. The reason for my reluctance is because there is a lot of "Sacred Name Nonsense" in the Messianic Movement, and I do not want to be associated with that. (See my article of that title in GOE 25-6, and "Linguistic Superstition and the Sacred Name Movement" in GOE 21-4.) There are lots of egotistical, mean-spirited people who come up with half-baked claims about their amazing discovery of "the correct pronunciation," and then insult people who disagree with them. Most of these pseudo-scholars know very little if any Hebrew.

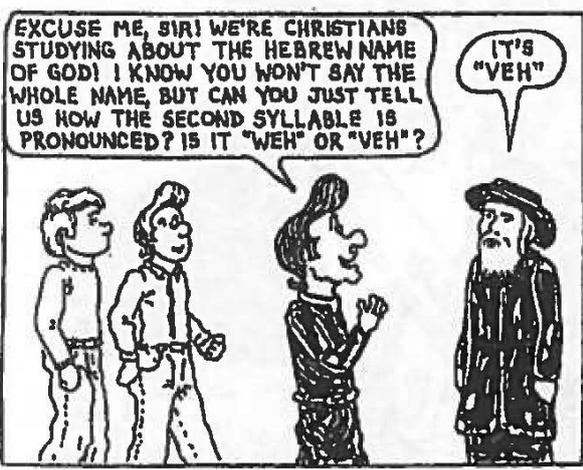
I have said this before, and I say it again: You can be a faithful, fruitful disciple of the Lord without knowing a single word of Hebrew. (Although it is helpful to know a few Hebrew words like *Amen* and *Hallelujah!*) However, if you plan to teach on topics that require a knowledge of Hebrew (topics like the pronunciation of God's Hebrew name), you had better know Hebrew - not just the alphabet and a list of vocabulary words, but how the language actually works - things like grammar, morphology, syntax, verb conjugation, etc.

REVEREND
TWISTRUTH
& HIS DISCIPLES
by Daniel Botkin 
"HIDING IT FROM THE GENTILES"



REV. TWISTRUTH, WE'RE READING ABOUT THE HEBREW PRONUNCIATION OF GOD'S NAME! ALL THE SOURCES AGREE HOW THE FIRST SYLLABLE IS PRONOUNCED, BUT THEY DISAGREE HOW THE SECOND SYLLABLE IS PRONOUNCED! SOME SAY "WEH" AND OTHERS INSIST IT'S "VEH"! HOW CAN WE KNOW?

LET'S GO TO THE JEWISH NEIGHBORHOOD AND ASK A JEW! THEY CAN TELL US!



EXCUSE ME, SIR! WE'RE CHRISTIANS STUDYING ABOUT THE HEBREW NAME OF GOD! I KNOW YOU WON'T SAY THE WHOLE NAME, BUT CAN YOU JUST TELL US HOW THE SECOND SYLLABLE IS PRONOUNCED? IS IT "WEH" OR "VEH"?

IT'S "VEH"



NOW WE KNOW! PRAISE THE LORD! THANK YOU, SIR! THANK YOU!

YOU'RE WELCOME

1981 RICK CHAMBERLIN

Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Sanhedrin, Folio 98a

"R. Alexandri said: R. Joshua b. Levi pointed out a contradiction. It is written, in its time [will the Messiah come], whilst it is also written, I [the Lord] will hasten it!³³ — if they are worthy, I will hasten it: if not, [he will come] at the due time. R. Alexandri said: R. Joshua opposed two verses: it is written, And behold, one like the son of man came **with the clouds of heaven**³⁴ whilst [elsewhere] it is written, [behold, thy king cometh unto thee...] lowly, and **riding upon an ass!**³⁵ — if they are meritorious, [he will come] with the clouds of heaven;³⁶ if not, lowly and riding upon an ass." (R. is an abbreviation for "Rabbi.")

Editor's Comment: Very interesting! Zechariah 9:9 prophesied that the Messiah would enter riding on an ass (donkey). In Matthew 21:1-7, we discover that Yeshua rode into Jerusalem on an ass.

In Acts 1:9-11, we read, "And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a **cloud** received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, and they also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Yeshua, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will return in just the same way as you have watched Him go into Heaven.'"

The above rabbis being quoted in Sanhedrin 98a had good understandings about the coming of the Messiah. Actually, Yeshua came the first time riding on an ass. His Second Coming will be with the clouds of heaven. Both rabbis were correct. **RAC**

Real Chutzpah: Lawyer Sidney Powell heavily promoted the false story about Dominion voting machines "stealing" the election from Donald Trump in 2020. Dominion has a \$1.3 billion defamation lawsuit against her. Sidney Powell now says that the lawsuit should be dismissed because "**no reasonable person**" could believe her claims about rigged voting "**were truly statements of fact.**" Well, guess what... Millions **did** believe her, resulting in an insurrection inside the Capitol Building, a desecration of our democracy with the resulting loss of life inside the Capitol Building, as well as two Capitol policemen committing suicide in the days afterward. Most importantly, Powell is basically admitting that she **lied**. She should indeed be sued for libel.

Linoy Ashram Wins Two Gold Medals at Gymnastics World Championship



Israeli gymnast **Linoy Ashram** won two gold medals and a bronze in the Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup taking place in April in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Ashram won the multi-sport race category on Saturday with an impressive 98.45 score, guaranteeing a gold medal. The category includes a continuous series of stages that require athletes to switch from one athletic discipline to another.

And Ashram did not stop there. On the following day, she managed to win another gold medal in the ball event with a 26.5 score, beating Belarusian rhythmic gymnast Alina Aliaksandraŭna Harnasko (25.85) and Bulgarian gymnast Brianna Klein (25.5). (JPost / VFI News)

"God, we ask that you continue to bless us with talents that demonstrate your beautiful gifts."

Barry & Batya Segal, **Vision for Israel**
PO Box 7743 · Charlotte, NC 28241-7743

Editor's Note: Vision for Israel is a good source for news about Israel and the Middle East. They also do much to help the poor, Holocaust survivors, and new **olim** (new immigrants to Israel)—a very worthwhile charity. BTW, you can get on Youtube.com to view Linoy Ashram's amazing performances.

Red Sea on the Brink of Environmental Catastrophe

[CAIRO] The Red Sea has been flirting with environmental disaster for six years, ever since Houthi rebels seized control of the FSO Safer, floating storage and offloading vessel for petroleum moored north of the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah. Last year it began to leak.

Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, the de facto president of Yemen, in a tweet congratulating the Egyptian government on the reopening of the Suez Canal last week, warned of a greater crisis: if the deteriorating 44-year-old vessel loses hull integrity. (JPost / VFI News)

Paris-Area Jews Catch and Overpower Suspected Stabber Fleeing the Scene

Jewish residents of a Paris suburb chased and overpowered a man whom witnesses said tried to stab three Jews, then handed him over to police. The suspect, a 35-year-old Pakistani man, approached the men from behind near a synagogue in Sarcelles on Wednesday evening. The men were wearing yarmulkes.

Residents who saw the scene unfold from their balcony warned the three men, who ran away unscathed. The suspect, who was carrying an 11-inch blade that is used to slice plasterboards, also fled. But local Jews pursued and overpowered him, holding the man until police arrived. (JPost, VFI)

Barry & Batya Segal, **Vision for Israel**
PO Box 7743 · Charlotte, NC 28241-7743

Moe Berg, Brainy Baseball Player and World War II War Hero

In baseball-crazy Japan in 1934, some fans wondered why third-string catcher Moe Berg was included in a group of stars on a trip to Japan. Although he played with five major-league teams from 1923 to 1939, he was a mediocre ball player...yet was regarded as the brainiest ballplayer of all time. Casey Stengel said: "That is the strangest man ever to play baseball." So... why was Moe in a group going to Japan?

Moe Berg was a US spy. Moe spoke 15 languages - including Japanese. He had two loves: baseball and spying. In Tokyo, garbed in a kimono, Berg took flowers for the daughter of an American diplomat being treated in St. Luke's Hospital - the tallest building in Tokyo.

He never delivered the flowers, but ascended to the hospital roof and filmed the harbor, military installations, railway yards, etc. Eight years later, General Jimmy Doolittle studied Berg's films planning his spectacular raid on Tokyo.

Moe's father disapproved of baseball and never once watched his son play. At Barringer High School Moe learned Latin, Greek, and French, and read at least 10 newspapers every day. He graduated magna cum laude from Princeton - after adding Spanish, Italian, German, and Sanskrit to his linguistic quiver. During studies at the Sorbonne in Paris and Columbia Law School, he picked up Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Arabic, Portuguese and Hungarian - 15 languages...plus some regional dialects. While playing baseball for Princeton Moe would describe plays in Latin and Sanskrit.

Parachute jumping at 41 was a challenge. Berg then penetrated German-held Norway, met with the underground and located a secret heavy-water plant - part of the Nazis' effort to build an atomic bomb. Moe's infor-

mation for the RAF helped them bomb and destroy that plant.

There was concern as to how far the Nazis had progressed in the race to build the first Atomic bomb. If successful, the Nazis might win the war. Berg was sent to Switzerland to hear German physicist Werner Heisenberg—a Nobel Laureate—give a lecture. Moe hoped to evaluate how close the Nazis were to an A-bomb. He slipped past SS guards at the auditorium by posing as a Swiss graduate student, carrying a pistol and a cyanide pill. If Heisenberg indicated the Nazis were close to building an A-bomb, Berg was to shoot him - and then swallow the cyanide. Sitting in the front row, Moe concluded the Germans were nowhere near their goal. He complimented Heisenberg after his talk, and walked him back to his hotel.

Moe Berg's report was distributed to Britain Prime Minister Churchill, President Roosevelt and key figures in the team developing the US atom bomb. Roosevelt: "Give my regards to the catcher." Many of Germany's leading physicists were Jewish and fled the Nazis to Britain and the United States. After the war, Moe was awarded the Medal of Freedom - America's highest honor for a civilian in wartime.

Editor's Note: Hitler cast out the best nuclear scientists on Planet Earth when he cast out these Jewish nuclear physicists. His loss was America's gain. These very same scientists—including Albert Einstein—made it possible for the United States to build the first atomic bombs. **RAC**

Quote From Rabbi Joseph Shulam www.netivyah.org

Every smartphone or laptop computer can share more information than any great teacher that I ever had. Rabbi Google is the smartest rabbi in the world, but Rabbi Google does not disciple me or anybody else, because in order to disciple, you must have a personal relationship. It is the **human relationship** that is outside the classroom that makes it possible to disciple. Teachings, webinars, and books can only share information, whereas true discipleship can only take place with service and real relationships.

Editor's Note: It is also important to note that there is both good information and bad information on the Internet. Don't believe everything that Rabbi Google, Pastor Facebook, or Reverend Youtube tells you. Be very careful of your sources of information. Just because you found it on the Internet does not mean it is true. There are all kinds of misinformation and disinformation on the Internet, including preachers teaching false doctrines contrary to Scripture. We have seen an explosion of wild conspiracy theories in recent times causing damage around the world. Please "fact check" your sources. **RAC**

The Dreadful Consequences of Touching the Apple of God's Eye

September 12, 2018 | Charles Gardner
www.IsraelToday.com Call 1-866-854-1684
 (Israel Today is a full-color, full-size magazine published in Israel by Messianic Jews. Highly recommended! RAC)

As we once again recall with horror the terrorist atrocity witnessed by the whole world when New York's Twin Towers were reduced to rubble in 2001, few will be aware of an earlier 9/11 that destroyed an entire city. It happened on the night of September 11, 1944, when the German city of Darmstadt suffered a devastating air raid by RAF pilots sent out from my home town of Doncaster, headquarters of Bomber Command.

Twelve thousand residents were killed and many more made homeless amid ongoing controversy even in Britain as to whether it was really necessary as the war was almost won by then. But as fire swept through the smoldering ruins, a devoted young German Christian wept bitterly over her nation's terrible sin against the Jewish people – she clearly saw the bombing as the judgment of God.



Mother Basilea Schlink (above) determined to do something about it and subsequently founded the *Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary*, dedicated to confessing the sin of her nation and making restitution with God's chosen people, chiefly by loving and serving them in whatever way they could.

More than 70 years later, the order is represented in nations across the globe, including Australia and the United States, and I have just spent a weekend at their UK base near London where a coffee table book on their history recalls that fateful night in Darmstadt:

"For years our mothers had prayed for revival in the girls' Bible study groups they led; now their prayers were answered - far differently than they had ever expected. That night the girls encountered God in his holiness as Judge and Lord over life and death... Following that night of terror, there was a move among those young girls to bring sin into the light and receive for-

giveness... God's moment had come. Out of the ashes emerged new life."

Not surprisingly, the British-based sisters are deeply grieved at the rise of anti-Semitism all over Europe so soon after the terrible disaster caused by the Nazis' sickening murder of 6 million Jews in the death camps of Poland and Germany.¹ Have we still not learned that there are shocking consequences for those who touch the apple of God's eye, which is how the Bible refers to Israel (see Zechariah 2.8)?

According to Alex Brummer in a *Daily Mail* article, all the talk among British Jews is now focused on which country to flee to if Jeremy Corbyn gets into No. 10 Downing St as he has failed miserably to deal with the rise of anti-Semitism in his party, which has traditionally had the support of the Jewish community...

And although British Jews have become accustomed to bias against Israel in recent decades, "never before has a major political party in Britain regarded the creation by the post-war so-called Great Powers (including Russia) of the state of Israel in 1948...as an act of colonialist occupation," Brummer writes... "But that this (fleeing the country) is even being discussed, just 70 years on from the horrors of Auschwitz; that British Jews should be feeling so insecure in the country they love, is deeply disturbing."

The Jewish state is surrounded by implacable enemies with an insatiable desire to wipe them off the map and, yes, they are threatened once more with annihilation. But Israel's security is very tight – and effective... Isn't the safest place of all in the loving arms of God – the God of Israel? And his purpose is that they should return to the land of their forefathers, the land promised to Abraham as a permanent possession (Gen 17.8). After all, the Tenach (Old Testament) prophets foretold of a great ingathering of Jews from every corner of the globe.

Almost half of world Jewry are now living in Israel and, according to the Bible, it would appear to be God's will that they should all return (Ezekiel 39.28). But don't misunderstand me. I do not wish to encourage persecution so that they feel forced to flee. Jewish contribution to European societies has been priceless – without the ongoing input of their high achievers we would all suffer. But woe to those whose intimidation does cause them to leave; for they will come under a curse (Genesis 12.3).

Nevertheless, it is God's purpose that his chosen people should be back in the land before Messiah returns. Yes, there will be a battle over Jerusalem, and the nations will come against it, but the Lord will intervene and defeat the enemies of Israel, once and for all. (See Zech 12-14)

¹ Mass murders of Jews also took place in the Ukraine, Russia, and other nations. RAC

FBI investigating hack of NY Jewish high school's website | Insider

The homepage of Northshore Hebrew Academy high school displayed a video of Nazis marching, along with the song with the words "Let the Jews die." Other pages on the site taken over by photos of the Auschwitz concentration camp and a Nazi rally. This, of course, was terrifying and disturbing to both students, parents, and staff at the school. Emails were also sent to the students with threats, including death threats and multiple antisemitic statements, like "Go to Auschwitz."

Hundreds of Bnei Menashe Indian Jews make aliyah | Jewish News

Following a special government edict, 252 new olim from northeast India made Israel their new home on Tuesday in an operation supported by Israel's Ministry of Aliyah and Integration.

Polish diplomat in Istanbul rescued hundreds of Jews from the Holocaust, report says | JTA

Wojciech Rychlewicz, then a consul in Istanbul during the Holocaust, provided hundreds of false certificates that identified Jewish refugees as Christians. The refugees would then be able to obtain visas in countries that had policies in place to prevent Jewish refugees from entering.

A Jewish miracle: Spain's young Jewish generation

Five-hundred-years after the Inquisition and exile of Jews from the Iberian Peninsula, the Jewish community has returned. Camila Plastro, a young leader of the Barcelona community talks about this miracle.

15 December 1961 | Israel sentences Nazi leader Adolf Eichmann to death

Prior to the trial, Nazi crimes were well known. However, very few who had experienced the Holocaust firsthand were comfortable publicly speaking about it. Historians often credit the 1961 trial with removing some of the shame and stigma survivors felt and inspiring thousands to share their stories. (Israeli secret agents were able to get into Argentina, kidnap Eichmann, and secretly fly him to Israel. He was put on trial as the architect of the Holocaust in which 6 million Jews were barbarically dehumanized, starved, tortured, and murdered.) Source for the above items:

WorldJewishCongress.org

Jewish Groups, Local Politicians Voice Fury Over Vicious Anti-Semitic Social Media Attacks on French Beauty Queen

by Algemeiner Staff www.algemeiner.com



Leading French-Jewish groups, the Israeli Embassy in France, and numerous local politicians on Sunday condemned a storm of anti-semitic attacks on social media against April Benayoum, a top contestant in the Miss France contest.

April Benayoum, who revealed during the competition that she has an Israeli father, was competing as Miss Provence and came in first runner-up in the contest in December 2020. Her Israeli connection, however, prompted a vicious outbreak of antisemitism, with tweets calling for her exclusion because of her Jewish heritage and others such as "Hitler forgot to exterminate you, Miss Provence."

The Conseil Représentatif des Institutions juives de France (Crif), the umbrella organization of France's Jewish community, called the attacks on Benayoum "vile and unacceptable!"

"All occasions appear to be good for spreading hatred of Jews and Israel," the group added sarcastically, and demanded that Twitter take responsibility for what had happened.



Transgender "Medical" Treatment for Children

"Every state should follow the Arkansas example," said *NationalReview.com* in an editorial. (The Arkansas law forbids treating minors with hormones, puberty blockers, and surgeries, which many trans people describe as "lifesaving.") As with laws banning children from "smoking, getting tattoos, or marrying," the new Arkansas law reflects the commonsense truth that children and adolescents are too young to make irreversible, life-altering decisions to possibly disfigure their bodies permanently.

Children are "works in progress," said Mona Charen in *TheBulwark.com*. There are many tragic cases like Britain's Keira Bell, who was counseled to begin hormone treatments to become a male at 16, and had a double mastectomy at 20, only to realize later that her teenage gender dysphoria was, in her words, "a symptom of my overall misery, not its cause."

The Week, April 23, 2021

Editor's Note: Such treatments and surgeries should never be permitted for minors. We are now hearing for demands that Medicaid benefits be extended to provide such treatment for minors, and also that insurance companies should be required to pay for those procedures. We are opposed to such plans for children, and even for adults. Those who choose to defile or mutilate their bodies should do so at their own expense, just as those who have body piercings performed do so at their own expense. Such plans would increase the costs of both Medicaid and insurance that would be passed on to everyone else.

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him, male and female created He them" (Gen. 1:27). Male and female gender distinctions exist in humans, mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, insects, and even plants. Botany tells us about the male stamens and female pistils in flowers, As Daniel Botkin so aptly said, "The male-female gender is foundational to created life."

I heard of homosexuals as a teenager in the 1960s, but I never heard of all of the new "genders" that we have today. Insane ideas are now being presented as "progressive."

In California, retail stores selling toys for boys and girls cannot be separated by gender, unless the store is willing to pay a substantial fine. Stores in other states are voluntarily eliminating separate departments for boys and girls.

Gender-distinct words like 'brother' or 'sister' should be replaced by 'sibling.' Words like 'dad' or 'mom' should be replaced by 'parent.' 'Uncle' and 'aunt' should be replaced by "my parent's sibling." After almost 6000 years of human civilization, we have an attack against God-ordained binary gender distinctions. This is insanity. **RAC**

"True Christians Don't Turn Their Backs on Israel"

By Ryan Jones www.israeltoday.co.il

Sandra Solomon is the niece of Saher Habash, one of the founders of the ruling Palestinian party Fatah and a leader in the campaign of terror known as the Second Intifada. Her pedigree notwithstanding, Sandra counts herself today as a proud Zionist. After moving to Canada, Sandra converted to Christianity. She then went so far as to tattoo the ancient Messianic Jewish seal on her arm, surrounded by the words *Yeshua HaMashiach*, in Hebrew.

Despite the danger in which such a bold statement places her, Sandra often visits her hometown of Ramallah. It was during one of these recent visits that *Israel Today* Editor Ryan Jones spoke to Sandra about the stand she has taken in a place where holding such positions requires more than mere courage.

Israel Today: How did you come to faith in Jesus?

Sandra Solomon: It was a soul-searching journey for God that led me to read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Is your family accepting of your conversion?

Of course not. I am an apostate. I should be executed. My whole family disowned me. If I go to Jordan, my brother will definitely kill me.

Is it like this for all Palestinian Muslims who become Christians?

Not just Palestinians. This is what all who leave Islam must suffer, according to Sharia Law.

How did becoming a Christian change your views on Israel?

When I read the Old Testament, I learned so much truth about the Jews and how they suffered. I cried for the Jews for the first time in my life. Then I read that Jesus said to love your enemies, and he changed my heart. But it wasn't just random love, it was love based on understanding.

Growing up as Muslims, all we were taught about the Jews is that they are the descendants of pigs and monkeys, that they are infidels who must be purged from the land through jihad. Now, I'm disgusted when I hear people cursing Israel and the Jews. They don't realize that it's by the power of God that Israel exists. The hate is rooted in the Koran and the Hadith.

Independence Day: Technologies Making Israel Proud in 2021

As Israel celebrates 73 years of independence, the country has cemented its place as a global tech powerhouse, with more than 60 privately held 'unicorns' valued at more than \$1 billion, more than 80 Israeli publicly-traded companies listed in the United States, and some of the most innovative ideas and technologies in the world. Here is a look at a couple of tech innovations that have made the startup nation proud in the past year.

Corona Test

A new Israeli COVID test developed at Sheba Medical Center can detect coronavirus in a fluid sample in just 20 seconds. The handheld SpectralIT machine received EU approval just two weeks ago and is expected to help Europe return to international air travel. The test is inexpensive and more accurate than the fast antigen tests that are beginning to be used in some airports.

Cornea Implant

In January, A 78-year-old blind man got his sight back with the implant of an artificial cornea, the first such operation in the world. The artificial cornea, designed by Ra'anana-based CorNeat Vision, was implanted in surgery performed at Rabin Medical Center in Petach Tikva. Upon removal of bandages, the patient was immediately able to read text and recognize family members. The test was the first of a clinical trial which will hopefully lead to a new medical process that can rehabilitate the vision of corneally blind patients with a relatively simple implantation procedure. (*JPost / VFI News*)

On Israel's 73rd Independence Day, Population Stands at 9.3 Million

Two days before the eve of Israel's celebration of its 73rd anniversary (15 April 2021) the population of the Jewish state stood at 9,327,000, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced. That includes nearly 6.9 million Jews, accounting for 73.9% of the population; 1.96 million Arabs, just over one-fifth of the population; and 467,000 people of other groups, amounting to 5% of the population.

About 78% of Israel's Jews are native-born. Since last year's Independence Day, 167,000 babies were born, 50,000 people died, and 16,300 immigrated to the country, according to CBS. (*TOI / VFI News*)

Therefore say: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again.' - *Ezekiel 11:17*

**Vision for Israel, PO Box 7743
Charlotte NC 28241-7743**

Israel Remembers Fallen Soldiers After the Lowest Number of Deaths in Modern Israel's History

Times of Israel April 14th

Three Israelis - a soldier and two civilians - were killed in violent, nationalistic attacks over the course of the past year, by far the lowest number in the country's history. This bittersweet distinction comes as Israel on April 14th commemorated Memorial Day, remembering the 23,928 people recognized as having fallen on behalf of the state since 1873.

Prince Philip's Mother Hailed by Woman Whose Family She Saved

Evy Cohen, whose grandmother, uncle and aunt were saved from the Nazis by Princess Alice of Greece (mother of Prince Phillip), hailed the "extraordinary" princess in an Israeli TV interview broadcast as Prince Philip was being laid to rest.

When the family managed to make contact with Princess Alice—the princess responded immediately that she would be "more than happy" to shelter the Cohens in her residence.

"This is a story of a film. It's not a story of reality. But it was reality," Evy told Channel 12. Her relatives found "the right people at the right time" to reach out to Alice. And for "the princess herself, it was a miracle too, because she really did want to take them in."

"The family was in great danger," Cohen stressed. "They had moved to Athens. They had escaped from being taken with 95% of Salonika's population to the death camps."

Alice sheltered them for more than a year. "At one time the Gestapo came to her residence because they might have heard that there were some Jews in [there]," said Cohen. "She used her true deafness — she could lip-read very well — but she used her deafness to say she couldn't understand what they were talking about. So the Gestapo left and never returned."

Three of Alice's daughters were married "to Germans, Nazi officials, but her son Prince Philip was fighting with the British at that same time," Cohen noted, praising Alice as a "humanitarian" of "extraordinary quality."

"What Princess Alice did, she saved the whole family," Cohen has said in previous interviews. "Clearly I wouldn't be alive, I wouldn't be here, I wouldn't be born if it hadn't been for her."

Prince Philip, who died on April 9 at 99 made a historic visit to Israel to 1994 — the first by a British royal — to honor Alice, who is buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. He came to accept Yad Vashem's recognition of his mother as a "Righteous Among the Nations," for saving the three Cohen family members, and said in a speech at the event that his mother never told him about her actions. Source: **Times of Israel**

Operation Tsur Israel Concludes, 300 More Ethiopian Jews Arrive

IsraelToday.co.il 12 March 2021

The final 300 of an approved 2,000 Ethiopian immigrants landed in the Jewish state on Thursday, bringing to an end the three-month-long "Operation Tsur Israel." The new immigrants are all members of the *Falash Mura*, members of the ancient Ethiopian Jewish population that converted to Christianity in the past two centuries. Jewish Agency Chairman **Isaac Herzog** said of the operation:

"The final Operation Tsur Israel flight arrived reuniting countless families after far too many years apart. This is a moment that tugs at the heartstrings, reminding us that our mission to bring the remaining members of the community waiting to make Aliyah is far from over."

The national effort to bring the Jews of Ethiopia to the State of Israel has spanned many decades, and has been a matter of rabbinical debate. There are today well over 100,000 Jews of Ethiopian descent living in Israel, the vast majority of them being members of the ancient **Beta Israel** community.



Pnina Tamano-Shata, Minister of Aliyah, born in Ethiopia, welcomes new arrivals

Tradition has it that the Beta Israel date as far back as King Solomon's dealings with the famed queen of Sheba. Whatever their origin, the Beta Israel later ended up isolated from mainstream world Jewry for a millennium. Nevertheless, Israeli rabbinical authorities were fairly quick to accept them as Jews according to *Halacha* (Jewish religious law) following their reemergence in the late 20th century, and the State of Israel in 1977 ruled that the Law of Return applies to members of Beta Israel. In a series of subsequent airlifts, nearly all of the community was brought to the Jewish state.

Left behind, however, were the **Falash Mura**. Though their connection to Beta Israel is not disputed, the Falash Mura are those members of the community that converted to Christianity in recent centuries, either through coercion by Christian authorities or as a result of contact with Western Christian missionaries.

Because of their conversion, Israel did not accept the Falash Mura as Jews, and therefore they were not granted the right to immigrate. This was despite former Israel Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef declaring that the Falash Mura had converted out of fear and persecution, and therefore should be considering Jews.

In 2003, the government decided to allow Falash Mura with maternal descent from Beta Israel to immigrate under the Law of Return, provided they undergo an Orthodox Jewish conversion upon arrival in Israel. Given the fact that the Falash Mura are an offshoot of Beta Israel, thousands were suddenly eligible for *Aliyah*.

But the process of approval and immigration has been slow, and some 7,000 Falash Mura with family in Israel remain stranded in Ethiopia awaiting their turn to immigrate. This has much to do with Orthodox elements in the Israeli government that oppose the immigration of the Falash Mura because of their traditional belief in Jesus as a community. It is not unlike the obstacles to *Aliyah* faced by Messianic Jews.

Court Rules to Recognize Reform, Conservative Conversions Done in Israel for Citizenship

An expanded nine-justice panel of the High Court of Justice ruled on Monday to recognize conversions by the Reform and Masorti (Conservative) movements in Israel for the purposes of citizenship, ending a 15-year legal saga.

Eight of the nine justices agreed with all aspects of the landmark ruling, while Justice Noam Sohlberg preferred to delay applying it for 12 months from the swearing-in of a new government.

The decision set off a firestorm of criticism from Orthodox political parties who vowed to pass legislation to overturn the ruling and threatened not to enter any coalition without promises to do so, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party also denounced the ruling. (JPost / VFI News)

"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." – Genesis 12:3

Jewish Revolt in Warsaw Ghetto

On 19 April 1943, Jewish inmates staged a revolt in the Warsaw Ghetto, in what would become the largest act of armed resistance during the Holocaust. Jews were confined inside German controlled ghettos as part of Hitler's "Final Solution." Nearly 500,000 were forced inside the Warsaw ghetto, where disease and starvation were rampant.

Between July and Sept 1942, the Nazis deported 265,000 Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka extermination camp. As the deportations continued, the influence of the Jewish Military Union – led by Pawel Frenkiel – and the Jewish Fighting Organization (Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa, ŻOB) – led by the 23-year-old Mordechai Anielewicz and other leaders of Hashomer Hatzair (The Young Guard) grew within the brick wall: ten feet high and eleven miles around the ghetto.

In January 1943, Heinrich Himmler, the chief of the SS, visited the Warsaw Ghetto and ordered the deportation of 8,000 Jews. Expecting mass deportations to continue, residents hid, and Jewish resistance fighters sprang into action. The German deportation effort had ended, leading the ŻOB to fortify hideouts and strengthen fighting units in preparation for the next battle.

On 19 April, the eve of Passover, Himmler launched a special operation to clear the ghetto in honor of Hitler's upcoming birthday on 20 April. Despite being outgunned by the 2,000 SS men with tanks, rapid-fire artillery, and ammunition trailers, the Jewish resistance fighters, armed with pistols, a few rifles, one machine gun, and homemade bombs, destroyed several tanks, and temporarily held off SS units who were forced to withdraw from the ghetto.

On the third day of the battle, German SS officers shifted tactics and attempted to burn down the ghetto, but they still did not manage to overtake the ŻOB headquarters until 8 May. Many prominent members of the ŻOB, Anielewicz likely included, took their own lives to avoid being captured alive.

With the battle ending about a week later (15 May), SS Major General Jürgen Stroop, who supervised the dynamiting of the Great Synagogue of Warsaw, wrote in his report: "The Warsaw Ghetto is no more."

Approximately 7,000 Jews perished during the uprising. The nearly 50,000 who survived were sent to extermination or labor camps. Of those, the Germans shot 7,000 and transported 7,000 to the death camp at Treblinka and 15,000 to Majdanek. The remainder were sent to forced-labor camps.

While ultimately unsuccessful, the uprising is often credited with inspiring other revolts in extermination camps, such as Treblinka and Sobibor, and ghettos, such as Bialystok.

Israel Disappointed in US 'Folding' to Iran

Jerusalem is very disappointed by what unofficial political sources define as a "complete folding of America" in the nuclear talks with Iran in Vienna, the Israel Hayom newspaper reported Sunday morning. In contrast with the heated confrontation the Obama Administration had with Israel in 2015, the Biden administration is trying to prevent surprises and is updating Israel on its moves. However, the difference in attitude between the two countries is enormous.

According to information received by Israel, the six powers and Iran are indeed close to signing an agreement that will stipulate that the parties will return to the original nuclear agreement signed in 2015, from which President Trump withdrew in 2018. (INN / VFI News)

Trans "Girls" Must be Allowed to Compete Against Real Girls

American Family Association

In order to promote transgender ideology, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is discriminating against females who play college sports. By policy, the NCAA says schools must fully embrace the desire of any male who claims to be a female to play on a female team in college competition.

It's irresponsible enough to allow a male to play on a female basketball or softball team, but the edict goes way beyond acceptable. For example, according to the NCAA's policy handbook:

- Males "should be able to use the locker room, shower, and toilet facilities" with girls.
- When traveling, trans "girls" should be assigned to share hotels rooms" with girls.
- "In all cases, teammates, coaches and all others in the school should refer to transgender student-athletes (*boys*) by the student's preferred (*girl's*) name."

And if colleges and universities don't comply with these anti-girls' sports mandates, their states could be banned from hosting championships. Thus, the NCAA is acting the role of a threatening playground bully.

As Duke law professor and All-American track athlete Doriane Coleman, tennis champion Martina Navratilova, and Olympic track gold medalist Sanya Richards-Ross recently wrote: "The evidence is unequivocal that starting in puberty, in every sport except sailing, shooting, and riding, there will always be significant numbers of boys and men who would beat the best girls and women in head-to-head competition."

The NCAA has chosen to ignore pure logic and simple science when it comes to the differences between male and female strength, agility, and natural skills. This is throwing biological girls and women under the bus.

Gola Meir's Thoughts on Peace

By Leah Rosenberg

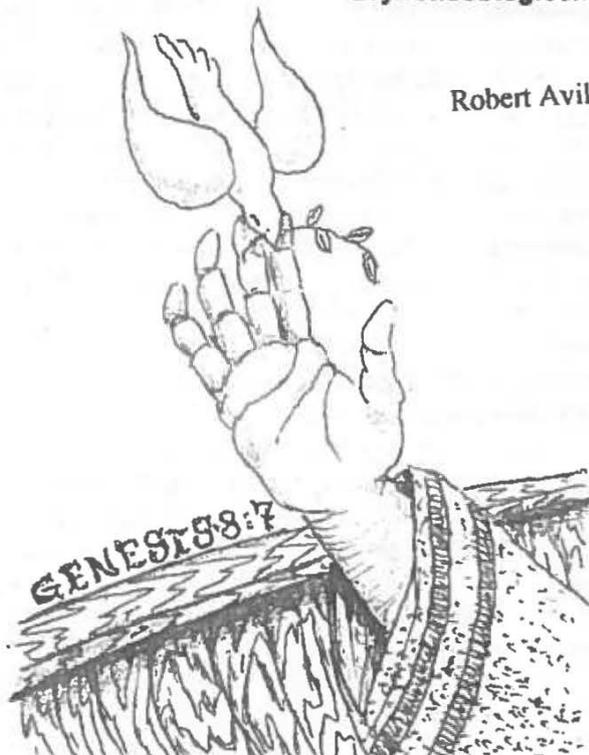
Former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir said, "We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children. We will only have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us." But right now, they do not love their children more than they hate us. They send their children to murder, to suicide missions, to stab, and to harm Israelis. And they know their children might be killed by a Jew defending himself. But that makes these mothers and fathers proud. And that is why peace will not come yet.

Dry Bones

NO BIG DEAL



DryBonesBlog.com



Robert Avila

Israel and Bhutan Establish Formal Diplomatic Relations

In a statement, the World Jewish Congress said, "Israel's establishment of diplomatic relations with the Kingdom of Bhutan is but the latest monumental step the State of Israel has taken in recent months to normalize relations with multiple countries across the Middle East and North Africa region, and now, with a Buddhist kingdom in Asia."

CONTEMPLATIONS...

"The primary mystery in life is why the kamikaze pilots wore helmets." – Al McGuire

"The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits." – Albert Einstein

"War is God's way of teaching Americans geography." – Ambrose Bierce

"It would be nice to spend billions on schools and roads, but right now that money is desperately needed for political ads." – Andy Borowitz

"At every party there are two kinds of people – those who want to go home and those who don't. The trouble is, they are usually married to each other." – Ann Landers

"My opinions may have changed, but not the fact that I am right." – Ashleigh Brilliant

"Have you noticed that all the people in favor of abortion are already born?" – Benny Hill

"The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us." – Bill Watterson

"As a child my family's menu consisted of two choices: take it or leave it." – Buddy Hackett

"My favorite machine at the gym is the vending machine." – Caroline Rhea

"All right everyone, line up alphabetically according to your height." – Casey Stengel

"Never under any circumstances take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night." – Dave Barry

"The duty of a patriot is to protect his country from its government." – Edward Abbey

"How many people here have telekinetic powers? Raise my hand." – Emo Philips

"If you live to be one hundred, you've got it made. Very few people die past that age." – George Burns

"Trouble knocked at the door, but, hearing laughter, hurried away." – Benjamin Franklin

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A Mob for All Seasons

By Judd Garrett

American Family Association

The six-time Oscar-winning movie **A Man for All Seasons** reminds that the issues of yesterday are still the issues today...dressed up differently... but they are the same basic human and civil rights. Freedom of speech was/is on trial. In Thomas More's case, it was the freedom NOT to speak a lie.

The movie is about a historical event in 16th century England. Law scholar Sir Thomas More was pressured by King Henry VIII to approve the king's illegal divorce and remarriage to Anne Boleyn. Thomas More refused to affirm the King's plans because they went against More's religious principles as well as against the law of England. More never publicly objected nor did he prevent the King from divorcing his wife and remarrying. In an effort to compel More's public affirmation of the King's illegal actions, the King required every official to take an oath legitimizing his illegal actions, or else be charged with treason. More refused, was put on trial for treason. Rather than using facts and reason to persuade More to change his mind, the King used intimidation and force. More stayed true to his beliefs... was found guilty of treason...and was beheaded.

The threats of the Democrats to pack the Supreme Court is a threat to the 9 current members: if you do not rule the way we want, we will pack the court, dilute your authority, turn your court into an arm of the legislature. Consciously or subconsciously each Justice will remember external threats/consequences in their decisions regarding Constitutional fidelity.

Thomas More's friend, the Duke of Norfolk, tried to convince More to violate his conscience, and take the oath. He told More, "...look at those names. You know those men! Can't you do what I did and come with us for fellowship?" More replied, *"And when we stand before God and you are sent to Paradise for doing according to your conscience and I am damned for not doing according to mine, will you come with me - for fellowship?"*

Thomas More was beheaded for staying true to his beliefs and obeying his conscience. He refused to sacrifice his soul to save his body. We today have a similar dilemma: continual threat to go against our beliefs, defy our conscience, go along with the state-sponsored narrative... or be canceled, lose jobs, sacrifice livelihoods. This is the price of freedom, the cost of conscience. Thomas More paid the price. **"To thine own self be true."**

Despite Covid, More than 20,000 Olim Came to Israel this Year

From last Independence Day to this one (May 2020 to April 2021), 20,456 new olim (immigrants) came to Israel despite the difficulties caused by corona, according to data published by the Aliyah and Integration Ministry.

Among them are 3,208 who work in marketing and trade, 812 in medical fields, and 517 in education. Most of the 18-35 age group work in the social sciences, a majority of them in technology. Children under the age of 18 comprised 4,748 olim. 420 olim specifically came to Israel to serve in the IDF. (JPost / VFI News)

At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the Lord, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart. - Jeremiah 3:17

Mahmoud Abbas Addresses J Street's Annual Conference

Republican Jewish Coalition

On 18 April 2021, Holocaust denier and funder of terrorism, Mahmoud Abbas, addressed J Street's annual conference. This wasn't a huge surprise, as we have always known that J Street is anti-Israel. What was also unsurprising was the number of participating Democrats who refused to call Abbas out for his extremism and his incitement of violence towards Israeli and American Jews.

Abbas is dedicated to destroying Israel. And no matter what international support and funding he loses for it, Abbas will never stop paying terrorists to murder Jews, and even non-Jewish Americans like US Army veteran Taylor Force.

Recently, President Biden caved to Abbas and resumed aid to the Palestinian Authority, freeing up more funds for Abbas to spend on terrorism. So it wasn't surprising to see so many Democrats choosing to share a stage with Abbas. Nancy Pelosi, **Chuck Schumer**, Raphael Warnock, and last and not least, **Jewish Democratic Council of America's Halie Soifer** are among the Democrats who shared that stage, and **none of them had the guts to call Abbas out for his Jew hatred.** They're too scared of their base, and frankly, it isn't clear that they have any problem with what Abbas stands for.

Soifer even recently drew a parallel between herself, her fellow Democrats, and Abbas. In response to an RJC tweet calling Abbas "scum," Soifer asked if we consider her and her fellow Democrats to be "scum." It begs the question, why is she so sensitive about the RJC calling antisemitic, murderer Mahmoud Abbas "scum?"

The Democrats, as a party, have shown themselves to be hostile to Israel and Jews...

Jerusalem's Jewish Majority Hits New Low

The Jewish majority in Israel's capital city continues to shrink, a new report finds, with just slightly over 60% of Jerusalemites being Jewish. According to a report published in Hebrew Wednesday by the Jerusalem Institute for Policy Studies ahead of Jerusalem Day, at the end of 2020, just 60.4% of residents of Jerusalem were Jewish.

There was a total of 952,000 residents of the capital at the end of 2020, the report said, of which 38% were Arabs and 62% were in the category of 'Jews and others.' The vast majority (96%) of Jerusalem's Arab population in 2019 was Muslim, with just 12,900 Christian Arabs. (1365 / VFI News)

Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together, to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David. - Psalm 122:3-5

Barry & Batya Segal, **Vision for Israel**
PO Box 7743, Charlotte NC 28241-7743

Editor's Note: Israel is often accused of "ethnic cleansing" in which the Arab population is being forced to leave Jerusalem. However, the truth is that the Arab population is increasing at a higher rate than the Jewish population. The accusation of "ethnic cleansing" is deliberately false. **RAC**

Prophecies Fulfilled

by David Lazarus, www.israeltoday.co.il

There are many important prophecies about Israel in the Bible and with the return of the Jewish people to Eretz Israel, at least four of these seemed to have been fulfilled:

- (1) The Jews will possess the land of Israel again as their own independent state (Amos 9:11-15).
- (2) The Jews will return to the land, coming from the four corners of the earth – north, south, east and west (Isa.43:5-6).
- (3) The arid desert land will become a huge green garden. Today Israel is a lush green garden, while many of the surrounding countries are barren deserts (Isalah 35:1-2; 41:18-20).¹

¹ There are, of course, still deserts in Israel. However, much of the desert land has indeed been transformed into green oasis, turning Israel into an agricultural powerhouse. The opposite is taking place in many Arab lands, where previously fertile land is now desert. **RAC**

(4) Before the end times, Jerusalem will be freed from the dominion of the Gentiles and will be the capital of Israel (Zechariah 1:17; 2:4; 12:1-9).

Israeli Company Develops New Technology that can Destroy Cancerous Tumors

Israeli medical device company IceCure has developed a new technology called ProSense, which it says has proven extremely effective in treating women with breast cancer, the company said in a press release on Thursday.

ProSense was created to find a non-surgical and less invasive alternative that can destroy tumors using cryotherapy technology. It utilizes a probe that is inserted into the tumor and freezes it by lowering its temperature, leaving the healthy tissue around it while alternating between freezing and thawing the specific area of the tumor.

The technology has been referred to as a "breakthrough device" by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which officially recognized the innovation last month as having the capabilities to save lives. (JPost / VFI News)

Barry & Batya Segal, **Vision for Israel**
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Shmita Year Arriving Soon

The **shmita** year is a year in which God commands the inhabitants of Israel to let the land rest every seventh year. It is based upon the commandment in Leviticus 25:3-7:

³ Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof. ⁴ But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest to the land, a sabbath for YHWH. You shall neither sow your field, nor prune your vineyard.

⁵ That which grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, neither gather the grapes of your vine undressed, for it is a year of rest to the land. ⁶ And the sabbath of the land shall be food for you; for you, and for your servant, and for your maid, and for your hired servant, and for your stranger that sojourns with you, ⁷ and for your cattle, and for the beasts that are in your land, shall all the increase thereof be food.

This year, the shmita year begins on Sept 7th, and continues until Sept 26th, 2022. People can eat whatever grows of itself, but there is no sowing or planting in the land of Israel. Hydroponic farming is kosher. Foods are also imported into Israel. The land becomes more productive by being allowed to rest one year out of seven.

Media Misses: PA Pay for Slay, Torture, and Incitement

www.HonestReporting.com

What has garnered little press outside of Israel is that the Palestinian Authority may be diverting funds intended for humanitarian purposes to pay "salaries" to jailed terrorists and to the family members of those killed while attempting to perpetrate attacks on Israelis.

On March 18, the US State Department acknowledged that the PA had not "terminated payments for acts of terrorism," a revelation that calls into question the legality of sending US taxpayer dollars to Ramallah. In fact, the 2018 Taylor Force Act restricts, with few exceptions, sending aid to the PA so long as it continues to incentivize violence against Israelis.

Moreover, the United States charged in its 2020 Country Report on Human Rights Practices, published on March 31, that, "In 2019 there were reports Palestinian security forces arrested, intimidated and tortured Palestinians following their participation in an international peace conference in Bahrain."

The report also noted that the "PA Ministry of Education has named at least 31 schools after terrorists and an additional three schools after Nazi collaborators, while at least 41 school names honor 'martyrs.'" This, even though the terms of the Oslo Accords require the Palestinian Authority to refrain from glorifying murderers.

Ex-US ambassador Nikki Haley slams UNRWA as 'corrupt' and 'counterproductive'

www.i24news.tv/en/news/International

Nikki Haley made the comments a day after the White House announced it will fully restore aid to UNRWA. Nikki Haley, Washington's former ambassador to the United Nations, slammed the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) on Thursday as one of the most "corrupt" and "counterproductive" agencies on the international stage.

"The Palestinian aid agency, UNRWA, is among the most corrupt and counterproductive of all UN agencies. President Trump was right to abandon it," Haley tweeted on Thursday.

"President [Joe] Biden is wasting millions of American tax dollars and undermining the great progress being made on Middle East peace," she added, referring to the White House's recent decision to restore millions of dollars in aid to the organization. Following the move on Wednesday, UNRWA said it welcomed the resumption of American aid, **totaling some \$235 million**, which had mostly been suspended by Donald Trump in 2018.



Nikki Haley

"American aid to the Palestinian people serves the interests and values of the United States. (Not true! **RAC.**) It provides crucial assistance to those in need, promotes economic development, and supports Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, security coordination, and peace," said US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The decision to earmark \$150 million of that for UNRWA drew particular anger from Israel, which argues that the agency serves to perpetuate the idea of a Palestinian refugee problem in a way that undermines the Jewish state. "We believe that this UN agency for so-called 'refugees' should not exist in its current format," said the Israeli ambassador to the United States, Gilad Erdan.

Republicans Delay Reinstated Economic Support to Palestinians

Congressional Republicans put a hold on \$75 million of the newly reinstated US aid to the Palestinians, two sources in Washington confirmed. On March 26, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) sent Congress a "program narrative" of about \$75m in Economic Support Funds (ESF) for programs in the West Bank and Gaza that would begin 15 days after the notification was received.

Sen. Jim Risch (R-Idaho) and Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas), used their respective positions as ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and lead Republican of the House Foreign Affairs Committee to stop the USAID's notification about the reinstated funding from reaching the committees, which means the aid will not start on April 10 as planned.

The USAID programs for the Palestinians include roads, sidewalks, bus lots, emergency preparedness, adapting to climate change, "community initiatives" and "safe spaces to engage in community initiatives." (JPost / VFI News)

As Israel is under attack from Hamas in the Gaza strip and BDS -- Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions -- right here in America, Bill Whittle makes the historical and moral case for Israel, and shows just who, indeed, are the tyrants and aggressors in the Middle East.

The Case for Israel

by Bill Whittle
www.TruthRevolt.org

Even before the recent Israeli ground and air operations in Gaza, the BDS movement - that would stand for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions - was gaining traction... not just in France, or Germany, or Oman: right here in America.

BDS is being sold - as everything evil and stupid is being sold these days - as a moral good. The argument goes like this: Israel, a nation formed in response to the cold, concrete reality of extermination, has let its economic and military power go to its head. They, now, are the oppressors; they now are Goliath in a main battle tank facing a brave Palestinian David with a rock in his hand; they now are the racists. They now - Israel - are the Nazis. Are they?

Israel at the time of its formation by the United Nations in 1948 was smaller than the state of New Jersey. On that same year, the Arab nations surrounding the new country attacked what was then mostly small farming communities and tried to drive the Jews into the sea. **But The Israelis won.**

The Arabs tried it again in 1967. The Jews beat them again. Then, in 1973, the Arabs tried again, launching a sneak attack on the holiest Jewish holiday - and the Jews won again. Israel's territorial gains did not come from Israel attacking the Arabs. They came from Israel being attacked by the Arabs.

And Israel has always tried to give the land back in exchange for peace, as it did when it voluntarily returned the Sinai Peninsula - which is bigger than Israel itself - back to the Egyptians who had tried to attack them from the Sinai, and likewise, they gave the Gaza Strip back to the Palestinians who had attacked them - from the Gaza strip.

Since then, thousands - thousands! - of rockets and mortars have been fired into Israel from schoolyards and orphanages and hospitals in Gaza.

How many rockets and mortars would you allow to fall on your house by neighbors that have been swearing to kill you for 65 years? How many times will someone keep hitting you before you hit back?

The Palestinians daily call for the Jews to be driven into the sea. The Jews have one of the most sophisticated militaries in the world. They could drive the Palestinians into the sea any time they wanted to. But they don't.

The instant that Hamas or Hezbollah get their hands on a nuclear weapon, they will do with it what they do every day with their rocks and mortars and missiles. They will use it. On Israel. The Israelis have an estimated 500 nuclear weapons and could destroy the Arabs any time they chose. They don't. Those are not Nazis. The Jews are moral, civilized people.

Israel is an island of civilization in a sea of barbarity, and that is why it is being targeted. Uncomfortable with those words, "civilization" and "barbarity?" Well, in Israel women can do whatever they please - including leading the state of Israel. In the surrounding Arab nations women are treated as chattel. They're just property: useful for creating sons and carrying things.

In Israel, homosexuals are tolerated and celebrated as individuals - why, just as if they were real people! In the surrounding Muslim nations they are hung from construction cranes in public squares.

In Israel, scientists at the University of Haifa are studying In-homogeneous tachyon dynamics. The latest scientific invention in the Arab world is a buzzer that goes off when a Muslim falls asleep against his prayer rug.

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions was used, in the main successfully, against racist South Africa. Racist South Africa used brutal force to suppress people along racial lines.

Israel, on the other hand, is the only nation in the entire Middle East where Arabs have a free and fair vote. Israel allows Israelis of any ethnicity to be elected to the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament - including Arabs. So: If you're in favor of equal rights for women, legal protections for homosexuals, advances in science, the arts and medicine, and political access and personal rights guaranteed by law -- you definitely should support Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions - for every nation in the region EXCEPT Israel.

Finally, I'll just say this - because this is really what drives this whole thing. It is absolutely true that criticizing the actions of the State of Israel is not in itself anti-Semitism. Israel is as subject to criticism and condemnation as any other nation on earth.

But you cannot understand Israel's actions without understanding the pervasive, unrelenting, hate that surrounds that outpost of civilization. From Hezbollah rockets made in Iran, to BDS sanctions made in Berkeley and Santa Monica, the attacks on this country and its people cannot be understood without getting to the bedrock essence of the nasty, petty, small and mean-spirited emotion that drives anti-Semitism.

The Magen David

Jewish stars are a more recent Jewish symbol. The *Magen David*, or Shield of David, is a concept mentioned in the Talmud – Jewish liturgy refers to God as *Magen David* (Lit., "Shield of David"), the protector of King David and the Jewish people, and the Talmud describes the Shield of David protecting him and his descendants (Talmud Pesachim 117b). In the Middle Ages, the Shield of David began to be represented with a six-pointed star in Jewish communities, starting in Prague and spreading to other areas.

The six points of the Jewish star have beautiful mystical interpretations: the six-pointed star consists of two arrows, one pointing up to the Heavens and one down to the Earth, representing the interaction between the Divine and the physical realm. The six points of the star can also be said to represent the six days of the week, with Shabbat represented by the inner space. The twelve lines that make up the circumference of the Jewish star can also represent the twelve Tribes of Israel. The star shape is also said to recall the reinforced shields that King David and his soldiers used when they conquered the city of Jerusalem and made it the Jewish capital city.

Editor's Note: Other nations would have fearsome dragons or other dangerous critters on their battle shields. The Israelites preferred not to use such images. They chose the "Shield of David." In the ancient Paleo-Hebrew, the letter **dalet** was a triangle. It had the sound of the modern **D**. The modern dalet (ד) looks considerably different. To produce the "Shield of David," ancient Israelites took the first and last letters of David's name (the dalet), forming what is today called the "Star" of David with the two intersecting triangles. This was rather terrifying to Israel's enemies, as they knew that King David was a fearsome opponent. **RAC**

Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day)

Source: Christian Broadcasting Network

"Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children" (Isaiah 66:8 NIV).

On May 14, 1948, just before the Sabbath, some 350 guests crammed into an un-air-conditioned, Tel Aviv art gallery for a 32-minute ceremony that would change the world forever.

"We, members of the people's council, representatives of the Jewish community of Eretz-Israel and of the Zionist movement, are here assembled on the day of the termination of the

British Mandate over Eretz-Israel and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the UN General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel," declared David Ben-Gurion, Israel's founder and first prime minister.

For the first time in nearly 2,000 years, they finally had their own nation in their ancestral homeland. The Jewish people had accepted a resolution by the United Nations on November 29, 1947 calling for the creation of a Jewish State and an Arab State in British-controlled Mandatory Palestine, but the Arabs rejected the plan. Less than 6 months later the Jewish people declared their independence. The following day, the armies of five Arab nations attacked Israel.

Many countries have fought wars for their independence, but Israel's war was not common. They had been granted independence by the sovereign, Britain; the decision was confirmed by the United Nations; and the Jewish people were returning to the historic land of their ancestors. But it was their neighbors who didn't want them to exist.

A year later, in 1949, the Jewish state was still standing and had increased its size by nearly 50 percent. Against overwhelming odds, this fledgling State of Israel not only survived but grew beyond expectation.

Today, the technological marvels of Israeli industry, the military prowess, the bounty of Israeli agriculture, the fruits and abundance of the land are all an incredible testimony to God's watchful care over this nation and the genius of this people.

Natanz Attack Destroyed Most of the Facility

The alleged Israeli attack on Iran's Natanz nuclear facility in April targeted an electrical substation located 40 to 50 meters underground and damaged "thousands of centrifuges," Iranian officials revealed in recent days.

Fereydoon Abbasi-Davani, former head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, told Iranian media on Monday that the attack hit an electrical substation located deep underground and managed to damage both the power distribution system and the cable leading to the centrifuges in order to cut power to them. The Iranian official stressed that such an operation takes years, saying "the design of the enemy was beautiful."

Davani added that the substation was built underground in order to protect it from air and missile strikes and that the attack was carried out either via cyber, sabotaged equipment, or sabotage committed by agents. (JPost / VFI News)

Vision for Israel, PO Box 7743

Charlotte, NC 28241-7743

"The issue is NOT about Land.."--

by Dennis Prager

When I was in college, which was not recently, I was taught that a black cannot be a racist. And I remember thinking, "That's impossible." I couldn't believe I heard that, but every professor who addressed the issue said that. The world of the left is a make-believe world.² (See footnote)

There is one point that I would like to make that is extremely instructive and has not been noted. And that is these attacks are on Jews and they are coming from various Muslim extremists in the United States, obviously not from all Muslims, I'm not implying that, but people need to understand something they don't understand. The Middle East dispute is not over land. Israel is the size of New Jersey. It is smaller than El Salvador. There are 22 Arab states. (There is only one Jewish state. **RAC**)

There is a state with a majority of Palestinians called Jordan. The issue is not land. The issue is religion. Again, this is not what the left wants you to believe. They want you to believe it's over land. No, it's not. There is a big chunk of the Muslim world that would like to **exterminate** the Jewish state beginning with, of course, Iran. That is why if you look at the rhetoric, it's always "F... the Jews" in all of these attacks. It's never "F the Israelis." It's always "F the Jews."

If the only country in the world you think

does not have the right to exist is the only Jewish country in the world, then one has the right to infer that you have something against a Jewish state but not any other state. Imagine somebody saying, "You know, I love Italians, I'm not anti-Italian, but I don't think Italy has the right to exist." You would say, "Sir, I'm not an idiot, you hate Italy and you hate Italians." That's the way it works. If the only state that should not exist on earth is a Jewish state, you have something against the Jews.

UPCOMING HOLY DAYS

Rosh HaShana ("Trumpets"): Sept 6th

Yom Kippur ("Atonement"): Sept 16th

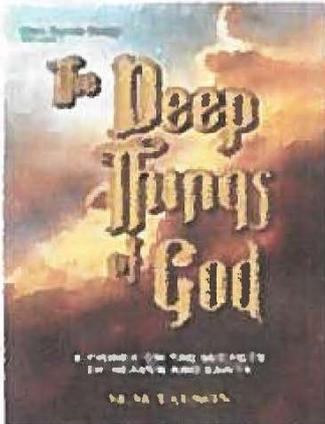
First Day of Sukkot ("Booths"): Sept 21st

Eighth Day of Sukkot: Sept 28th

Each Holy Day begins at sunset the previous day and ends at sunset 24 hours later.

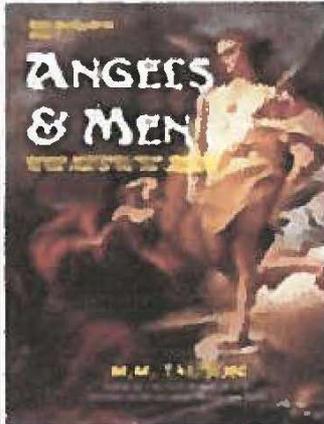
² Dennis Prager paints with too large of a brush. There are those on the Left who are moderate and rational, and also those who live in a fantasy world. There are also many on the Right who are moderate and rational, as well as others who live in a fantasy world. There are some on both the Left and Right who believe all kinds of strange conspiracy theories. **RAC**

MESSIANIC BOOKS by M.M. Tauson



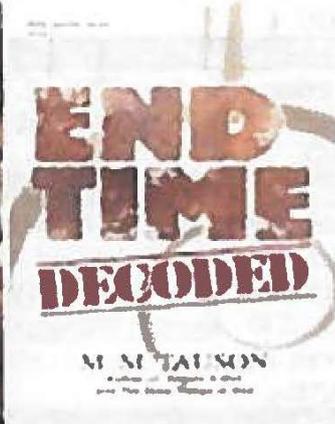
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◆ CALIFORNIA

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 3 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.

Olive Tree Message! 2751 SE 150th Ave, Morriston FL 32668. Call Roger Walkwitz at 352-528-2740. Roger@Walkwitz.com
www.walkwitz.com/Roger

◆ 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. 325 Mel-len Rd, Winchendon MA 01475. 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 Nate Seltelbach at 402-592-2404.

◆ NEW JERSEY

Beit B'rachot. Rav Joseph Kresefsky. 31 Belvidere Ave; Washington NJ. Shabbat Service at 10:30 am. Call 908-654-5601.

◆ 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.

◆ 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

◆ WISCONSIN

Hebrew Roots Magazine, PO Box 400, Lakewood WI 54138. www.Hebrew-Roots.net Call 715-757-2775. Great magazine! RAC

Messianic Directory

"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



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ASIA
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KEHILOT, COMMUNITIES AND CONGREGATIONS IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE ASIA PACIFIC MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP:

Indonesia

Gereja Kehilat Mesianik Indonesia

(GKMI = Indonesian Assemblies of Messianic
Congregations with gov't recognition)

Pengakuan KemenAg Kanwil 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 Obadyah +62217364258

Sat 10AM and 5PM

Shoresh Messianic Fellowship Plaza

Pasifik Bld A1/1, 4th Fl, Jl Raya Boulevard Barat

Kelapa Gading, **North Jakarta**

Contact: Benyamin Obadyah +62-812-9912-430

CENTRAL JAVA Sat 10AM

Purwokerto Messianic Congregation Jl Jend

Sudirman 883, Purwokerto, Central Java

Contact: Bambang Rianto +62-8886657801

EAST JAVA Sat 5 pm **Kehilat Mesianik**

Congregation JL Wonokromo 7/5, Mojosari, Kab

Mojokerto, East Java Contact: Judo Nugroho

+62-81913224624

SOUTH KALIMANTAN Sat 10 am **Banjarmasin**

Messianic Congregation Jl Pasar Baru 2,

Banjarmasin , South Kalimantan Contact: Edy

Purwanto +62-8125189517

NORTH SULAWESI Sat 10 am **Yerushalayim**

Messianic Congregation Manado , North

Sulawesi Contact: Jeffrey Rualemba +62-

89655471976 Sat 10 am Netivyah Ministry Jl

Garuda 37, Manado , North Sulawesi . Contact:

Oral Bollegraf. +62-853 98128567

PAPUA Sat 10 am **El Shaddai Messianic**

Congregation Jl Argapura Kanon, Jayapura,

Papua Conact: Seblum Karubaba +62-

81247562203 Sat 10AM

Migdal Eder Messianic Congregation Jl Pasir

Dua, Jayapura, Papua. Contact: Benny Karubaba

+62-812 47082149

KEHILOT, COMMUNITIES AND CONGREGATIONS IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE ASIA PACIFIC MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP:

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-oej@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 KEHILAH. Nasi: Graeme Purdie talmidimnz@gmail.com +64 277101157

AUCKLAND KEHILAH: 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 went "Noahide," a totally false pathway so he is alone now until Yeshua forms a true Kehilah there. He lives at: Blk 620 Bukit, Batok Central #29-522, Singapore 650620 Contact: Song Lai Hee +65-90027471 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 nobunosuke77@gmail.com.

Philippine APMF Diaspora in Canada

Calgary L'Chaim Bible Fellowship

Shabbat Service 4:00 PM. 138 Bridlewood Ave. SW Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Contact: Louwell Ogbinar +1 (403)-700-2131 loubinar@yahoo.com; Marvin Mayo +1(403)-402-6763 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 10:00 AM Cruz, La Trinidad PO Box 133, LaTrinidad, Benguet 2601

Contact: Amos Baucas +639283322201, lbaucas@yahoo.com

In fellowship with APMF:

Baguio City

Baguio City Messianic Community (BCMC)

Shabbat Service at 9:30AM

#7 Modesta St., Mines View, Baguio City 2600

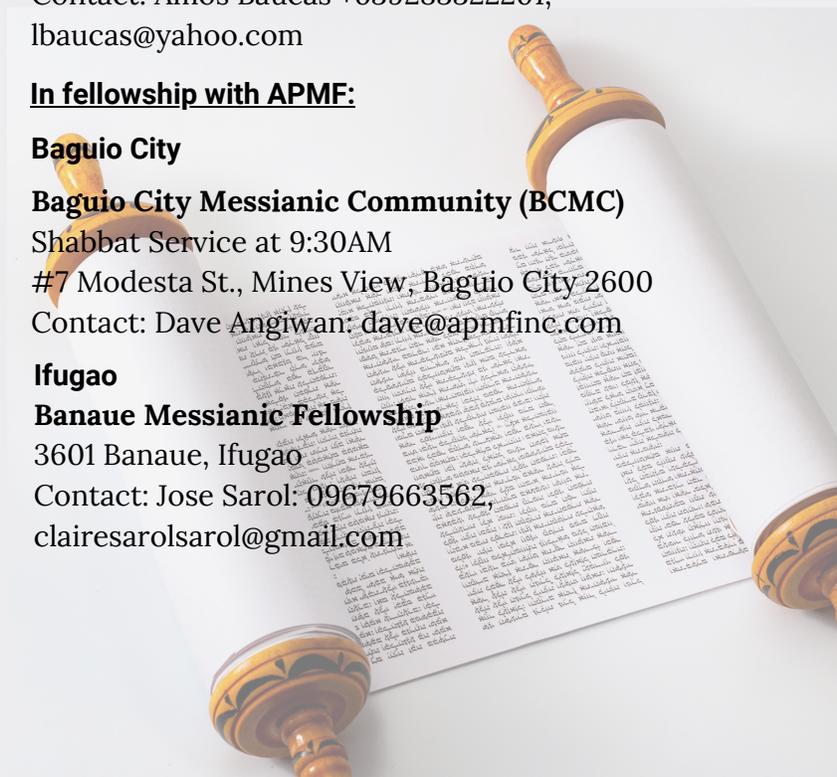
Contact: Dave Angiwan: dave@apmfinc.com

Ifugao

Banaue Messianic Fellowship

3601 Banaue, Ifugao

Contact: Jose Sarol: 09679663562, clairesarolsarol@gmail.com



KEHILOT, COMMUNITIES AND CONGREGATIONS IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE ASIA PACIFIC MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP:

Cebu

Cebu Messianic Community

Shabbat Service 10:00AM, 1:00PM

Contact: Joel Cruz: +639228335327, Imee Cruz: +639228512454.

Bukidnon

Talakag Messianic Fellowship

Talakag Bukidnon, Mindanao

Shabbat gathering 10 AM - 6 PM

Contact: Solomon Buasag. 09778021025 & 09352974405, vivsbuasag@yahoo.com.

Davao Oriental

Pujada Community

Yakal St., Barangay Sainz, City of Mati, Davao

Oriental 8200: Saturday 3-6 PM.

Contact: Mark Pineda: +639183532549

Lupon Torah Community

Panuncialman St., Purok Hayahay

Brgy. Poblacion, Lupon, Davao Oriental

8:00am - 11:30am every Shabbat

Contacts: Petronio (Bong) Conte

bongskik04@gmail.com, 09077319723

Alen Kelly Conte, billionairealenkelly@gmail.com.

09171623763

Greater Manila Area

Rizal

Cainta Torah Community

Shabbat Service at 10:30 AM

Dayspring Academy Sunset Drive Brookside

Subdivision, **Cainta, Rizal** 1900

Contact: Willy and Lita Miranda +63 9393253000 +63 927 7048000 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 +63286555469

Christy Cruz +639951941502

Also Saturday 9:00 AM #450 L. Cerrero St. Bgy.

Macamot, Binangonan, Rizal Contact: Tony Arceo

+639268296338.

Paranaque City

Emunah Tabgha Community

Executive Heights, Paranaque City

Contact Eva Agustin: +639178960995

Shabbat Service 10:30AM

Tagaytay City

Tagaytay Torah Community

Shabbat Service 10:30 AM

Contact: Ning +639199840878,

Cavite

Emunah Torah Community

Shabbat service 10am

Block 3 lot 21 Java St. Cyber green subdivision,

General Trias, Cavite.

Contact: Christopher Madrid: 09328442958.

christophermadrid75@gmail.com

Quezon City

Mishpachat Ha'Mashiach Torah Community

Shabbat Service 2-6 PM

Bldg 11 BLPC, Road 3, Quezon City

Contact: Ian Asuncion or Cecilia Agustin

+639185736838.

Mandaluyong City

Metro Strata Learning Center

Shabbat Service 9:30AM

11th Floor 685 Nueve de Pebrero Ave.

Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

Contact: Tanggol Esquerra: +639153208083.

Laguna

Chesed V'Emeth Community

Shabbat Service 12:30 PM

Blk 11 Lot 36 Calendola Village San Pedro, Laguna

Contact: Monette Guiruela +639206583847

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