

A hand in a white sleeve is lighting a menorah with seven lit candles. The background is a warm, blurred image of a menorah and a plate of food.

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Fall 2023 (October-December)

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The One Sacrifice of
Messiah is Sufficient
for All Time

THE SACRIFICE OF MESSIAH (HEBREWS 10)

According to Roger:
THANKSGIVING 2023

Is Halloween Kosher?

Asia Pacific Messianic Fellowship- Edition

Welcome to Petah Tikvah: APMF Edition!!

APMF Edition PT Fall 2023

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

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

Dave@APMFInc.com

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

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

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Petah Tikvah: APMF Edition

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Asia-Pacific Messianic
Conference – APMC 20

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20TH Asia
Pacific
Messianic
Conference

**Steadfast
and
Immovable
in these
End Times**

“Therefore, my beloved brethren,
be steadfast, immovable, always
abounding in the work of the
Lord, knowing that your labor is
not in vain in the Lord.”
– 1 Corinthians 15:58

Date: March 28-30, 2024
Venue: Riverview Waterpark
Asin, Nangalisan, Tuba, Benguet



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Messianic Jews are occasionally accused of putting up an artificial "middle wall of partition" between Jewish believers and Gentile believers. This is because many, if not most, Messianic Jews believe in the importance of observing the Biblical Shabbat instead of Sunday, as well as the Biblical holy days of Leviticus 23 instead of holidays such as Easter and Christmas. The Biblical dietary laws of Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 create additional barriers.

However, these mitzvot (commandments) were intended by God to bring both Jew and Gentile **together**, and the day is coming when they **will** bring us together. It should also be noted that Christianity is also highly disunited at no fault of Jews or Messianic Jews. There are perhaps thousands of Christian denominations and many independent churches.

The world's preeminent Rabbinic theologian is **Rabbi Yeshua**. In 1 John 2:6, we learn, "He that says he abides in Him (Yeshua) ought himself also to walk, even as He walked." Our halachah¹ should match the halachah of Rabbi Yeshua.

Years ago, I was standing in the back of an evangelic church auditorium. The people were singing, "Oh, to be like Jesus." I whispered in the ear of an elder at the rear, "Do they understand that Jesus was a Torah-observant Jew?" The poor fellow looked totally shocked! However, Yeshua is the Word of God, as we see in John 1:1. The Torah is the first five books of the Bible, and the Foundational Text for all the rest of the Bible. Technically, Torah means **Instruction**, although it is often also translated as "Law." **Instruction** is a nicer word. Many of us don't like to be told what to do. But we don't mind getting instructions! Yeshua is the incarnated Word of God, including the Torah. Let us follow **His** instructions!

I don't believe that God wants His people to be so divided. In Yochanan (John) 17:11b, Yeshua prayed to the Father to "keep them in Thy name, *the name* which you have given Me, that they may be **one**² as We are **one**."

¹ This is a term for how we walk out our faith.

² The word that Yeshua would likely have used is the Hebrew word **echad**, which normally means simply "one," but is occasionally a compound unity, as in Gen. 2:24, "Therefore, a man shall

The original believers in Yeshua were his **talmidim** (disciples). He taught them very specifically to "Think **not** that I have come to destroy the Torah (Law) or the Nevim (Prophets). I have not come to destroy, but to **fulfill** (Matthew 5:17." To fulfill means that He came to **fill** to the **full** the meaning and significance of the Torah. He did not come to destroy or abrogate the Torah.

Then, when giving the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, Yeshua said, "Go therefore, and teach **all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the world. Amen." Yeshua taught his Jewish disciples to obey

God's commands, and He commanded his Jewish disciples to teach the nations (goyim) to do the same.

Prophetically, Zechariah 14:16 tells us, "And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that 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 (armies), and to keep the Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles)." Yes, even the Gentiles will be commanded to celebrate Sukkot, and presumably all of the other Holy Days of Leviticus 23. These are the "feasts of the **LORD**," not just the Feasts of Israel. This article gives special attention to the Hebrew word **Achdut**, which means **unity**. The shorash (root word) is **echad** (אחד). This word normally means simply **one**. However, as in Genesis 2:24 and Deuteronomy 6:5, **echad** can sometimes mean a compound unity. Yeshua wants all of His followers, both Jew and Gentile, to be echad, often despite our differences.

I believe obedience to Torah is a significant part of this unity of Jew and Gentile. Isaiah 2:2-4 tells us:

²*And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.*

³*And many people shall go and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of יהוה, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will*

leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall be one (echad) flesh."

אחדות

ACHDUT: The Call to Unity

Richard
'Aharon'
Chamberlin

teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the Torah (Law), and the word of יהוה from Jerusalem.'

⁴And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many peoples: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

Jerusalem will be the capital of the world when Yeshua returns. These above verses tell us that the Torah will go forth from Jerusalem, to the nations of the world during the Messianic Age. This is still a future waiting to be fulfilled. We are getting closer to the time of Yeshua's return. Israel had to be a nation before His return. Israel was restored as a nation in 1948. He had to return to Jerusalem. Israel recaptured the old city of Jerusalem in 1967. The Temple will be rebuilt. The Anti-Messiah will make his appearance in this future Temple in accordance with 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4. When this happens, Yeshua's return will be within a few years.

God has special promises to those who honor Shabbat – the seventh day Sabbath:

⁴For thus saith the LORD to the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant, ⁵even to them will I give in My House (the Temple) and within My walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.

⁶Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to יהוה, to serve him, and to love the name of יהוה, to be his servants, every one that keeps the Sabbath from polluting it, and takes hold of my covenant, ⁷even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon my altar; for my House shall be called a house of prayer for all people.

*⁸The Lord God who gathers the outcasts of Israel saith, "Yet **others** I will gather to him, beside those that are gathered to him."*

(Isaiah 56:4-8)

Isaiah tells us in the verses above that God will give special blessings to Gentiles who honor the Sabbath. These promises are not for those who honor Sunday. Sunday was established by Christians as a holy day centuries after Yeshua walked this planet. The change to Sunday was to make Christianity more appealing to those who worshipped the Sun God. (Try to guess which day was holy to the

Sun God.) We do not oppose worshipping on Sunday. It is good to worship God every day of the week. But Sunday is **not** the Sabbath. There is no place in the Bible where the sanctity of Shabbat was transferred to Sunday.

Achdut (unity) means we exist as a body, not as isolated individuals. All of us, both Jew and Gentile, are part of the Body of Messiah. That does not mean that we are all identical. Our achdut (unity) includes our diversity. As Rav Sha'ul (Paul) said in 1 Cor. 12:12-20:

¹²For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Messiah. ¹³For by one Spirit are we all immersed into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵If the foot shall say, 'Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶And if the ear shall say, 'Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body?

¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

¹⁸But now God has set the members every one of them in the body, as it has pleased Him. ¹⁹And if they were all one member, where would the body be? ²⁰But now they are many members, yet but one body.

There is indeed unity in diversity, such as between a man and his wife. However, there are some things that should bind Believers together. Number one: Those in the Body of Messiah should be followers of Yeshua the Messiah, and that He paid the penalty for our sins. That's pretty basic, right?

Likewise, it does not mean all ethnic divisions are eliminated. An Italian can love his Italian traditions, food, etc., provided that they don't contradict Torah. He can be a Torah-observant Italian without ever studying Hebrew or adopting Jewish traditions or customs. However, it would be wrong for Jews to assimilate into Gentile cultures to the extent of no longer being recognizably Jewish. "Behold, a people who dwells apart, and shall not be reckoned among the nations (Numbers 23:9)."

There are some things that Christians often miss. Read 1 John 2:3-6:

³And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴He that says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

⁵But whosoever keeps His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him. ⁶He that says he abides in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.

Those are pretty harsh words. If anyone claims to know Yeshua, and does not keep His **mitzvot** (commandments), is a **liar**! I didn't say it; this is what the New Testament says. We also find the NT definition of sin in 1 John 3:4 – "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the Law (Torah): for **sin is the transgression of the Law.**" (I'll bet that most pastors didn't learn **that** in seminary school!) That's the definition of sin for both Jew and Gentile. Rabbi Sha'ul (Paul) told us the Parable of the **Olive Tree** in Romans 11:

¹¹I say then, have they (the Jews) stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation has come to the Gentiles, to provoke them to jealousy.

¹²Now if the fall of them (the Jews) be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them be the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

¹³For I speak to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, ¹⁴if by any means I may provoke to jealousy them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. ¹⁵For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?

¹⁶For if the first fruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. ¹⁷And if some of the branches be 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 branches. But if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.

¹⁹You will say then, "The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in." ²⁰Quite right; 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 which fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in his goodness; otherwise you also shall be cut off. ²³And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again.

²⁴For if you were cut off from the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted in 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?

Rav Sha'ul loved his Jewish people, as is seen in the book of Romans. It is curious that this book was written to the Romans specifically. The Roman Catholic Church seemed to ignore Paul's instructions for centuries, as it promoted centuries of antisemitic conspiracy theories and lies against the Jewish people. Thankfully, the Roman Church has done a remarkable job in repenting of antisemitism, and now embraces the Jewish people.

Notice also that the Gentiles are supposed to be grafted into the **Jewish** Olive Tree. For centuries, Jews who believe in Yeshua were expected to be grafted into the Gentile Church, or, dare I say it: Jews were expected to be grafted into the Christmas Tree.

Notice also that the Gentiles can be grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree and can remain Gentiles. Gentiles are not required to convert to Judaism. Today, there are many Messianic Jewish kehillot (assemblies) scattered around the world which are culturally Jewish and observe many Jewish traditions and prayers, composed of Jewish and Gentile Believers.

However, as more biblical truths enter into Christian churches, I would expect that many might become Messianic **Gentile** congregations. They will observe the written Torah given to us by Moses, as well as the halachah given to us by Rabbi Yeshua, telling us how to properly observe Torah.

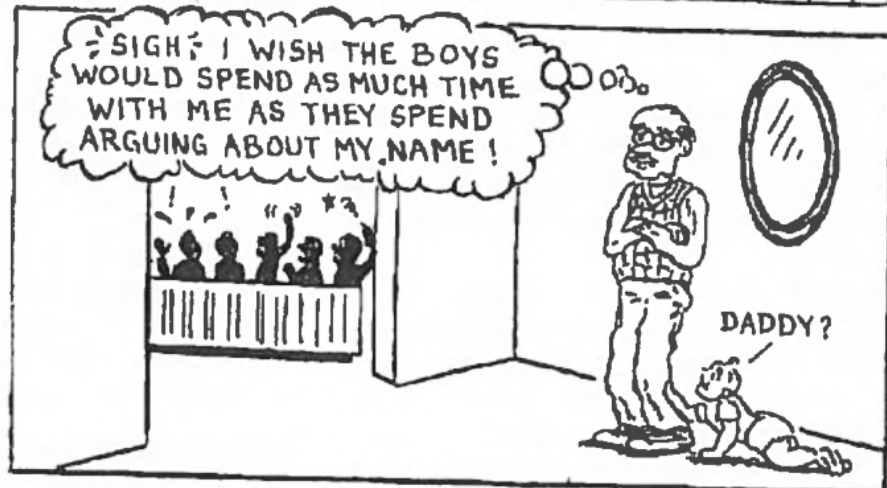
However, it isn't forbidden for Gentiles to actually convert to Judaism and become Jewish. We see biblical examples of this. Exodus 12:38 tells us of the "mixed multitude" that joined the Israelites in their exodus from Egypt. Esther 8:17 tells of the "many among the peoples of the land who became Jews..." Ruth became a Jew by Choice, when she told her Jewish mother-in-law, "Wherever you go, I will go, wherever you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God." (Ruth 1:16)

Ephesians 2:19 tells us, "So then, you (Gentiles) are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household." As citizens of Israel, we should obey the laws of Israel – Torah!

Special Note: Special thanks to Rabbi Ken MacNeil for inspiring me to write this article.

HONORING THEIR FATHER'S NAME?

by Daniel Botkin



REGIONAL DIALECTS

There are various regional dialects of the English language. Examples of regional dialects in America are a Boston accent, a Bronx accent, a Southern accent, etc.

When I was a kid, the TV show "Candid Camera" took their crew to the Deep South and asked Southerners to explain the difference between the pronunciations of *all* and *oil*. The Southerners said things like "We *awl* goin' to church. I changed the *awl* in my car."

Some Yankees think Southerners sound funny, but sometimes the shoe is on the other foot. Many years ago, my buddy Fred was hitchhiking in rural Arkansas. A young redneck hillbilly in a pick-up truck gave Fred a ride. As they chatted, Fred noticed that the young man snickered and tried to stifle his laughter every time Fred said something. Finally Fred asked, "Why do you keep laughing?" In a deep Southern drawl, the young man said, "Ah'm sawry. It's jist that y'all tawk so funny!"

In the North, people speak with a different accent. People with a Boston accent speak what is called an "r-less dialect." The *r* is silent if it is at the end of a word or if it is immediately before a consonant sound. *Mother* and *father* are pronounced "moth-uh" and "fath-uh." *Farther* is also pronounced "fath-uh." *Park* and *mark* are pronounced "pahk" and "mahk," the same way that *pock* and *mock* are pronounced.

The "r-less" dialect is also a feature of British English. When Teresa and I lived in Israel in 1976 and 1977, we met several people from England, Australia, and other English-speaking countries. I had heard some of those dialects in movies, but I had never actually conversed with people from those faraway lands. I could understand most of the English that they spoke. When I heard them say what sounded to me like "uhn 'aw wa'uh baw'ul," I was able to translate it as "a hot water bottle."

Some people were more difficult to understand. I asked one young man which part of England he was from. His answer sounded to me like "Gnawin' 'em." From his answer, you might think that I had asked him what the dogs were doing with the bones. But I had asked him where he was from. I realized he meant "Nottingham."

I then asked him how long he had been in Israel.

"Oydoi," he said.

"There is No 'J' in Hebrew!"

Fact or Fiction? (Hint: It's not a Fact)

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.

"How long?" I asked.

"Oydoi."

"I'm sorry, what did you say?" "Oydoi."

I still did not understand, so I just said, "Oh." I later figured out that he was saying "Eight days."

Robin, a young lady from Australia, lived in the big Jerusalem apartment with us and a few other Americans, including a girl named Linda. When Robin said Linda's name, she called her "Linder." She

called Teresa "Ter eser." We asked Robin why she added an "r" sound at the end of those names.

"I don't say 'Linder' and 'Ter eser!'" she replied. "I say 'Linder' and 'Ter eser!'"

"You just did it again!" we told her.

"No I **didn't**!" she insisted. "I said 'Linder' and 'Ter eser!'"

You might be saying, "Daniel, those are interesting stories, but what about the question of whether or not Hebrew has a 'J'?"

Be patient, I'm getting to that.

THE J-SHUNNERS

The oft-repeated claim that there is no "J" in Hebrew is usually made by people who dislike the fact that the Son of God is called "Jesus" by most people in the English speaking world. The J-shunners think that by making this claim they are helping to expose a secret conspiracy to hide the Savior's true Sacred Name.

The J-shunning Sacred Namers cannot agree among themselves how His Hebrew name was originally pronounced, but they know it was not "Jesus" (which is true), because, they claim, "There is no 'J' in Hebrew!" (which is false).

"But Daniel, I know the Hebrew alphabet. There is no 'J' in Hebrew."

You might know the Hebrew alphabet, but if you think there is no "J" in Hebrew, you do not know all the different Hebrew dialects that exist. Just as there are many different regional dialects of English, so there are many different regional dialects of Hebrew.

Go to the library and look in the *Encyclopedia Judaica*. There you can see a Mega Chart that shows how eighteen different Jewish communities pronounce each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Since Hebrew letters are

consonants, not vowels, most of the letters are pronounced the same in most of the communities. However, there are quite a few exceptions. Here are a few examples.

Examples Of Different Pronunciations

ב ב In modern Hebrew and in other dialects, *beit* with a dagesh (the dot in the center) is pronounced "b." Without a dagesh, it is pronounced "v." But in the Samaritan and Portuguese dialects, it is always pronounced "b." In the Persian/Iranian dialect, it can be pronounced "w."

ד ד In modern Hebrew and in other dialects, *dalet* is pronounced "d" with or without a dagesh. In Yemenite and Mishnaic Hebrew, it is pronounced "d" with a dagesh but "th" without a dagesh.

ו ו ו In modern Hebrew *vav* is pronounced "v" (or long "o" or long "u" when used as a vowel). In the Samaritan and Persian/Iranian and Yemenite dialects and in Mishnaic Hebrew, it is pronounced "w." In the Samaritan dialect it can also be pronounced "b."

ה In modern Hebrew and in other dialects, *he* is pronounced "h" or is silent. In the Samaritan dialect it is a glottal stop, similar to the way British people pronounce the double "tt" in *bottle*, "baw'ul."

ח In modern Hebrew and in other dialects, *chet* is pronounced "ch," as in "Bach." In the Persian/Iranian dialect it is pronounced "h." In the Samaritan dialect it is silent and takes the sound of whatever vowel accompanies it.

ע In the Italian and Sephardi dialects, *ayin* takes a nasal/guttural "ng" sound, as in "sing." In modern Hebrew the letter *ayin* is considered silent, but it always has a vowel sound that accompanies it. Most Israelis just pronounce the vowel sound. Some Israelis whose native language is Arabic might pronounce the vowel sound in a guttural manner. In one of my Hebrew classes, our teacher had a Jewish student from Syria demonstrate for the class how the letter *ayin* was supposed to sound. It sounded kind of like a hard "g" caught in the throat. If the student had made that sound while eating, someone might have rushed over and tried to administer the Heim-

lich Remover to dislodge the food stuck in his throat. The guttural pronunciation of *ayin* explains why *Gaza* and *Gomorrhah* are transliterated with a "g" even though they start with *ayin*, not *gimel*.

ת ת In modern Hebrew *tav* is pronounced "t" with or without a dagesh. In the Iraqi and Yemenite dialects, it is pronounced "t" with a dagesh and "th" without a dagesh. In the Ashkenazi dialect it is pronounced "t" with a dagesh and "s" without a dagesh. This explains why you hear Ashkenazi Jews say "shabbos" instead of "shabbat" and "tallis" instead of "tallit."

In the Ashkenazi dialect the long "o" sometimes becomes "oi." Thus *Moshe* (Moses) is "Moishe." These differences explain why Sephardic Jews study Torah, while Ashkenazi Jews study "Toirah." And as someone once said, a Sephardic Jew will offer you a donut, while an Ashkenazi Jew will offer you a doinus.

י י In modern Hebrew and in other dialects, *gimel* is pronounced as a hard "g" with or without a dagesh. But in the Yemenite dialect, *gimel* with a dagesh is pronounced as... Guess what? As "J" Yes, "J"

"But there is no 'J' in Hebrew! I know, because I saw a meme on the internet that said so! I've been studying Facebook Hebrew for five years, and there is no 'J' in Hebrew!"

Sorry, but that is not entirely true. It is true that there is no Hebrew letter called "jay." There are also no Hebrew letters called "bee," or "dee," or "tee," but no one goes around saying "There is no 'b' or 'd' or 't' in Hebrew!"

It is also true that the Savior's Hebrew name was not pronounced "Jesus." But to say "There is no 'J' in Hebrew" is a false statement, because a *gimel* with a dagesh makes the "J" sound in the Yemenite dialect -- which, by the way, is considered one of the oldest of all the Hebrew dialects.

You do not need to just take my word for all this information. You can look in the *Encyclopedia Judaica* and see the Mega Chart. You can go on YouTube at biblicalculture.org/hebrew and watch "Authentic Recordings of Biblical Hebrew." There you can hear old audio recordings of elderly Jews who were born in the 1800s (!) reading Hebrew in various dialects. You can hear Yosef Tsadok, a Jew who was born in Yemen in 1897, reading the Torah in Hebrew. When he reads in Genesis 1:16 the

word for "great," pronounced "ha-gedolim" in modern Hebrew, you will hear him say "ha-jetholim," because the *gimel* with a dagesh makes the "J" sound, and the *dalet* without a dagesh makes the "th" sound in the Yemenite dialect.

Students of Hebrew learn the acronym BeGeDKeFeT to remember the six letters that can have a dagesh: *beit*, *gimel*, *dalet*, *kaf*, *pe* (pronounced "f" without a dagesh), *tav*. A dagesh can appear in other letters for other reasons, to indicate that the letter is a possessive suffix, for example. But the BeGeDKeFeT letters are the ones whose pronunciation may depend on the presence or absence of a dagesh.

In modern Hebrew the presence or absence of a dagesh makes a difference in the pronunciation of *beit*, *kaf*, and *pe*, but no difference in the pronunciation of *gimel*, *dalet*, and *tav*. Why do *gimel*, *dalet*, and *tav* sometimes take a dagesh if a dagesh does not change the pronunciation? Because at some time in the past, a dagesh did change the pronunciation of those letters, as evidenced in the Yemenite dialect and in other dialects that retain different pronunciations that are determined by the presence or the absence of a dagesh.

Dialectal differences in language is a very broad and complex topic. The information I am sharing in this brief article barely scratches the surface of the subject.

OBSESSION WITH THE SACRED NAME

One reason I am sharing this information is to point out the futility of arguing about how to pronounce the Tetragrammaton, the four-letter Hebrew name of God, spelled *yod-he-vav-he*, and arguing about how to pronounce the original Hebrew name of Jesus.

There are way too many people (actually, just one would be one too many) who are obsessed with trying to discover "the correct pronunciation" of God's Hebrew name. Some insist it is Yahweh, while others insist it is Yahveh, Yahvah, Yehovah, Yahuah, or some other pronunciation.

In the past I sometimes referred to God as Yahweh. I used that particular transliteration and pronunciation because I read in the Jewish Encyclopedia at the library around 40 years ago that the majority of scholars (at least at that time) believed it was most likely pronounced "Yahweh." I realized then, as I do now, that the majority can be mistaken, but I had no compelling reason to doubt the majority view. So when I wanted to refer to God by His Hebrew name, I used "Yahweh."

Around a year or so ago, I stopped using any form of the Sacred Name. I do not object to other people using whichever transliteration and pronunciation they are convinced is correct. But I decided to not pronounce the Tetragrammaton, simply because I really do not know which of the proposed pronunciations, if any, is correct. Most Jewish rabbis will tell you that no one knows with absolute certainty how it was originally pronounced.

As the above information about various Hebrew dialects shows, the pronunciation of Hebrew letters, words, and names can (and does) change over time. Even in Bible times there were different Hebrew dialects. The Ephraimites said "sibboleth" instead of "shibboleth." (See Judges 12.) Peter's Galilean accent was different from the accent of the Jews in Jerusalem. (See Mark 14:70.)

It is a linguistic fact that languages change over time. Trying to discover the correct pronunciation of the Tetragrammaton, and arguing about the pronunciation, is an unproductive exercise in futility. It is an unfruitful waste of time. If you do not think so, then I suggest that you read about all the different Hebrew dialects and all the different pronunciations that exist. Google "Hebrew dialects" and go to the Wikipedia page. There you will see links to lots of information about 13 different Hebrew dialects. If you read all this information, as I did, you will see how complex and complicated the subject is.

"But Daniel, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and revealed to me that the Sacred Name is pronounced 'Yahweh'!"

Really? I know of two other people who make that very same claim. Except one of them claims the Spirit told them it is pronounced "Yehovah," and the other claims the Spirit told them it is pronounced "Yahuah."

"But Daniel, scholars have found old copies of the Torah that have the vowel marks that tell us how the Name was pronounced. It was pronounced 'Yehovah'!"

Old Torah scrolls with vowel marks? So what? Copies of the Torah printed in modern times also have the vowel markings. But the sounds of those vowel markings are not the same in every Hebrew dialect. How do you know which dialect, if any, preserves the original sounds of those vowel markings? You don't, because we do not have audio recordings from Bible times. And even if we did, we might hear words pronounced in different dialects, since different Hebrew dialects existed in Bible times.

Even the sounds of the four consonants

yod-he-vav-he is not the same in every Hebrew dialect. Let's consider the four consonants of the Tetragrammaton.

1. *Yod*. From everything I have read, *yod* makes the "y" sound in every known Hebrew dialect. So it is probably safe to say that the Sacred Name begins with a "y" sound. Which vowel sound originally followed the "y" sound is open to debate.

2. *He*. In most dialects, *he* (pronounced "hey") makes an "h" sound. But not in all dialects. In the Sephardic and Mishnaic dialects, it can be silent and take a vowel sound. In the Samaritan dialect it makes a glottal stop.

3. *Vav*. Depending on which dialect is being spoken, *vav* can be pronounced as "v" or "w" or long "o" or long "u." In the Samaritan dialect it can even be pronounced as "b." If "b" was the original pronunciation, then maybe the Name was pronounced "Yahbeh" or "Yehobah." Who knows?

4. *He*. See #2 above.

Based on the above information, it appears to me that the only thing we can say with absolute certainty about the pronunciation of the Tetragrammaton is that it starts with a "y" sound. After that, there are dozens of possibilities. That is the reason I say that arguing about the pronunciation of the Tetragrammaton is an exercise in futility, an unproductive, fruitless waste of time. And it is the reason I stopped transliterating and pronouncing it, except when it is necessary to make a point in a teaching such as this. In prayer, I usually call God "Abba/Father" or "Lord."

THE SAVIOR'S HEBREW NAME

When I refer to the Savior by His Hebrew name, I still call Him Yeshua. I know that some people call Him "Yahshua." But this was invented around 1930 by well-meaning Sacred Name believers who did not know Hebrew and who misunderstood what the Savior meant when He said in John 5:43 "I am come in My Father's name." Those Sacred Name believers misinterpreted this statement to mean "My name includes the pronunciation of My Father's name, Yah." But as I have pointed out before, Yeshua said absolutely nothing in this verse about His own name. The words "My name" are nowhere in this verse. The only name He mentioned here was a reference to the Father's name. He said "I am come in My Father's name," which simply means in the authority of His Father.

I know that some people use "Yehoshua," the long form of Joshua's name, because they know that "Yeshua" was a short form of Joshua's name, as in Nehemiah 8:17. But we can-

not rightly assume that the Savior's full name was Yehoshua, just as we cannot assume that somebody named Bill has the full name of William, or somebody named Becky has the full name of Rebecca. Some people assume that my brother Tim's full name is Timothy, but it isn't. His legal birth name is Tim, not Timothy.

I also know that some people call the Savior "Yahusha." I am not sure where in the world that bizarre form came from, but I have never seen an original Hebrew document that refers to Jesus (or to anyone else) as "Yahusha." Nor have I seen any Hebrew document that refers to Jesus as "Yahshua" or "Yehoshua." Every Hebrew source I have ever seen spells His name *yod-shin-vav-ayin* and has vowel marks that result in His name being pronounced "Yeshua" when using the modern Hebrew dialect, which is the dialect I speak.

In closing, let me return to the original question in the title of this article. "There is no 'J' in Hebrew!" Fact or Fiction? The claim is fiction. As the information on Wikipedia states, a *gimel* with a dagesh "is pronounced in the Yemenite Jewish tradition as the English 'J' in the word 'Jack.'" And that's as close to a "J" sound as anyone can get. If you do not believe me, just ask anybody named Jack.




Daniel Botkin



REVEREND
TWISTRUTH
& HIS DISCIPLES
by Daniel Botkin

"HIDING IT
FROM THE GENTILES"



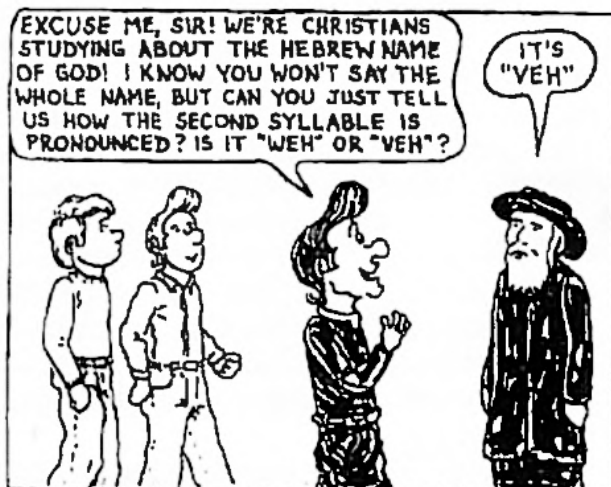
REV. TWISTRUTH, WE'RE READING ABOUT THE HEBREW PRONUNCIATION OF GOD'S NAME! ALL THE SOURCES AGREE HOW THE FIRST SYLLABLE IS PRONOUNCED, BUT THEY DISAGREE HOW THE SECOND SYLLABLE IS PRONOUNCED! SOME SAY "WEH" AND OTHERS INSIST IT'S "VEH"! HOW CAN WE KNOW?

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 VELCOME



1984 RICK CHAMBERLIN

א קאץ וואס מיאוקעט קען קיין מיין ניט כאפן.

A kats vos miyauket ken keyn mayz nit khapn.

No, this is not written in Hebrew. This is a Yiddish proverb.
Yiddish is the traditional language of Eastern European Jews.



A meowing cat catches no mice.

I don't want to shock our readers too much. However, you should know that we prefer the New Testament holidays. Before you cancel your subscription, please remember that **the New Testament holidays are the same holidays that were celebrated in the Tanakh (O.T.)** and the same holidays which will be celebrated when Yeshua sets up his Millennial Kingdom. Gentile nations which refuse to observe Sukkot ("Booths") will be plagued with drought.¹

There is at least one exception to what I just said. We do celebrate one holiday mentioned in the New Testament, but **not** mentioned in the *Tanakh*:

"And it was at Jerusalem, the Feast of Dedication (**Hanukah**), and it was winter. And Yeshua walked in the Temple in Solomon's porch. Then the Judeans gathered around him, and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly?' Yeshua answered them, 'I told you, and you did not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, these bear witness of me.'"²

It is obvious from the context that Yeshua was visiting the Temple during Hanukah. He chose to affirm the importance of this festival. Yeshua ended up being verbally attacked and threatened with stoning. His opponents understood that Yeshua was promoting his divinity. They said, "For a good work we do not stone you, but for blasphemy. For You, being a man, make yourself out to be God."³

Hanukah was a holiday that was instituted after the Israeli victory over the Greek-Syrians in the Maccabean Revolt, when the Jews gained a miraculous victory over their oppressors. **Nes gadol haya sham!** "A great miracle happened there!" This occurred in 165 BCE, in a period of time known as the "Inter-Testamental" period, that is, after the "Old" Testament was written, but prior to Yeshua. Therefore, it is not mentioned in the Tanakh. This story is told in the Books of Maccabees in the Apocrypha, which is a set of **good Jewish books** not found in Jewish Bibles.

If you would like to read the story for yourself, you can find the Apocrypha in Catholic

HANUKAH

The Feast of Re-Dedicating the Temple

Richard 'Aharon' Chaimberlin

Bibles. For this reason, I would recommend that you purchase yourself a Catholic Bible. Curiously, the entire Apocrypha (which includes the Books of the Maccabees) were in the original 1611 version of the King James Bible. Most of the Bibles which today purport to be "original" 1611 King James Version are actually the 4th revision of the 1611 KJV. Today's "1611 KJV" is much more accurately the **1769** King James Version. A copy of the genuine 1611

King James Bible can be ordered directly through Thomas Nelson Publishers, or can be ordered at a Bible Book Store. However, the language and font are very archaic and difficult, much harder to understand than the so-called "1611 KJV" Bibles promoted by many Christians today. The Septuagint⁴ is a Jewish translation of the Tanakh into Greek done in about 200 BCE. It contained all the books that are called the "Old Testament" as well as the Apocrypha. (The Apocrypha was added to the Septuagint a century later.)

In about 333 BCE, Alexander the Great and his armies had conquered the Middle East, including Israel, and went on to conquer much additional land, even to the Indus River in India. Although Alexander promoted Greek religion, culture, and language, he didn't force it on his subjects. Alexander died at the age of only 33 (just like Yeshua!), after which his huge empire was split into four parts to be ruled over by each of his four generals. Those who came after Alexander were much less tolerant of non-Greek cultures and religion.

Israel was on a "land bridge" highly prized by the **Ptolemy** dynasty that ruled Egypt, and by the **Seleucid** Dynasty that ruled the Syrian portion of the divided Greek Empire. Eventually, the Seleucids gained the upper hand, and conquered Israel. Antiochus IV eventually came to rule over Israel. He was an extremely cruel and intolerant king. He forbade circumcision, Sabbath observance, reading of Torah, or celebration of the Feasts. The penalty for observing the commandments of YHWH was torture and/or death. He encouraged Greek culture and religion, and found many Jews who willingly and even happily collaborated to turn Israel into a Greek society.

¹ Zechariah 14:16-19.

² Yochanan 10:22-25.

³ Yochanan (John) 10:33.

⁴ This translation was done at the request of Ptolemy of Egypt by 72 learned Jews.

The pagans had defiled the Temple, even sacrificing pigs on the altar. The Jews, under the Hasmonean leadership of Mattathias ("Matityahu") and his sons, eventually won a miraculous victory. It was guerrilla warfare, where a small, make-shift army won against the mighty Syrian Greek army. According to legend, when they went to re-light the **Ner Tamid** (Eternal Light) of the Temple, they discovered a vial of oil which was only adequate to keep the light burning for one day. Nevertheless, they re-lit the Ner Tamid, and began a search for sanctified oil that could keep the Ner Tamid burning. The search took 8 days, during which time the Ner Tamid miraculously kept burning with the one-day supply of oil.

Curiously, the story of the Ner Tamid burning miraculously for 8 days is not told in the books of the Maccabees at all. It is perhaps a later invention that was added to the Hanukkah story. Originally, Hanukkah was made into an 8-day festival as an imitation of Sukkot,⁵ which is also an 8-day festival, but which the Jews were unable to observe at the proper time because of the ongoing war.

Hundreds of years later, the story of the one-day supply of oil lasting for 8 days was written into the Talmud.⁶ The military victory of the few against the many was downplayed. However, Zechariah 4:6 is still quoted during Hanukkah: **"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."**

Jews in the **Galut** (Diaspora) have traditionally shunned wanting to celebrate military victories, so as to not provoke anti-Semitism in various host nations. This might be one of the reasons for inventing the story of the Ner Tamid burning miraculously for 8 days on a one-day supply of oil. There is another reason for de-emphasizing the military victory: The Hasmonean Dynasty was originally anti-assimilationist. They preserved Jewish religion and fought off pagan religious influences. Jews were again free to celebrate their faith without pagan influences.

However, future generations of the Hasmonean Dynasty became pro-assimilationist. They promoted Greek culture, Greek language, and even Greek religion. As a result, the Talmud is very quiet about the Hasmoneans, sort of ignoring a family that started out extremely good, but went tragically bad, succumbing to

the paganism in the world at that time.

Hanukkah comes at a time of the year when Christians are celebrating Christmas. As a result, it is often identified as a sort of Jewish Christmas. Actually, Hanukkah was celebrated for hundreds of years before Christmas was first celebrated, and therefore has no historical relationship with Christmas.⁷ The story of the vial of oil lasting for 8 days can't begin to compare with the appeal of the story of the virgin birth of a baby in a manger. Moreover, as we celebrate the re-dedication of the Temple, we do so with the knowledge that the Temple was completely destroyed in 70 CE.⁸ So we end up celebrating a Temple that no longer exists.

RE-DEDICATING OUR TEMPLES

We are not completely without a Temple. Rav Shaul spoke of our bodies as being temples of the **Ruakh HaKodesh** (the Holy Spirit):

"Do you not know that you are the **temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defiles the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for **the temple of God** is holy, which is what you are. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seems to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God."

Also: "Do you not know that your bodies are the members of Messiah? Shall I then take the members of Messiah and make them members of a harlot? May it never be! What? Do you not know that he which is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For He says, **'The two shall become one flesh** (Genesis 2:24).' But the one who joins himself to HaShem is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is without the body, but he that commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a **temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."¹⁰



⁵ 2 Maccabees 10:6-8.

⁶ Massive Jewish commentary on Torah.

⁷ Yeshua (Jesus) wasn't even born in December. The December 25 date was originally a pagan holiday called Saturnalia or the solar feast of Natalis Solis Invicti—the Nativity of the Unconquered Sun.

⁸ "Common Era," the equivalent of A.D.

⁹ 1 Corinthians 3:16-19a

¹⁰ 1 Corinthians 6:15-20

"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what partnership has Messiah with Beliel, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the **temple of God** with idols? For we are the temple of the living God. Just as God said, 'I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, **come out from among them, and be separate,**' saith Adonai, 'and **touch not the unclean** (unclean food, pagan holidays, idols, sin, etc.), and I will receive you, and will be a Father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters,' saith the Almighty."¹¹

Let us today rededicate our temples, our bodies, which are the temples of the Ruakh HaKodesh. And, just as with the Temple in Jerusalem, we are required to make sacrifices: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies as living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."¹²

APPLICATION: Just as the Maccabees sought to cleanse the Jewish religion and the Temple of unclean pagan influences, so we today need to cleanse our faith from the pagan influences so prevalent in our society and in the churches. In the event that the churches don't want to change, it would be best to do as the Puritans of old did, and as Rav Shaul said, "Therefore, **come out from among them** and be separate." Our Heavenly Father does not like mixture religion, in which the pagan elements are mixed with the true faith.

Occasionally, people still think of Messianic Judaism as being a "mixture" religion, in which Judaism and Christianity are "mixed together." The truth is that Messianic Judaism was the faith of the First Century believers. It wasn't a new religion; it was merely a bunch of Jews who had come to know their Messiah. The so-called "church" of the First Century was following that "old-time religion," which happened to be Judaism. Yeshua did **not** come to establish a new religion; He came to be the Messiah for the "old" religion - **Judaism!** He remained a loyal Jew who worshipped the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and obeyed Torah.

There weren't any people called Christians until large numbers of Gentiles came to believe in the Jewish Messiah as we discover in Acts 11:20-26. The Christian faith of the First Century Gentiles was quite pure. It wasn't until later centuries that Christianity became pol-

luted with idolatry and pagan holidays, which were "Christianized" in order to make Christianity more appealing to the pagans.

We are called to be a "light to the world." We can't do that if we are still holding onto our cherished pagan traditions. Our disobedience is actually delaying Messiah's return. Yeshua said to Israel: "**You shall not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.'**"¹³ Or, in the Hebrew, "**Baruch haba b'shem Adonai.**" Currently, the biggest stumbling block to Jews coming to know their Messiah are those who call themselves Christians, as well as the history of Christianity vs. the Jewish people. Romans 11:11 tells us to "provoke the Jews to jealousy." Thus far most Jews have only been provoked. The Jews will say to Yeshua, "Baruch haba b'shem Adonai" when the Church repents of its paganism and **returns to the faith of the First Century.** The Church must present Yeshua as He really is: a Torah-observant Jewish **rabbi** who taught his disciples to honor and obey Torah (Matthew 5:17-19) and then told them to teach the nations (Gentiles) to obey the Law (Matthew 28:18-20). The Church must stop presenting a Jesus who abolished the Law. Rav Shaul said, "For if one comes and preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or you receive a **different** Gospel, which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully."¹⁴ The only problem is that **another Jesus** cannot save us. We need to return to the Yeshua of the Bible, not to the Greek god that He has often been turned into.

ADDENDUM: If you don't already know it, we want you to know that Yeshua was **not** born in December. In all likelihood, he was born on the first day of Feast of Sukkot ("Tabernacles"). But if you go back about 280 days before Sukkot, you will find yourself in Chanukah. Therefore, Chanukah is the time during which Yeshua was conceived of a virgin, a great miracle! Yeshua celebrated Chanukah. You can also! Purchase or build a Chanukiah, which is a candelabrum with 8 branches for each of the 8 nights of Hanukah, plus a holder for the Shammash (servant candle) which is used to light the other candles. It is also a tradition to eat latkes. These are "pancakes" made of grated potatoes, onions, eggs, and flour, fried in oil, and often eaten with sour cream or applesauce. Yummy!

¹¹ 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

¹² Romans 12:1.

¹³ Matthew 23:39.

¹⁴ 2 Corinthians 11:4, NAS.

What happens when a person dies? What is the soul? And what is the spirit? Are they two different things? Or are they one and the same? Most people think they are the same, as the two words are often used synonymously, without distinction. *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary* says that it is not unusual: "The two terms are often used interchangeably, the same functions being ascribed to each... Theologians have pored over these distinctions ceaselessly."¹

Soul and Spirit

The Bible itself, however, sheds light on the matter.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb 4:12).

Paul says the soul and the spirit can be separated; so it becomes certain that the soul and the spirit are two different things. Adding credence to this is the fact that they have different names in the original languages of the Bible. "Soul" is from the Hebrew *nephesh* and Greek *psuche* (*psyche*), while "spirit" is translated from the Hebrew *ruach* and Greek *pneuma*.

Paul also contrasted the soul against the spirit in his first letter to the Corinthians: *"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul (psuche); the last Adam was made a quickening spirit (pneuma)"* (v. 15:45).

The Parts of a Man

In 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Paul enumerated three parts of a man: *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah."* The three named parts are, to repeat: (1) the spirit; (2) the soul; and (3) the body. Let us examine each one.

The Body

There is no exact term for "body" in the Hebrew tongue. The *International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia* explains: "Generally speaking, the Old Testament language employs no fixed term for the human body as an entire organ-

ism. Various terms were employed, each of which denotes only one part or element of the physical nature, such as 'trunk,' 'bones,' 'belly,' 'bowels,' 'reins,' 'flesh,' these parts being used, by synecdoche, for the whole... The Greek word which is used almost exclusively for 'body' in the New Testament is *soma*."²

Man's physical body came from the earth. *"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground..."* (Gen 2:7a). Chemically, human beings are made up of the same elements found in the ground.

As it is, the body is the physical container of the ethereal or spiritual parts of man. To use a computer age

analogy, the body is hardware, while the soul and the spirit are software that makes it work. Like software, the soul and spirit have no mass.

The Soul

In Genesis 2:7 -- *"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."* From this verse, it looks like the soul comes into existence as a product or result of life.

The idea is supported by the Biblical information that both men and animals have souls. The phrase *"living soul"* in Genesis 2:7b is *"nephesh chayah"* in Hebrew. In the line *"God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind"* (Gen 1:24b), *"living creature"* is also *"nepesh chayah."*

Instincts. The soul feels and expresses some of the most basic instincts and emotions of man. According to *Fausset's Bible Dictionary*, "The soul is the seat of the appetites, the desires, the will; hunger, thirst, sorrow, joy; love, hope, fear, etc..."³ It is the soul that feels hunger and thirst, as in Isaiah 29:8 (NKJV) -- *"It shall even be as when a hungry man dreams. And look -- he eats; But he awakes, and his soul is still empty; Or as when a thirsty man dreams, And look -- he drinks; But he awakes, and indeed he is faint, And his soul still craves."* Deuteronomy 12:20 -- *"When the LORD thy God shall enlarge thy border, as He hath promised thee, and thou shalt say, I will eat flesh, because thy soul longs to eat*

secrets of the Soul & Spirit

Part 1

Excerpted from **Angels & Men** by **M.M. Tauson**, Ch. 7 "Secrets of the Soul and Spirit", pp. 131-152; www.Amazon.com

This book is advertised in this issue of **Petah Tikvah**. It is recommended to our readers! **RAC**

flesh; thou mayest eat flesh, whatsoever thy soul lusts after." Psalm 107:9 — *"For he satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness."* Proverb 25:25 — *"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."*

Carl Jung (1875-1961), renowned Swiss psychiatrist who developed the field of analytical psychology, wholly concurs: The soul or *nephesh* is the lower nature of man, the personal unconscious with the instincts and desires.⁴

Strong emotions. It is also the soul that experiences and manifests the wide spectrum of human emotions — such as joy, *"Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul"* (Ps 86:4); sorrow, *"Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me"* (Matt 26:38); love, *"Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth..."* (Song 1:7a); hate, *"And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you"* (Lev 26:11); fear, *"And fear came upon every soul..."* (Acts 2:43a).

A person or a creature. *Fausset's Bible Dictionary* says that "soul" is also used to refer to the man himself, a person, the self, a creature,⁵ as in 1 Peter 3:20b — *"...the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water"*; 1 Sam 20:17 — *"And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul"*; Ps 74:19 — *"O deliver not the soul of thy turtle dove unto the multitude of the wicked..."*

The Spirit

Strangely, the Jews had disparate views on the spirit. *"For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both"* (Acts 23:8). It seems that the Sadducees were wrong, and the Pharisees were right.

The *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* states that the term "spirit" has a shade of meaning that is "generally for all the manifestations of the spiritual part in man, as that which thinks, feels, wills..."⁶

Mind. In short, the spirit (*ruach*) houses the intellect, the mental faculties, or the rational, thinking mind of man.

Roberto Assagoli, an Italian Jew regarded as the father of transpersonal psychology, defined the *ruach* ("spirit") as the personal "I" or "conscious self."

Many times in the OT, *ruach* ("spirit") is translated "mind": (Gen 26:34-35) *"And Esau*

was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beerli the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite: Which were a grief of mind (ruach) unto Isaac and to Rebekah"; (Prov 29:11) *"A fool utters all his mind (ruach): but a wise man keeps it in till afterwards"*; (Ezek 11:5b) *"Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind (ruach), every one of them"*; (Dan 5:20a) *"But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind (ruach) hardened in pride..."*; (Hab 1:11) *"Then shall his mind (ruach) change, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god."* As such, the spirit (*ruach*) can:

Have knowledge, wisdom. *"And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit (ruach) of wisdom..."* (Ex 28:3a); *"Inasmuch as an excellent spirit (ruach), knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles, and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel..."* (Dan 5:12a, NKJV). The usage persisted till the time of Messiah: *"Immediately Yeshua knew in his spirit (pneuma) that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, 'Why are you thinking these things?'"* (Mark 2:8-9, NIV).

Make decisions. *"But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit (ruach), and made his heart obstinate..."* (Deut 2:30a); *"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit (pneuma) is willing, but the body is weak"* (Matt 26:41, NIV).

Be upset. *"And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled..."* (Gen 41:8a); *"Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him"* (Dan 2:1, NASU).

Be patient or proud. *"Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit (ruach)"* (Eccl 7:8). Thus, the spirit can have all the thoughts that may enter into a man's mind.

God and His Angels

God is a spirit (John 4:24). And, as we know, God is the all-knowing Intelligence or Mind outside space-time. The angels, too, are spirits (Ps 104:4, Heb 1:7, 12:9). And the angels, unless they materialize, have neither physical bodies nor souls. Yet, although ethereal, they have individual consciousness and minds of their own. This goes to show that the mind, consciousness, and intelligence are in the spirit.

Spirits of Animals

Animals have spirits (*ruach*), too. The Bible tells us: *"Who knows the spirit of man that goes upward, and the spirit of the beast that goes downward to the earth?"* (Eccl 3:21). (You are entitled to your opinion. But who really knows? God doesn't tell us. **RAC**)

The Parts of Adam

Did Adam have all three parts when he was created? Let us reread the verse on his creation. *"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul"* (Gen 2:7). (In this verse, the Hebrew word used for "breath" is *neshamah*.)

No Spirit

Something seems to be missing. Adam had a physical body from the dust of the ground, and as a result of life he became a living soul (*nephesh*), having the instincts necessary to eat and drink to sustain life; but... he had no spirit (*ruach*)! Adam lacked the element that we have just seen is supposed to be responsible for self-consciousness and intelligent thought! What could be the reason for this?

The prophet Zechariah gives us an idea: *"The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretches forth the heavens, and lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him"* (Zech 12:1). God forms the spirit inside man. Hence, it follows that, the physical body must first come into existence; and only then can the spirit (*ruach*) be divinely fashioned inside the human body.

The process becomes clearer. First, the body; next the soul (*nephesh*, with the instincts to survive by drinking, eating, etc.) appears as a result of life in the body; then the spirit (*ruach*, with its consciousness and intellect) is formed and gradually develops, just as the physical body grows and matures, presumably at the same rate – much like that of a newborn child.

Psychoanalyst Carl Jung taught the same thing: the conscious mind "grows out of an unconscious psyche, which is older than it..."⁸ This explains why we cannot talk sensibly with babies and very young children – their *ruach* (spirit or mind) is not yet well developed. If that is the case, then God had created Adam as an infant or a little baby!

A Fourth Part of Man

Man appears to have a little known fourth part, in addition to the three we have already discussed.

Two Kinds of Spirit

Another kind of spirit distinct from the *ruach* crops up surreptitiously, unnoticeably, in some Biblical verses. And so, we see two markedly different kinds of spirit: One seems to be perishable, while the other is indestructible.

We have read in 1 Thes. 5:23: *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah."* Since Paul prayed for the preservation of the spirit; we take it that the spirit can be destroyed.

We see the same thing in other verses, both in the OT and NT: *"Thou hast granted me life and favor, and thy visitation has preserved my spirit"* (Job 10:12); *"To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus"* (1 Cor 5:5).

On the other hand, there seems to be another kind of spirit that cannot be destroyed. *"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it"* (Eccl 12:7). Solomon declared that the spirit of the dead will return to God, who has given it to man. But, as we have learned from Zechariah 12:1, the spirit (*ruach*, "mind") is formed internally in the body – it did not come from God.

So, herein lies the difference. The perishable spirit does not come from God and, if soiled by sin, can be destroyed in hell; whereas the indestructible spirit has been given by God and, at death, will return to God unconditionally -- whether the person is a sinner or a saint. These are definitely two kinds of spirit.

We are already familiar with the first kind of spirit. Let us look for examples of the second one for a closer examination.

"Spirit of life." Several passages tell of a spirit that makes the body alive. *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life"* (John 6:63-64, NKJV); *"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also"* (James 2:26); *"And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleeps. And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat"* (Luke 8:52-55); *"And after three days and a half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them"*

(Rev 11:11).

"Breath of life." In other Bible verses, the life-sustaining element in man is called "breath of life." *"The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath (neshamah) of the Almighty hath given me life"* (Job 33:4); *"Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath (neshamah) unto the people upon it, and spirit (ruach) to them that walk therein"* (Isa 42:5).

The *ruach* and the *neshamah* are mentioned together as if the same in Job 34:14-15: *"If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit (ruach) and his breath (neshamah); All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust"* (Job 34:14-15).

The breath of life in man came from God. Hence, the spirit of life referred to must be the indestructible *neshamah*, which *"shall return unto God who gave it,"* whether the person is righteous or sinful. The other spirit with the mind (*ruach*) that grows with the body is thus corruptible and can either be saved or destroyed.

Both animals and man are called *"living creatures"* in the Bible (Gen 9:10-16), translated from *nephesh chayah* in Hebrew. Yet, what puts man above animals is the Biblical fact that, with the first man, God *"breathed into his nostrils the breath of life"* – the divine *neshamah*.

The Jewish Teaching.

The writings of the Jewish sages enlighten us further. "The *nephesh* possesses in itself no light and cannot out of its own being engender it, and for this reason it is in close connection and deeply enmeshed with its body. The *ruah* rides upon the *nephesh*, dominates it, and enlightens it with supernal glory, as much as it can bear; this *nephesh* is the throne of the *ruah*. The *neshamah* produces the *ruah*, rules over it, and sheds upon it the light of life. The *ruah* depends entirely upon the *neshamah* and it is lit up by its light and nourished by its celestial food, while the *nephesh* is similarly dependent on the *ruah*."⁹

We can now visualize a more complete picture based on the Scriptural accounts and Jewish writings: First, God formed the body of Adam from the earth; next, the body was made alive by the *neshamah* (breath) from God; the *nephesh* (soul) then came about spontaneously as a result of life; and then, lastly, the *neshamah* produced the *ruach* (mind), although more slowly. The *neshamah*

then lighted up the *ruach*, and the *ruach* in turn lighted up the *nephesh*.

The Four Parts of Man.

In summary, the four parts that make up a man are:

1. The "body" that came from the "dust of the ground";
2. The *neshamah* or "breath of life" (also called "spirit of life") from God that gives life to the body;
3. The *nephesh* or "soul" that comes with life, with the instincts to sustain and preserve life, as well as reproduce; and
4. The *ruach* or "spirit" that forms inside the body and has the consciousness, intellect, and mind of man.

Descendants of Adam

If that was how the four parts of the first man, Adam, came together, is the process still the same with us, his descendants? Obviously, God no longer forms the body of man from the dust, it comes from the parents. But what about the three ethereal parts (*neshamah*, *nephesh*, and *ruach*), does God still breathe into the nostrils of each and every newborn child?

The New Unger's Bible Dictionary informs us: "The origin of man's immaterial nature is subject to three theories: (1) The creational, maintaining that soul and spirit are created at birth. (2) Traducian. Soul and spirit are generated the same as the body. (3) The soul is preexistent, embracing the idea of transmigration of souls."¹⁰ Let us examine these three theories under the magnifying glass of reason one by one.

¹Spirit, *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*, 1988

²Body, *International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, 1996

³Spirit, *Fausset's Bible Dictionary*, 1998

⁴Migene Gonzalez-Wippler, *A Kabbalah for the Modern World*, 1974, p. 149

⁵Spirit, *Fausset's Bible Dictionary*, 1998

⁶Spirit, *International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, 1996

⁷Sheldon Z. Kramer, "Jewish Meditation," pp. 226-228

⁸Migene Gonzalez-Wippler, *op. cit.*, p. 148

⁹Jewish commentary on the Torah, quoted by J.R. Church, "Home of the Soul [The Human Brain, Part Three]," *Prophecy in the News*, April 1999, p. 16



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שבת שלום

Each winter, Jews across the globe mark Hanukkah by lighting candles. The tradition originates in the 2nd-century B.C. triumph of a ragtag group of Judean rebels known as the Maccabees over the Syrian-Greek army of Antiochus IV Epiphanes. To mark the restoration of their nation's independence, the Maccabees rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem, using a small jug of sacred oil to light the seven-branched candelabrum known as the menorah. Miraculously, the oil kept burning for eight days.

For American Jews, the holiday and the candle-lighting ritual also serve to illuminate their role in the nation's history. Louisa Hart, a 19th-century woman from Easton, Penn., recorded in her diary that George Washington once spent a winter evening in the home of her father Michael Hart, whom she described as "a Jew reverencing and strictly observant of the Sabbath and Festivals." Writer Stephen Krensky used this meeting as the basis for his 2006 children's book "Hanukkah at Valley Forge," which imagines Washington drawing inspiration, during the harsh winter of 1777-78, from a Jewish soldier lighting his menorah.

Washington certainly knew his Scripture and often evoked the Israelite prophets' image of a tree as a symbol of liberty. In a 1790 letter to the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, R.I., Washington wrote, "May the Children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other Inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid."

In 1862, however, the first night of Hanukkah brought the worst act of anti-Jewish discrimination by the government in American history. Aiming to suppress cotton speculation during the Civil War, General Ulysses S. Grant ordered "Jews as a class" to leave the area under his jurisdiction, including parts of Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee, within 24 hours. A holiday meant to commemorate a fight for religious freedom now saw Jews experiencing expulsion and discrimination.

As the historian Jonathan Sarna has written, a man named Cesar Kaskel swiftly traveled from Paducah, Ky., to Washington, D.C., and met with President Abraham Lincoln to protest the decree. According to Kaskel's later account, Lincoln referred to the biblical Israelites, asking: "And so the children of Israel were driven from the happy land of Canaan?" "Yes, and that is why we have come unto Father Abraham's bosom, asking protection," Kaskel replied. Lincoln swiftly revoked the order, and Grant himself later regretted his hasty action.

Presidential Traditions of Hanukkah

Dr. Tevi Troy
JewishPolicyCenter.org

President Teddy Roosevelt alluded to his familiarity with the story of Hanukkah in a 1903 speech, noting that "When I was police commissioner of New York I had experience after experience of the excellent work done—excellent work needing nerve and hardihood, excellent work of what I might call the Maccabee type...by police officers of Jewish extraction." In 1895, Roosevelt cheekily used 40 Jewish officers as bodyguards for an antisemitic German preacher making a controversial visit to New York, calling this "the very most effective answer that could possibly be made to him, and probably the best object lesson we could give of the spirit in which we Americans manage such matters."

In advance of Hanukkah in 1906, Roosevelt wrote to...Rabbi Stephen S. Wise wishing "hearty good will" to the Jewish immigrant children of the Riis Settlement. The president urged that "Jewish boys and girls should keep their pride in and admiration for their own heroes of early days," which "instead of hindering them, will help them to the friendliest and most brotherly relations with all their fellow-Americans."

When modern Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, visited the White House in 1951, he gave President Harry Truman a menorah that had been brought to the U.S. by German Jewish refugees from Nazism. The gift, delivered on Truman's birthday, May 8, served to express Israel's gratitude for American support.

Decades later, in his 1987 Hanukkah message to the nation, President Ronald Reagan cited the Maccabean revolt as inspiring not only Israel's rebirth but the struggle to free Soviet Jewry. Hanukkah's message is "timeless," Reagan said, and "its lessons inspire the struggles of today and the victories of tomorrow."

In 2001, President George W. Bush instituted what has now become an annual tradition, the White House Hanukkah Party. Speaking just months after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, Mr. Bush noted that "America and Israel have been through much together...We can see the heroic spirit of the Maccabees lives on in Israel today, and we trust that a better day is coming, when this Festival of Freedom will be celebrated in a world free from terror."

In 2021, President Biden's Hanukkah statement also noted the relationship between the Maccabees' victory and the national character of the U.S., remarking that "At its core, Hanukkah recounts a story at the heart of the human spirit—one that is inherently Jewish and undeniably American." The continuing commemoration of Hanukkah by American presidents reflects the enduring inspiration of the Maccabean story for all those who seek the light of liberty.

“**N**OW Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to the mountain of God, unto Horeb.”¹

The Rabbis say that God never gives a man an exalted office unless he is first tested in small things (Rabbi J. H. Hertz). According to Midrash, Moses saw a lamb escape from the flock, and followed it to a brook, where the lamb quenched its thirst. Moses said to the lamb,

“Had I known that you were thirsty, I would have taken you in my arms, and carried you here.” The Heavenly Voice resounded, “As thou livest, thou art fit to shepherd Israel.”

Some may debate the historical accuracy of the above story. However, it is only one verse after Exodus 3:1 where we read the following: “And the angel of YHWH appeared to him in a blazing flame out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.”²



In Exodus 3:15, God reveals to Moses His name (יהוה - YHWH). He said, “This is My name **forever**, and is My **memorial** name to **all** generations.” Some Sacred Name people proclaim that they know the exact pronunciation, and have come up with some strange pronunciations. However, nobody today can be sure of the exact pronunciation. According to most Hebrew scholars, “Yah-way” is a close approximation of the correct pronunciation. (The ancient י [vav] normally had a “W” pronunciation [waw] when used as a consonant.)

This was God’s perfect timing. The Israelites had been enslaved for 400 years in Egypt. No doubt they would have preferred to have

been slaves a considerably shorter period of time. Yet they went into Egypt as a “nation” of one large family. Our Heavenly Father was building them into a mighty nation of close to 3 million during those years of slavery. I doubt that Jacob’s sons, daughters (Gen. 37:25;

46:7,15, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren would have had a great deal of success in conquering the land of Canaan. More likely, they would have assimilated into the idolatrous nations that inhabited the land. In YHWH’s perfect

timing, he brought them out of Egypt, using Moshe (Moses), a Hebrew who had been schooled by

the teachers of Egypt. When we want God to do something for us “now,” perhaps we could learn a little lesson in patience from these Hebrews who waited 400 years!

The burning bush is often taken as a symbol of Israel, small and lowly among the nations, often “burned,” yet indestructible. Why? Because the Divine Spirit dwells within Israel. As HaShem promised, as long as the sun shines by day, and the moon and stars shine by night, then Israel shall continue to be a nation forever.³ Israel shall continue for as long as heaven and earth continue. *Am Yisrael Chai* (The People of Israel Live)!

WHO IS THE ANGEL?

There are many Scripture references to “the angel of the LORD,” more properly translated, “the angel of YHWH.” Just who, or what, is this “angel of YHWH”? In this passage from Exodus, we read that “the **angel of the LORD** (YHWH) appeared to him (Moses) in a blazing flame...”⁴ Then a couple verses later, we read that it was “**God** who called to him from the midst of the bush.” This is one special angel indeed!

In Genesis, we read that Hagar fled into the wilderness, pregnant with Abram’s child, escaping the wrath of Sarai. The angel of YHWH appeared to her, and told her, “Behold, you are with child, and you will bear a son, and you will call his name Ishmael (‘God hears’), because YHWH has given heed to your affliction. And he shall be a wild ass of a man. His hand will be against everyone, and every-

¹ *Sh’mot* “Names” (Exodus) 3:1.

² *Exodus* 3:2.

³ Jeremiah 31:35-37.

⁴ Exodus 3:2.

one's hand will be against him."⁵ This prophetically foretells with incredible accuracy the fate of the Arabs, who are descended from Ishmael. As this prophecy indicates, there is not much likelihood for much "peace" in the Middle East, at least not until Messiah returns.

"Then she (Hagar) called the name of YHWH who spoke to her, 'Thou art a God who sees,' for she said, 'Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?'"⁶ So what's going on here? First we are introduced to "the angel of YHWH," then Hagar recognizes the angel as being YHWH, or "the God who sees." Did this poor Egyptian girl misunderstand? Was she completely befuddled? No, I believe she understood perfectly.

We read in Genesis 19 the account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, for their wickedness. (Are we far behind?) The text tells us that "the LORD (YHWH) rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD (YHWH) out of heaven."⁷ It seems apparent that there is a reference to two YHWH's here, one on earth and one in heaven. It is interesting to note that the Jewish translators of the *Tenakh* (O.T.) recognized the "problem" of two YHWH's. They translated the *Tenakh* into Greek, a translation called the "Septuagint," from the Greek for "70" in reference to the approximately 70 translators. They made the following changes in the Greek translation from the literal interpretation (included are the rabbinic reasons for the changes): -

"I will make Man" instead of "We will make Man" lest it be said that God is dual in nature.

"With an image and a likeness" instead of "In our image and likeness"...lest the creature be compared to the Creator.

"Male and female He created him," instead of "Male and female He created them"...lest it be said they were originally created with two bodies.

"Come, I shall go down and confuse their languages," instead of "Let us go down and confuse..." lest it be said that God is dual in nature."⁸

By the way, the Talmud accuses the early Messianic Jews of believing in **two** Gods, not three. The doctrine of Trinity was promulgated and made official by the Council of Nicea (a Gentile church council) in 325 CE ("A.D.").

Even in the *Akeidah* ("Binding of Isaac"),

⁵ Bereisheet "In the Beginning" (Genesis 16:11-12).

⁶ *Ibid.* 16:13.

⁷ Genesis 19:24.

⁸ The above items are quoted from *The Chabad Times*, March 1990.

we see further evidence that the "angel of YHWH" is also identified as being YHWH.⁹ I believe that the angel of YHWH is none other than the pre-incarnate Yeshua. (See John 17:11-12.) Yeshua and his Father are both YHWH. They are *echad* (one).¹⁰ And they share the same family name—YHWH.¹¹

If we travel a bit further on in Scripture, we find that "the angel of YHWH" visits with Gideon,¹² who eventually led the armies of Israel against the Midianites. The "angel of YHWH" is identified as being "YHWH" in Judges 6:14.

The Angel of YHWH Visits the Parents of Samson

In Judges 13, we find the Philistines are oppressing Israel. The "angel of YHWH" visits with the wife of Manoah, who was barren, having no children. The "angel of YHWH" tells her that she shall give birth to a son, who shall be a Nazirite from the mother's womb, and that her son would begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines. She ran and told her husband about the encounter, identifying the man as "the angel of God." Manoah is slightly skeptical, and prays for the "man of God" to come again to confirm the message that his wife received. After the prayer, the "angel of God" again appears to his wife. She called for Manoah, who came and spoke, saying, "Are you the **man** who spoke to the woman?"¹³ The man said, "I am." The "man" confirmed all that had been told to Manoah's wife earlier. When Manoah inquired of the man's name, the man said, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is **wonderful**?" It is interesting to note that in Isaiah 9:6, one of the names of the Messiah is "Wonderful (*Peilel*)."

We read, "So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto YHWH, and the angel did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of YHWH as-

⁹ Genesis 22:11-16.

¹⁰ Yochanan (John) 10:30.

¹¹ In the original Hebrew, God's name is YHWH (יהוה) whereas most Bibles substitute a title for the name—"the LORD."

¹² Judges 6:11.

¹³ It is interesting to note that in all appearances of angels in the Scriptures, the angel is male. I don't know if this means that all angels are male, but I don't see any evidence of female angels. Maybe the female angels are all at home in the kitchen? ☺

cended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground.¹⁴ But the angel of YHWH did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an **angel of YHWH**. And Manoah said unto his wife, 'We shall surely die, because **we have seen God**.'¹⁵ But his wife said unto him, 'If YHWH were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have showed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these.' And the woman bore a son, and called his name Samson, and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him."¹⁶

THE GOD OF THE LIVING

Yeshua the Messiah also makes interesting use of the Torah portion from Exodus, as he gives his own little rabbinic commentary.

Yeshua was approached by some Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection of the dead. (That is why they are sad, you see.) They attempted to "trick" Yeshua with the hypothetical question of a man who died, leaving no offspring. According to the Law of Moses, it would be the duty of the dead man's brother to raise up a son for the dead brother.¹⁷ Deut. 25:5. However, in this story, each of seven brothers take this woman to wife, and each in turn dies without leaving an offspring. The Sadducees then ask the question (no doubt with a smirk): "In the resurrection, when they rise again, which one's wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife."¹⁸

Yeshua replied, "When they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like the angels of heaven." In other words, marriage is only temporary: It's only for a lifetime. Then He said, "But regarding the fact that the dead rise again, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the burning bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob (Exodus 3:6)? He is not the God of the dead, but

of the living."¹⁹ In other words, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob weren't just laying around waiting for some future day of resurrection; they were already conscious, among the "living" during Yeshua's day!

CO-EQUALITY?

If indeed Yeshua also carries the family name of "YHWH,"²⁰ then the Divinity of Yeshua is firmly established. However, the concept of **co-equality** goes beyond Scripture, and is in fact, anti-Scriptural. Yeshua clearly states in John 14:28 that "the Father is greater than I." Earlier on, in John 5:18, Yeshua was falsely accused of "making Himself equal with God." Just one verse later, to counter this false accusation, He replied, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of himself, but what He sees the Father doing**; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son does in like manner." In verse 30, He said, "I can do nothing on my own initiative. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father which has sent Me."

Rav Shaul (Paul) writes, "Messiah is the head of every man, and man is the head of a woman, and YHWH is the head of Messiah."²¹ In Philippians 2:5-8, we read, "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Messiah Yeshua, who, although He existed in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God as a thing to be grasped**, but emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross." At no point does Yeshua claim equality with the Father.

It should also be noted that Yeshua often prayed to the Father, as can be seen in numerous examples in Scripture. However, there are no references of the Father "praying" to His Son. The mere concept of the Father praying to Yeshua is absurd. Meanwhile, the prayers of Yeshua recorded in Scripture again demonstrate His complete submission to the Father's will. In Matthew 26:42, He prays, "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, nevertheless Thy will be done." In this prayer, Yeshua agreed to suffer the agony set before Him for our salvation.

¹⁴ Folks in the Bible fall on their faces before the Lord, not on their backs, as we see in the phenomenon called being "slain in the spirit" in Charismatic (Pentecostal) circles. The only ones who fell on their backs were the soldiers who were sent to arrest Yeshua.

¹⁵ Manoah recognizes that "the angel of YHWH" is "YHWH."

¹⁶ Judges 13:19-25.

¹⁷ *D'varim* "Sayings" (Deuteronomy) 25:5.

¹⁸ Mark 12:23.

¹⁹ Mark 12:26-27.

²⁰ We can't be sure of the pronunciation. However, most scholarship believes it should be pronounced "Yahweh" (or Yah-way).

²¹ 1 Corinthians 11:3

"NO MAN HATH SEEN GOD..."

Yochanan wrote: "No man has seen God at any time, the only begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."²² This verse tells us of a God who cannot be seen, who is the Father of us all, including Yeshua, "the only begotten Son," who obviously could be seen, and will be seen again by many of you now reading this article. You might see him in "heaven," or it might be during the Millennial Kingdom, when Yeshua comes as King Messiah and sets up his Kingdom, where He will rule from Jerusalem. Rav Shaul tells us, "He (Yeshua) is the image of the Invisible God, the first-born of all Creation."²³

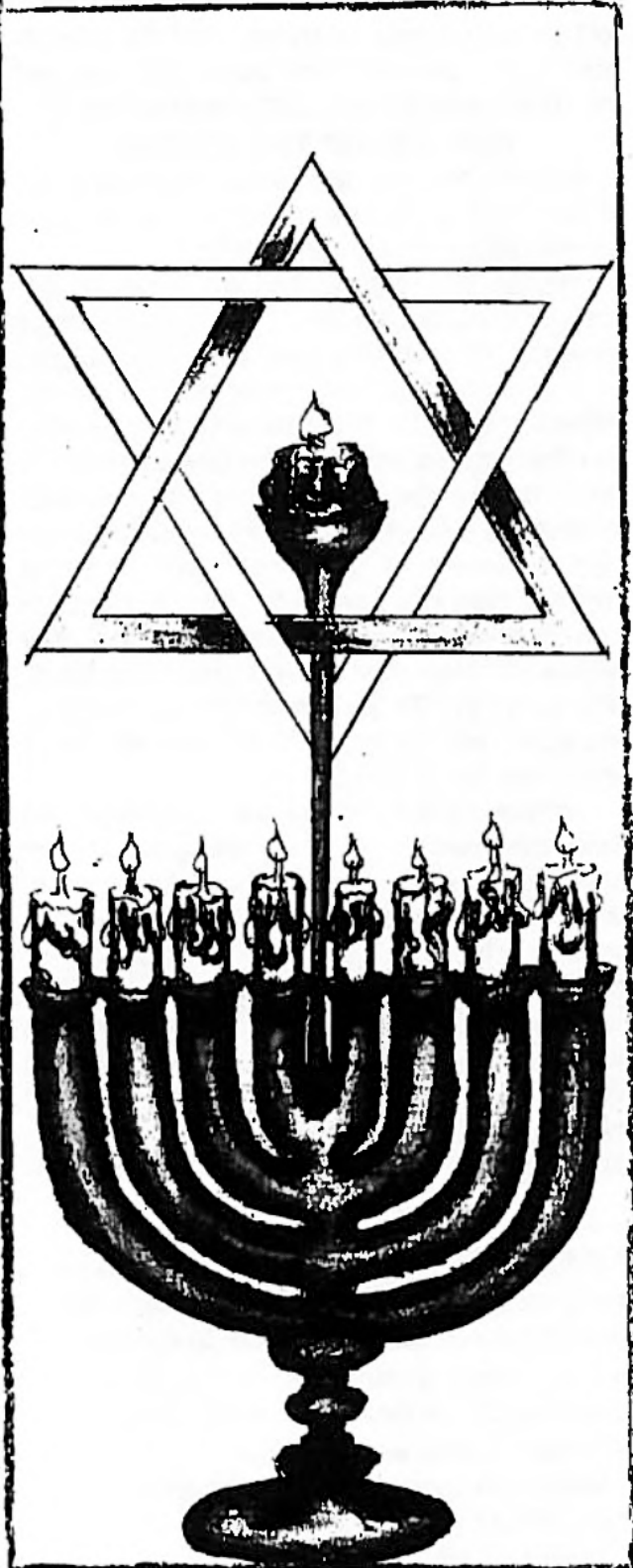
Not only that, but Rav Shaul goes on to explain that Yeshua is Co-Creator with the Father: "**For by Him were all things created,** that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by Him,** and for Him. **And He is before all things,** and **by Him all things consist.** And He is the head of the body, the called out ones, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross."²⁴

There is an interesting passage in Exodus in which Moses, Aaron, and seventy of the elders of Israel go up the mountain, "and **they saw the God of Israel,** and under his feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself. Yet He did not stretch out his hand against the nobles of the sons of Israel, and they beheld God and they ate and drank."²⁵ The Rabbis will agree that no one can see God, yet here we have a passage in which God is seen, by 72 people, who also ate and drank, so it is obviously not a vision. It is obvious to me, at least, that these men saw the pre-incarnate Yeshua.

The very first words in the Scriptures are: "*B'relsheet bara Elohim et ha-shamayim v'et ha-aretz* (In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth)." The word used for 'God' is Elohim, which curiously is a plural word, but used in conjunction with a singular

verb ('bara'). If God wanted to stress his "singularity," He could have had it written "El" or "Eloah," which are both singular words meaning God. I happen to believe that the plural form "Elohim" was used because Yeshua was "in the beginning" creating with the Father.

Yes, it is self-evident that Yeshua had a pre-existence with the Father, and was in fact the "angel of the LORD (YHWH)" that we have been describing. n



²² Yochanan (John) 1:18. See also 1 Tim. 6:16; 1 John 4:12.

²³ Colossians 1:15.

²⁴ Colossians 1:17-20a.

²⁵ Sh'mot (Exodus) 24:9-11.

Everybody knows the story of Columbus, right? He was an Italian explorer from Genoa who set sail in 1492 to enrich the Spanish monarchs with gold and spices from the orient. Not quite.

For too long, scholars have ignored Columbus's grand passion: the quest to liberate Jerusalem from the Muslims.

Was Columbus Secretly a Jew?

By Charles Garcia, CNN

During Columbus's lifetime, Jews became the target of fanatical religious persecution. On March 31, 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella proclaimed that all Jews were to be expelled from Spain. The edict especially targeted the 800,000 Jews who had never converted, and gave them four months to pack up and get out.

The Jews who were forced to renounce Judaism and embrace Catholicism were known as "Conversos," or converts. There were also those who feigned conversion, practicing Catholicism outwardly while covertly practicing Judaism, the so-called "Marranos," or swine.

Tens of thousands of Marranos were tortured by the Spanish Inquisition. They were pressured to offer names of friends and family members, who were ultimately paraded in front of crowds, tied to stakes and burned alive. Their land and personal possessions were then divided up by the church and crown.

Recently, a number of Spanish scholars, such as Jose Erugo, Celso Garcia de la Riega, Otero Sanchez and Nicholas Dias Perez, have concluded that Columbus was a Marrano, whose survival depended upon the suppression of all evidence of his Jewish background in face of the brutal, systematic ethnic cleansing.

Columbus, who was known in Spain as Cristóbal Colón and didn't speak Italian, signed his last will and testament on May 19, 1506, and made five curious — and revealing — provisions.

Two of his wishes — tithe one-tenth of his income to the poor and provide an anonymous dowry for poor girls — are part of Jewish customs. He also decreed to give money to a Jew who lived at the entrance of the Lisbon Jewish Quarter.

On those documents, Columbus used a triangular signature of dots and letters that resembled inscriptions found on gravestones of Jewish cemeteries in Spain. He ordered his heirs to use the signature in perpetuity.

According to British historian Cecil Roth's "The History of the Marranos," the anagram was a cryptic substitute for the Kaddish, a prayer recited in the synagogue by mourners after the death of a close relative. Thus, Columbus's subterfuge allowed his sons to say Kaddish for their crypto-Jewish father when he died. Finally, Columbus left money to support the crusade he hoped his successors would take up to liberate the Holy

Land.

Estelle Irizarry, a linguistics professor at Georgetown University, has analyzed the language and syntax of hundreds of handwritten letters, diaries and documents of Columbus and concluded that the explorer's primary written and spoken language was Castilian Spanish.

Irizarry explains that 15th-century Castilian Spanish was the "Yiddish" of Spanish Jewry, known as "Ladino." At the top left-hand corner of all but one of the 13 letters written by Columbus to his son Diego contained the handwritten Hebrew letters *וְעִזְרַת הַשֵּׁם* bet-hel, meaning *b'eizat HaShem* ("with God's help"). Observant Jews have for centuries customarily added this blessing to their letters. No letters to outsiders bear this mark, and the one letter to Diego in which this was omitted was one meant for King Ferdinand.

In Simon Weisenthal's book, "Sails of Hope," he argues that Columbus's voyage was motivated by a desire to find a safe haven for the Jews in light of their expulsion from Spain. Likewise, Carol Delaney, a cultural anthropologist at Stanford University, concludes that Columbus was a deeply religious man whose purpose was to sail to Asia to obtain gold in order to finance a crusade to take back Jerusalem and rebuild the Jews' holy Temple.

In Columbus's day, Jews widely believed that Jerusalem had to be liberated and the Temple rebuilt for the Messiah to return. Scholars point to the date on which Columbus set sail as further evidence of his true motives. He was originally going to sail on August 2, 1492, a day that happened to coincide with the Jewish holiday of Tisha B'Av, marking the destruction of the First and Second Holy Temples of Jerusalem. Columbus postponed this original sail date by one day to avoid embarking on the holiday, which would have been considered by Jews to be an unlucky day to set sail. (Coincidentally or significantly, the day he set forth was the very day that Jews were, by law, given the choice of converting, leaving Spain, or being killed.)

Columbus's voyage was not, as is commonly believed, funded by the deep pockets of Queen Isabella, but rather by two Jewish Conversos and another prominent Jew. Louis de Santangel and Gabriel Sanchez advanced an interest free loan of 17,000 ducats from their own pockets to help pay for the voyage, as did Don Isaac Abrabanel, rabbi and Jewish statesman.

Indeed, the first two letters Columbus sent back from his journey were not to Ferdinand and Isabella, but to Santangel and Sanchez, thanking them for their support and telling them what he had found.

The winter of 1777 was harsh, almost unbearable. The soldiers stationed in Valley Forge had no inkling of why they were there. In their midst was a lone Jewish soldier and it was the first night of Hanukkah. When all of the soldiers in the tent were fast asleep, he took out his Menorah and lit one candle and recited the blessings, and sat down to watch the small flame dancing merrily. It fired his imagination and brought back a host of memories.

General George Washington, in person, stood by his side. He looked at him and said gently, "Why are you weeping? Are you cold, my friend?" The soldier jumped to his feet and saluted. Then he said quietly, "I am weeping before my Father in Heaven, sir. Everyone's fate lies in His hands; He controls the fate of millions, the world over. I was praying for your success, General Washington. I came to this country because I was fleeing the persecution of tyrants who have forever oppressed my family, my townspeople and my nation. The despots will fall, sir, but you will be victorious!" "Thank you, soldier!" the General replied heartily, and sat himself on the ground before the menorah. "And what have we here?" he asked, full of curiosity.

"This is a Candelabra. Jews all over the world are lighting the first candle of our festival, Hanukkah, tonight. This serves to commemorate a great miracle that occurred to our ancestors. They were only a handful compared to the massive armies, but they held out, thanks to their faith in God, and were granted a miracle."

The bright flame ignited a flame of hope in the weary General's eyes and he cried out joyfully, "You are a Jew? Then you are descended from a people of Prophets! And you say that we will win the war?" "Yes, sir!" he replied confidently. The General rose, his face glowing with renewed hope. They shook hands heartily. Washington asked the soldier for his name and address and disappeared into the night.

Years later, on the first night of Hanukkah, our Jewish veteran was sitting in his home on Broome Street in New York. The first Hanuk-

kah light was burning brightly on his windowsill. Suddenly, there was a knock on the door. His wife rose to open it wide. To her astonishment, there stood President Washington.

"There is that fabulous light, the Hanukkah light," he cried out happily, spotting the candle by the window. "That flame, and your remarkable words, kindled a

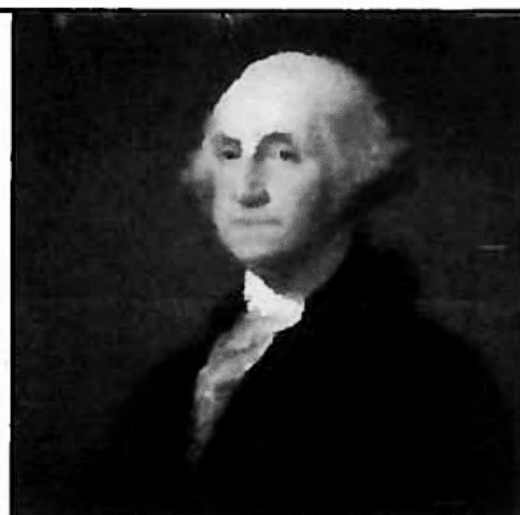
light in my heart on that dark and bitter night," he reminisced. "We were in a tight situation then, and your words encouraged me so! They spurred me on with new hope. You will soon be awarded a Medal of Honor from the United States of America for your bravery in Valley Forge, but tonight you will receive a personal memento from me." With these words he placed on the table a gold medal upon which was engraved a Hanukkah menorah with one light burning. Upon this medal

was inscribed: "As a sign of thanks for the light of your candle. George Washington." (Source: Jerusalem Post) "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love." 1 Cor 13:13

George Washington

Letter to the Hebrew Congregation
in Newport, Rhode Island, 1790

"May the Father of all mercies scatter light, and not darkness, upon our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in His own due time and way, everlastingly happy."



Hanukkah and George Washington

Happy Hanukkah



“**F**OR the Torah (Instruction or Law), having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things,

The Sacrifice of Messiah

can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make those perfect who come near. 2

Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because that the

worshippers once cleansed should have had no more consciousness of sins? 3 But in those sacrifices, there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and of goats to take away sins.”

THE above quote introduces us to Hebrews chapter 10. Concepts that were introduced in earlier chapters now receive greater in-depth teaching in this chapter. The Law is described as having a “shadow of good things to come.” Curiously, this is sometimes interpreted as diminishing the Torah, as something that is becoming obsolete or lacking. I also have a shadow, and I assure you, I am more real and permanent than my shadow. My shadow does not in any way diminish me. However, as also stated in the above verses, the Torah cannot make perfect those who come near with the Temple sacrifices. The sacrifices were continuously offered, because sin continued. Even the Cohen HaGadol (High Priest) had to offer a sacrifice for himself on Yom Kippur before he could offer any sacrifice for the people of Israel. Finally, the writer (who we believe to be Shaul (Paul) concludes, “For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and of goats to take away sins.”

I am grateful that we live in an era in which Temple sacrifices are not required for sin. However, the Temple sacrifices were a continual reminder of the grace (unmerited favor) offered in the Tanakh (O.T.). Which would you prefer: Would you like to die for your own sins, or would you prefer to have an innocent animal sacrificed to cover your sins?

I have a completely **fictional** modern-day story to demonstrate grace: My wife is stopped by a policeman for a traffic violation and given a ticket. However, when my wife appears in court, the judge decides on an unusually harsh fine, which my wife is unable to pay, and so the judge sentences my teary-eyed wife to jail. The policeman who ticketed her is there, and he is filled with sympathy for my wife’s plight. He decides to pay the fine.

The judge doesn’t care who pays the fine, as long as the penalty is paid, and he lets my wife go free. The law was not abolished, and the penalty for disobedience to the law was not abolished.

It is simply that the policeman took upon himself the punishment that was due to my wife. In much the same way, Yeshua took upon Himself the penalty that was due to us for our transgressions by His sacrifice on our behalf at Golgotha.

Modern Judaism recognizes that there can be no more sacrifices for sin, because the Temple was the only place in which sacrifices for sin could be offered. However, in Orthodox synagogues there are three prayer services offered up daily: The *Shaharit* (morning prayers), *Minhah* (early afternoon prayers), and *Ma’ariv* (evening prayers), scheduled to coincide with the times of the Temple sacrifices. The implication is that the synagogue prayers are a replacement for the sacrifices which took place at the times of the Shacharit and Minhah sacrifices, although there weren’t any evening sacrifices at the time of the Ma’ariv services.

“Otherwise, when He comes into the world, He says, ‘Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, but **a body hast Thou prepared for Me.** 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast had no pleasure. 7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the scroll of the book it is written of Me) to do thy will, O God (Hebrews 10:5-7).”

The verses above are “quoted” from Psalm 40:6-8. However, if you were to go this Psalm, you will notice that the original Psalm is radically different from what is said in Hebrews 10, which says nothing about a **“body hast Thou prepared for Me.”** Instead, the Hebrew text literally says, “You have dug my ears,” meaning that God has opened our ears so we can better hear the words of God, including Torah, which is good, but nothing like the quote in Hebrews chapter 10.

Non-believing Jews accuse the writer of Hebrews of deliberately misquoting Psalm 40 in order to turn it into a prophecy about Yeshua. However, according to Dr. David Stern,¹ the quote in Hebrews 10 is actually an accu-

¹ Jewish New Testament Commentary, p. 703, www.MessianicJewish.net 6120 Day Long Ln, Clarksville MD 21029.

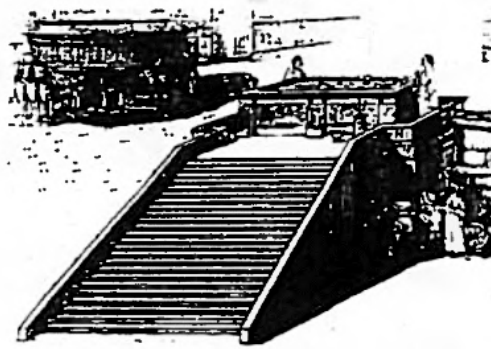
rate quote from the Septuagint.² That being the case, I don't mind expounding on Psalm 40 in a Messianic fashion. God Himself prepared the body of Yeshua, in the womb of a Jewish virgin in Roman-occupied Israel over 2000 years ago. He chose the virgin who would bear the Messiah. She would have to have the royal genealogy required to fulfill Messianic prophecy. The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.³

"Above when he said, 'Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin You have not desired, neither have You taken pleasure therein; which are offered by the Law,' 9 Then said He, 'Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God.' He takes away the **first**, that He may establish the **second**." (Heb. 10:8-9)

The verses above are sometimes used to "prove" that God has somehow "done away with" Torah, what is otherwise called replacing the "Dispensation of Law" with the "Dispensation of Grace." This kind of theology is totally unbiblical. There was abundant grace before the time of Yeshua, and, according to Yeshua's own words in Matthew 5:17-19, Yeshua came "not to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill..." Yeshua's Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 actually strengthens Torah. The **first** that is taken away is the Levitical priesthood, which was replaced by the **second**,⁴ which is the priesthood of Yeshua the Messiah.

"By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Yeshua the Messiah once for all. 11 And every priest stands daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, **sat down on the right hand of God**, 13 waiting from that time onward till his enemies be made his footstool for his feet."⁵

Once again, Rav Shaul is clarifying that it is the old priesthood that is being replaced by the priesthood of Yeshua, and the one-time sacrifice for all times. He does this by quoting Psalm 110:1. The priests serving in the Tem-



The Brazen Altar in the Temple

ple never sat down, but stood continuously. However, Yeshua, by sitting at the right hand of God, showed that His sacrifice atoned for the sins of all time.

The One Sacrifice of Messiah is Sufficient for All Time

"For by **one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified**. 15 And the Ruakh HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) also is a witness to us: for after saying, 16 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days,' saith YHWH, 'I will put my Laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them,' He says, 17 'And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.'"⁶

This passage from Hebrews is also quoting Jeremiah 31:33-34, emphasizing once again that in the New Covenant, the Torah is written on our hearts. However, it also emphasizes once again that by "**one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified**." The Beit HaMikdash (Temple) was still in existence at the time this book was written, along with the animal sacrifice system. Rav Shaul is telling the Messianic Jews that they should not be trusting in the Temple priesthood for their atonement, but to trust in the one-time sacrifice of Yeshua. In a modern-day application, these verses testify against the Roman Catholic priests who daily offer up "Jesus" as a sacrifice in masses around the world, as is emphasized again in the next verse (10:18): "Now where there is forgiveness of these things, **there is no more offering for sin**."

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the Holy of Holies by the blood of Yeshua, 20 by a new and living way, which He has consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 and having a *Cohen HaGadol* (High Priest) over the House of God; 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and to good works, 25 **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another

² The Septuagint is a Greek translation of the Tanakh done by Jewish scholars in 200 BCE.

³ Micah 5:1-2.

⁴ Hebrews 10:9.

⁵ Hebrews 10:10-13.

⁶ Hebrews 10:14-17.

er: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:19-25)

Whew! One of my complaints against Paul (Rav Shaul) is the long, run-on sentences that he uses, especially when combining several important doctrines into one huge sentence. The above passage is a huge mouthful. He is referring to things that his readers would be intimately aware of, including the Holy of Holies. He is commanding us to enter boldly into the Holy of Holies by the new way that has been prepared for us by Yeshua's atoning sacrifice at Golgotha. We read in Mark 15:37-38, "And Yeshua uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last, and the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom." As you may know, the only person in all of Israel who could enter the Holy of Holies was the High Priest, and that was only one day each year, on Yom Kippur. However, in the spiritual sense, Yeshua has prepared the way in which we can **all** enter boldly into the Holy of Holies and **experience God firsthand**. I don't want to put too much emphasis on feelings, which are very subjective; however, I do believe it is important for everyone to have a real, first-hand experience with the Living God, something tangible.

Forsake not the Assembling Together with Others

At the end of this long sentence, Shaul warns us against "**forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching." I fully realize the difficulty of locating like-minded people to fellowship with. In some cases, it may not be possible. However, this should be the exception. Also, we can gather to worship with Believers to worship on any day of the week. However, we should not neglect the days in which we are commanded to gather together in Leviticus 23. This includes Shabbat (the 7th Day Sabbath) as well as all the Biblical Holy Days. Each of these days is described in Scripture as a *mikra kodesh* (holy convocation). I personally would have difficulty **tithing** to a congregation that doesn't honor Shabbat, which is the first of the holy convocations in Leviticus 23 and is also one of the Ten Commandments.

Rav Shaul emphasizes in 1 Corinthians

12:12-28, that as Believers, we are all part of the Body of Messiah. If you separate one of your body parts—say, a foot—from the rest of the body, it won't be long before that part of the body shrivels up and dies. Also, we have seen some who have separated from all bodies of Believers and became progressively more "weird." One example is someone who called himself "the Lone Crusader" who used to send us his literature years ago. Apparently, he felt he was the only person on Planet Earth who had the "Truth." Unfortunately, any truth he had was mixed in with much error. YHWH created us as social beings. Believe it or not, we **need** each other! When you are part of a body of Believers, each part contributes something to the rest of the body. Each part by itself is not very productive, but combined with the talents of attributes of others the body becomes more valuable and productive.

"26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain and fearful expectation of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses' Law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much severer punishment, do you suppose, shall he deserve, who has trodden underfoot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?" (Hebrews 10:26-29)



Verse 26 above about "sinning willfully" does not mean that we will receive eternal damnation if we ever sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth. In fact, 1 John 1:8-9 says, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteous-**

ness." Yeshua has dealt with the eternal consequences of our sins, and none of us is perfect except for Yeshua. This is by no means a blank check to continue in sin. We aren't talking about "cheap grace," where you can live however you like. However, it is good to balance the words from Hebrews 10:26 with 1 John 1:8-9. One scripture verse taken out of context can do mighty damage, and cause some to fall from faith. Taken in context,

these verses from Hebrews apply to those who disregard Messiah Yeshua's atoning sacrificial death.'

"For we know Him that has said, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay.' And again, 'The Lord shall judge his people.' ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."⁷ The first quote from Deuteronomy 32:35 isn't popular in this age of "feel-good" theology, or, "I'm okay, you're okay" theology. Years ago, there was perhaps too much "fire and brimstone" preaching used to scare people into the Kingdom of God. Today, however, it seems we could use some real "fear of the Lord." YHWH is a God of mercy and love, but He is also a God of judgment and even vengeance.

In Hebrews 10:34, we read, "For you had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the seizure of your goods, knowing in yourselves that you have in heaven a better and an enduring substance." This is an additional clue to the fact that Paul (Shaul) wrote this while in prison. He commends those who had compassion on him in prison. We have discovered many very sincere Believers who happen to be behind prison walls. Unlike Paul, some deserve to be there because of major crimes, but nonetheless have come to genuine repentance, knowing that their sins and crimes have been wiped clean by the heavenly courts. Half of the New Testament was written by a prisoner: Rav Shaul! In addition, there were many other great men who were prisoners, including Joseph after the false accusations of Potifar's wife, Jeremiah, and Shimon Kefa (Simon Peter).

"For yet a little while, and He that shall come **will** come, and will not tarry. ³⁸ **Now the just shall live by faith:** but if any man shrinks back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." Hebrews 10:37-38 is quoting Habakkuk 2:3-4. Yeshua **is** coming back, and will set up His righteous Kingdom. According to 2 Kefa (Peter) 3:8, "A day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as a day." It might seem to us that He is delaying His return, but His timing is perfect. Lastly, the quote, "The just shall live by faith." This doesn't mean that "faith" has replaced "Torah." It means that our faith should affect how we live. For instance, Mennonites and Amish really **live** their faith. I'm not saying that they are always right; what I am saying is that their faith affects their lifestyle. It should be the same with us. If your lifestyle hasn't been affected by your faith, then I doubt that much

has happened to you spiritually.

It helps to cross reference verses in the Bible to fully understand their true meanings. Leviticus 18:5 says, "So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, by which a man may **live** if he **does** them; I am YHWH." Faith and works are not enemies. Each is important.

As it says in Ya'akov (James) 2:24: "You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone." A couple of verses later, he says, "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is **dead**." Can a **dead** faith save anyone? I doubt it. Both faith and works are important. A person might have said the "sinner's prayer" thirty years ago, but if he isn't living his faith through his works, he is not "saved." By the way, some people believe that a person isn't saved unless they have said the "sinner's prayer." Curiously, the so-called "sinner's prayer" isn't even in the Bible!

Curiously, in Jewish circles a person is deemed to be religious by his **deeds**, that is, by his observance of the *mitzvot* (commandments). If a person strictly observes Shabbat and the dietary laws, etc., according to Orthodox Jewish Halachah, he is deemed to be religious. Christians consider someone to be religious based on what that person **believes**, regardless of what he actually **does**. Perhaps in Messianic Judaism we might come to a balance between these two extremes. Faith and works are both extremely important. "Faith without works is dead," per James 2:26. Can a dead faith save anyone? You tell me.



⁷ Hebrews 10:30-31.

BIBLICAL STUDIES AND FELLOWSHIP

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

Services begin with a time of liturgy and worship. This is followed by a time of teachings from the Scriptures. We believe that the Bible is the reliable source for doctrine. We promote a pro-Torah Messianic Jewish lifestyle for Jews and for Gentiles w-ho have been grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree of Romans 11:17-24. We conclude our services with a time of prayer, followed by an *oneg* (eating and fellowshiping). Even if you are not Jewish or a believer in Yeshua, you will find yourself welcomed and appreciated! For more information, please call: Rav Richard 'Aharon' Chaimberlin, **585- 475-1188**

Visit us because you are intrigued. Stay because you are home!

We require a contribution of any size from each of our readers on an annual basis to remain on the mailing list. If you are **poor**, just send a couple of dollars! You are not excluded from our mailing list because of inability to pay. If you wish to begin your subscription, or if you wish to continue your subscription, please fill out this form with your contribution. We are deeply appreciative of all contributions received. Checks and money orders may be made payable to "**Petah Tikvah.**" **Toda raba!** (Thank you very much!)

The suggested cost for each subscription is \$20.00 annually per subscriber. This covers only the cost of production and mailing. Please try to send your contributions in U.S. currency if at all possible. (You can also use your credit card on our **website**, with any of 21 different currencies.) U.S. contributions are tax-deductible.

We send out free subscriptions to inmates, and to those in Third World countries, who cannot pay the cost of subscriptions. Prisoners must write a letter at least once every 10 months requesting us to renew their subscriptions. Subscriptions to inmates are free. However, we ask that prison inmates send **4 postage stamps** or a money order for \$2.00 for postage for their subscriptions. We depend upon you, our readers, to meet our many needs. Contributions are **tax-deductible**. Please fill out the form below, or simply write to us!

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- ☐ Please stop sending **Petah Tikvah** to me.
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Petah Tikvah

Make copies for friends!

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Petah Tikvah ~

Shalom! I am writing to update my address once again. I am now in a medical facility. Your publication is a light in my time of incarceration, and I look forward to receiving it again. I am scheduled for another surgery. Reading your studies helped me to keep my spirits up during that time, and I pray that they will do it again as I get closer to my surgery. Thank you for all that you do. My donation is enclosed.

Derick Moore, Lexington KY

"Whereas the Greeks believed in the holiness of beauty, Jews believe in *hadrat kodesh*, the beauty of holiness."

Quote from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, *zt"l*
Former Chief Rabbi of Great Britain.

Shalom ~

Rabbi Richard... Please send me your awesome calendar for the price of a bag of peanuts. Thank you! I heard it said that this phrase came when grave diggers were paid with actual bags of peanuts!

Jeremiah Cross, MICHIGAN

Editor's Comment: I don't know if the above item is true, but it is a pretty good story! Centuries ago, it was common to use barter items instead of currency. Salt was a common barter item, since it was so necessary as a preservative and flavoring agent. However, I prefer currency to being paid in peanuts.

Shalom Rav Chaimberlin ~

Enclosed are stamps for Rod Tucker's calendar. My Aunt and Uncle Simcha and Gidon Hawley just returned from a trip to Eastern Europe with other Jews, touring Shoah (Holocaust) locations.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

First day of Sukkot (Booths): Sept 30

8th Day of Sukkot (Shemini Atzeret):

Oct 7. This is also the day in which Simchat Torah is celebrated in Israel. Orthodox Jews in Diaspora celebrate Simcha Torah (Rejoicing of the Torah) on October 8th.

Each holy day begins at sunset the previous evening and ends at sunset 24 hours later.

First day of Chanukah: Dec 8

Eighth day of Chanukah: Dec 15

Chanukah (Feast of Dedication) is a holiday, not a Holy Day. Normal work can be done on Chanukah.

Our kehillah continues to grow both numerically and in maturity. I am still doing my studies via the UMJA Yeshiva. Yah bless you!

Steven Purvis, Ralford FL

Shalom ~

I am requesting your Shabbat siddur (Jewish Basics), calendar, and a subscription to **PT**. When I first got to Marianna, my cellmate let me read his siddur and your magazine. I soon celebrated my first Day of Atonement and gave

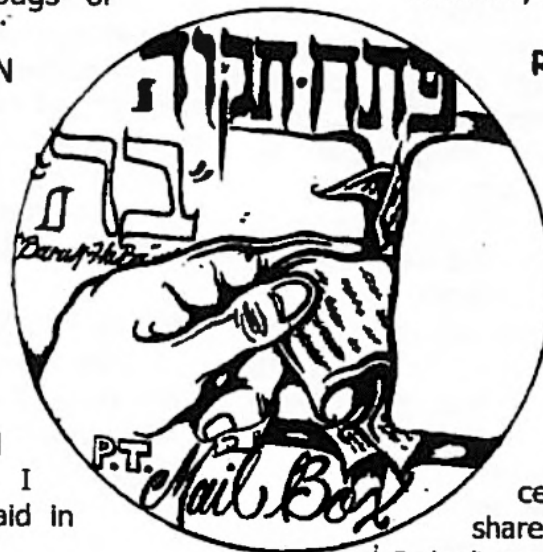
up pork. I now attend the Messianic services each Erev Shabbat (Friday evening).

I was raised Roman Catholic, but I felt something was missing. Then I started learning more about the Hebrew Roots, and I craved more. John Costello, Marianna FL

Howdy Rick, Miriam, and all ~

I pray this finds y'all happy and healthy. Thank you for your excellent publication and all the wealth of knowledge you provide. I am enclosing a donation for the calendar. Thank you for everything you do for us who are hungry for true knowledge.

Mark Weyand, Chowchilla CA



Rav Chaimberlin ~

Shalom aleikha, and toda raba for your contribution to the Messianic community. We value your commitment to share His word and news of interest through your magazine. There are several inmates here who receive **Petah Tikvah**. They share their issues with me, so

I don't personally subscribe, saving you some money. I only have 5 months remaining on my sentence, and I will subscribe when I return to society. You have been an inspiration and a treasure.

Gary Feraudo, Ralford FL

Shalom Brother Richard ~

Please send me the 5784 calendar. Thank y'all very much. Pray for the Sabbatarian services here on Coffield. It has split into 3 groups. The 'Reform' group split off months ago. Then 'Sacred Name' extremists took over the primary service, which caused the Messianic people to form their own group. It is heartbreaking to see so much division.

Thanks much for the commentaries that you sent to me. I've enjoyed reading them.

Matthew King, Tenn Colony TX

Editor's Note: We have also experienced hemorrhaging with our Petah Tikvah fellowship. We lost people because we don't believe various conspiracy theories, and we lost others who were taken away by First Fruits of Zion theology. We also lost people because we didn't go along with Donald Trump's election denials.¹ These people were very much on board with the theological teachings at Petah Tikvah, and we were all good friends. HaSatan, the Adversary, has been successful in causing division. Pray for us as well. However, we are blessed by our readers around the world. Thanks much for your encouragement.

Daniel Botkin shared this about a complaint he received in his Gates of Eden publication:

"I got some complaints about my cartoon of the paranoid conspiracy guy.² One angry woman wrote me a letter telling me, among other things, that today's Jews were 'made up' by the Rothschilds in the 1800s, that there is no such thing as Covid, that the Queen of England had been dead for years, that an imposter posing as the queen was really a man. She also complained about my Rev. Twistruth cartoons... She told me to remove her name

¹ We didn't vote for Biden. We strongly disagree with Biden's LGBTQ agenda. However, Biden won both the popular vote as well as the electoral college vote in the 2020 elections, so he is our president. That's how it works in a democracy. It is the votes that count, not lawyers with briefcases or the actions of Insurrectionists. We almost lost our democracy on January 6, 2021.

² We published that same cartoon in **Petah Tikvah** (Vol. 41, No. 1, page 48). We thought it was hilarious!

from the mailing list, which I cheerfully did. Ironically, this cranky, joyless woman is named **Joy**."

Smaller Jewish Calendars

Rod Tucker has produced an amazing little 16-month 8.5 x 11 inch Jewish calendar which contains all of the information that we have in our large, full-color 13-month Jewish calendars. All the parashot (weekly readings of the Torah, Haftara, and even N.T. portions). The Biblical Holy Days and holidays are listed as well as all the Gregorian and Jewish dates. The fonts are very easy to read. The only things lacking are photos of Israel.

Most prisons in Ohio, North Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia do not allow inmates to have the large calendars that we have been offering for decades. However, the smaller calendars that Rod Tucker produced are allowed. Rod gave us full permission to reproduce these calendars for whoever would like one: 4 stamps for inmates, \$4 for those not in prison. Free S&H. Send all requests for these calendars to us at **Petah Tikvah**.

Passover Haggadah

Rod Tucker also produced an excellent **Passover Haggadah**, which is used for conducting a Passover seder. This is useful for anyone, not just inmates. It includes the Hebrew blessings, as well as English translations. This is available to inmates for 4 stamps, \$4 for all others, no charge for S&H. Send all requests for this Haggadah to us at **Petah Tikvah**.

Shalom Rav Rick & Miriam ~

I have been reading **Petah Tikvah** for many years. I was keeping the old issues to read over and over. In May I was transferred to Represa CA. However, when I got here, about 10 of my Petah Tikvahs were taken away. In late June, I received the July—Sept issue of PT, and I read it cover to cover several times. I am sending you part of my tithes to help you with the cost of production. I am ordering your commentaries on Hebrews, Revelation, and your calendar. I need it so I can read the Torah portion for each week.

David Noriega, Represa CA

Adapting to Climate Change

Richard 'Aharon' Chaimberlin

According to all the reports I have heard, July 2023 was the hottest July on record, along with many heat records broken around the world. The ocean off the coast of Florida reached 101 degrees Fahrenheit, which broke another record.

There have also been massive record-breaking forest fires in North America, which led to dangerous smoke days from these fires, including where we live in Rochester. Europe also has been burning. Other parts of the world have seen record-breaking torrential rain falls, with massive flooding. We are also witnessing more unusual storms, tornadoes, and hurricanes. Other places have been experiencing record-breaking droughts year after year. Glaciers have been melting at a record pace, including glaciers in Greenland, Antarctica, the Alps/ Ice reflects much sunlight back into space. Less ice leads to more of the sun's heat being absorbed by Planet Earth.

This doesn't mean that there won't be more bitter cold days. There will still be bone-chilling blizzards. However, the overall trend each decade has been a gradual warming taking place around the world, being aggravated by human civilization dumping more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. I doubt that enough changes in our habits can be made to reverse these trends.

I have heard it said that human beings are very adaptable, and can also adapt to changes in the climate. That is true. People live on this planet in deserts and tropical heat, as well as in the Arctic. There are also scientists adapting quite well to the Antarctic. There is even talk of establishing colonies on the Moon and Mars, which are much more inhospitable than Antarctica. Not me. I happen to like Earth.

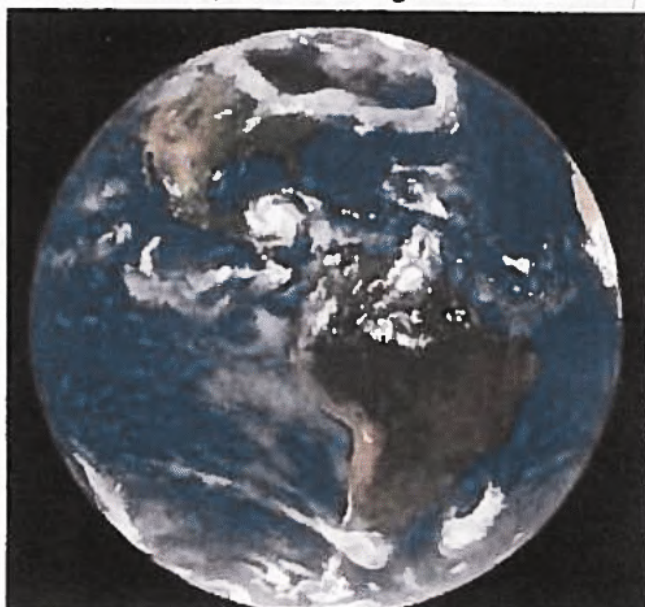
There are also other creatures that seem to adapt well. There are eagles in Alaska, and I saw them in Florida. I have seen possums in Canada, and also saw one in Colombia, South America. There is one other critter that is very adaptable. If you drop a frog into a pot of hot water, he will immediately jump out of it. However, if you put him into a pot of cool water, he will happily remain there. Then you can gradually heat the water, and Froggy will adjust to the warmer water, not noticing the change. Eventually poor Froggy will find himself thoroughly cooked, ready for some Frenchman to come along and eat him.



"I better get out of here before I croak."

Although humans are very adaptable, there is a limit as to how much we humans can adapt. We are very much like Froggy in the picture above. He adapted quite well, but there was a limit as to how far he could adapt. There are other creatures on this planet that are very specialized, and cannot adapt very well to changes in the environment. We are witnessing the deaths of corals. Coral reefs look like plants, but are actually animals that provide habitat to many other critters of the sea. Warming oceans and lakes are harming life in the waters of this planet. I fear many extinctions of both plants and animals created by God, many of which are essential to the ecology of Planet Earth, and for the benefit of us humans.

I don't know about you, but I like this planet, and have no desire to live on another planet. God will "destroy those who destroy the Earth" (Revelation 18:11b). God has given mankind a wonderful world. I suggest that we take care of it, a wonderful gift from God.



Hi Rick & Miriam ~

Thank you for the calendar. Your commentary on Matthew is great! The lockdown is near over. Messianic services may resume next week. The older I get, the more I see how much I have to learn. I don't get it. I knew everything years ago. 😊 I am now enclosing 19 stamps for all for **Petah Tikvah** issues from 2015, as well as the Shabbat siddur.

Valerie Carter, Hawkinsville GA

Editor's Note: Back issues of PT from various years are available as mentioned on the left hand side of page 2. Valerie now has all of the issues of PT dating back to 2015. The information doesn't grow old! **RAC**

Question about Chavrusa

Shalom Rick ~

It is said that the chavrusa method of study came from Rabbinical Judaism. Do you know if this method existed during the time of Yeshua. And is there a Biblical base of chavrusa? Ruth Abrams, SURINAME, S.A.

Our Reply: Chavrusa is the preferred method in Rabbinic Judaism for small groups of talmidim (students) to get together for studying Talmud. During Yeshua's time, Talmud was still the so-called "Oral Law," not yet written down. The Talmud wasn't written down until after the year 400 CE, and it would be over a thousand more years before the Talmud was produced on the printing press. I suppose it is possible, but not likely, that small groups got together to study the Oral Law in Yeshua's time. Once the Talmud was more easily accessible in printed form, it would then be more accessible for chavrusa study.

Usually, this type of study would be just two talmidim bouncing their ideas off of each other, although it can be as many as five. There might be several chavrusas taking place in the same room in a yeshiva. We visited one such yeshiva in Tiberias on one of our Israel trips in the late 1990s. The debates that these young men had regarding certain Talmudic passages were sometimes very animated and even loud. I didn't understand all the language being used, but it didn't seem friendly as they called each other names.



However, they would walk out of the yeshiva with their arms on each other's shoulders, the best of friends. I don't think I could do that with folks at Petah Tikvah. But when reading Talmud, you can read these great rabbinic scholars insulting each other with serious disagreements.

This was typical of Jewish debate in Yeshua's time as well. Yeshua used very strong language against some of

the scribes and Pharisees. And

Pharisees also used similarly harsh language with each other. Judaism is not monolithic. Sharp differences often occur in Orthodox Judaism. However, you can disagree strongly with somebody and still love them. The "cancel culture" didn't exist then like we see it today. Today political (and other) differences separate friends, families, and congregations. This is very unfortunate. Just as in a chavrusa (also called chavruta), you can learn from people that you disagree with. There is much more to learn about chavrusa. You might want to try an internet search. **RAC**

To Whom It May Concern ~

I am ordering your commentaries on Revelation and Hebrews, as well as the Jewish calendar with a little extra as a donation.

The kindness and generosity that your organization shows to the incarcerated, such as myself, is much appreciated. Thank you very much! Your calendar and reading materials are a God send of renewed hope, and a constant reminder of God's love for all his children. The smiley face on the envelope from last year's calendar gave me great joy, to know that a smile came along with the calendar. That type of personal touch is what Messiah's love is all about.

Fermin Olano, Vacaville CA

Dear Door of Hope ~

Thank you for your publication. I don't have a subscription. I read the issues of **Petah Tikvah** from others who are subscribers. It isn't necessary for you to use up your resources for someone who already has access to your publication. Thank you so much for all of the wonderful insights. Enclosed is a small donation for a calendar.

Robert Thompson, Canon City CO

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

Please renew my subscription to **Petah Tikvah**. We read it cover to cover when it comes in the mail. Please use the balance for the inmates.

Nancy Beauseigneur, PENNSYLVANIA

Editor's Note: We very

much appreciate it when our readers include extra funds for the prison ministry. We believe in miracles, but perhaps the greatest miracle is changed lives. When you remember the inmates in this fashion, you are contributing to changing lives.

"Remember those who are prisoners, as if bound with them, and them who are mistreated, since you also are in the body."

Hebrews 13:3

Shalom Richard ~

You might remember me from a few years ago when I was in prison. My subscription ended, but I had about ten mags to read over again and to absorb all the great info you provide. I've been out of prison for over a year, and working full time. It was tough being in prison, but all is well now.

I was never a criminally-minded person. Just a spontaneous event let me to prison. Someone attacked me, and I pulled a gun. I was carrying the gun because I was suicidal and planned on ending my life.

Thanks, Richard. I brag on you are one of the few Messianic Jewish teachers/scholars that I appreciate and learn from.

Mark Anzalone, FLORIDA

Petah Tikvah ~

I knew about you guys and the magazine through an inmate at another prison. I photocopied about 215 pages of your magazines at the prison library, but now I am seeking my own subscription. I also seek your calendar with the Torah reading schedule. When I was at the other yard, by fellow Jewish brothers had everything organized, so I didn't need the schedule. But now I am by myself. I do my own Shabbat service and prayers in my own room.

Daniel Diaz, Douglas AZ

Dear Rav Chaimberlin ~

Your magazine continues to be my main source of teaching, along with the Bible. I left the "Mes-

sianic" community here. They consider anyone to be 'Messianic' if he believes in 'Jesus.' Then he can change his religious preference and join the party. They then get special foods for the Holy Days. Consequently, I have joined the local Jewish community, so I can actually practice my faith. Five other believers in Yeshua have also joined the non-Messianic Jewish group. The Jewish men recognize my kavanah and accept me.

James Doyle, Tampa FL

Dear Rav ~

The Bible says that God will have an heir of King David on the throne of Israel. Israel currently does not have a king. But how can they know who David's heir would be if they do not currently have a king? Bettye Peterson, TEXAS

OUR REPLY: Religious Jews do indeed believe that a descendant of David will eventually be both king and Messiah on David's throne. They got both things right. However, what they might not be expecting is that Yeshua, a descendant of David, will be that King and Messiah. He will rule the entire world from Jerusalem, which will be both the capital of Israel and the world.

Shalom to Petah Tikvah ~

Please note our new postal address:

Be'ad Chaim, Aggripas 42
Jerusalem 9430125, ISRAEL

Note to our readers: Be'ad Chaim is an Israel-based Messianic Jewish pro-life organization saving many lives of Jew-

ish babies every year by giving aid and comfort to pregnant women who often seek abortions because of financial struggles. In recent year, the cost of living in Israel has skyrocketed, especially housing costs. **RAC**

On the Lighter Side:

Lena said to Abe one night, "When we were younger, you used to nibble on my ear." As Abe got up to leave the room, Lena asked, "Where are you going?" Abe replied, "Into the bedroom to get my teeth."



Mezuzah, Deuteronomy 6:9.
Art by Roger Kinnerson, ILL

'Pee-Wee Herman' Dead at 70. His Father Was an IAF Pilot

By David Israel, www.jewishpress.com



Jewish Actor Paul Reubens (Rubenfeld), known for creating and portraying the character Pee-wee Herman, passed away on July 30 at age 70 after a fight with cancer. His Pee-wee character was extremely popular with children and adults, and his show, "Pee-Wee's Playhouse," which received 15 Emmy Awards, was on TV Guide's list of the top ten cult classic television programs.

Reubens grew up in an Orthodox Jewish family in Sarasota, Florida, where his parents owned a lamp store. His mother was a teacher. According to Military.com, before World War II, Paul's father, Milton Rubenfeld, taught aerial acrobatics to pilots, and after Britain declared war on Nazi Germany, he joined the Royal Air Force. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Rubenfeld joined the US Army Air Forces.

Milton Rubenfeld was approached by representatives of the Haganah in 1948, which was looking for Jewish pilots with combat experience, to help create an Israeli air force. Rubenfeld began ferrying planes to Israel and was trained in Czechoslovakia to fly a fighter plane that was based on the Messerschmitt Bf 109. At that point, the IAF only had four warplanes. (Rubenfeld was called "the Giant Killer," so I assume he was a war hero. **RAC**)

Paul Reubens posted a posthumous message on Instagram, saying: "Please accept my apology for not going public with what I've been facing the last six years (cancer). I have always felt a huge amount of love and respect from my friends, fans, and supporters. I have loved you all so much and enjoyed making art for you."

A Courageous Chloe Cole Addresses Congress

New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms

On July 27, 2023, members of the U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government witnessed a modern-day profile in courage. At a hearing entitled "The Dangers and Due Process Violations of 'Gender-Affirming Care' for Children," 19-year-old Chloe Cole spoke about her experience as a detransitioner. (A detransitioner is a person who has begun or completed a so-called gender transition, but has chosen to stop the transition process or to reverse course and reclaim his or her true, biologically-based gender identity.)

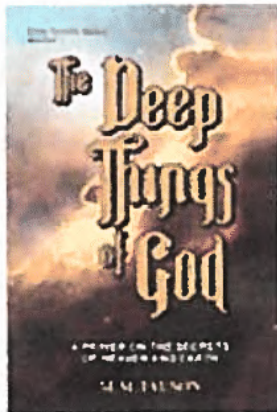
Cole testified that at age 12, she was uneasy about the changes to her body that were brought on by the onset of puberty. She was diagnosed with gender dysphoria, and she informed her parents that she was "transgender." According to Cole, she was taken to see a "gender specialist" who asked her parents, "Would you rather have a dead daughter or a living 'transgender' son?" Cole began taking puberty blockers and was placed on testosterone at age 13. She described the changes testosterone made to her voice, her physique, and her facial features. Cole then underwent a medically unnecessary double mastectomy when she was 15; she has lingering problems with the skin grafts associated with the procedure.

Cole made the key point that none of the "treatments" she underwent resolved the underlying issues that made her uncomfortable with her body in the first place. While she had not been suicidal prior to attempting a "gender transition," she did become suicidal after her mastectomy.

Now, Cole believes that her 12-year-old self needed compassion and therapy. Instead, she was "affirmed in [the] delusion" that a "gender transition" would solve her problems. She added, "We need to stop telling 12-year-olds that they were born wrong." Cole ended her testimony by saying, "My childhood was ruined... This needs to stop. You alone can stop it. Enough children have already been victimized by this barbaric pseudoscience. Please let me be your final warning."

New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms thanks Chloe Cole and the other brave detransitioners who are sharing their stories. No young person should go through what Chloe Cole has gone through, and the medical and psychiatric personnel who encourage minor patients and their families to pursue "transgenderism" must reverse course.

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A great miracle happened there!



Shalom ~

I've been in very dark place during the last couple of months. I was saved at the age of 12, but for the first time, at age 57, I know that the traditional church abandoned the faith that Yeshua created. So I'm in no-man's land when it comes to my faith. My family attends a Wesleyan church here, and I've decided not to attend with them. There are many times that the pastor says things that I know are not true. It annoys my wife when I whisper to her, "That's not true." Please remember me in prayer. David Purdy, NORTH CAROLINA

Shalom Rick & Miriam ~

I received your mail dated 5th of August, and today is the 18th.³ That's 13 days that it took to get to me. I'll quit complaining, when I'm dead. We now have tablet computers. I love Rabbi YY Jacobson on Yeshiva.net and youtube.com. Harley Roam, Ft Stockton TX

Howdy Rick, Miriam, and all ~

I pray this finds y'all doin' well. Thank you for your excellent publication and all the wealth of information you provide. Enclosed is a donation. Please also send the 5784 calendar. Mark Weyand, Chowchilla CA

Editor's Note: As of this time, we still have calendars left. However, I urge all who want calendars to order quickly. I am beginning to run low on calendar inventory. I might be able to order more from the printers, but it is iffy.

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

I am disappointed by your rhetoric against Donald Trump. You are quite wrong about Trump. You are very good for true Jewish history and philosophy, and we all very much enjoy your teachings and are much blessed to have you as our guiding rabbi. But please keep your opinions about #45 to yourself. We need to pray for DJT and hope that Yahweh used him to further his agenda with the Chosen People. Trump's Supreme Court nominees were an enormous victory. California just passed a bill where schools do not let parents know when their 9 or 10 year old child is doing a gender change.

Roman Malyk, Anchorage AK

³ Texas, North Carolina, and Florida prisons no longer allow letters or other personal mail to go directly to inmates. Instead, such mail goes to another address, sometimes in another state, where it is scanned and emailed to the inmate, adding at least a week to mailing times. **RAC**

OUR REPLY TO ROMAN MALYK

Yes, I am not a fan of Donald Trump. Trump is a RINO – Republican In Name Only. Real Republicans and conservatives of decades ago used to be fiscal conservatives. Admittedly, Barak Obama added **\$8.6 trillion dollars** to the Federal Deficit during his 8 years in office. However, Donald Trump added **\$8.18 trillion dollars** to the deficit during just 4 years in office. In other words, Obama added a little over **\$1 trillion** dollars to the deficit for each year in office, while Trump added a little over **\$2 trillion** dollars for each year in office to the deficit, about twice as much as Obama. Source: www.thebalancemoney.com

Real Republicans decades ago used to believe in family values. Bill Clinton got hit hard while in office for his affair with Monica Lewinski. Republicans correctly said, "Character matters." Trump comes along and brags about his numerous affairs "with supposedly happily married women." He is either a liar, or is very immoral. He also had an affair with a porn actress. Apparently, character doesn't matter when it comes to Trump. Clinton was a saint by comparison, and was embarrassed by his affair with Lewinski.

When Trump was running for president in 2016, he repeatedly attacked Hillary Clinton for using her private cellphone for government communications. Trump called it a security breach. Trump rallies repeatedly shouted, "Lock 'er up." Five years later, Trump got caught with a large truckload of classified documents in his Mara Lago estate which he had illegally ferreted out of the White House and which he refused to give up. Apparently, security violations do not matter when it comes to Trump. Hillary's offense was extremely minor compared to Trump.

I am extremely grateful to Donald Trump for what he accomplished for Israel, including moving our embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, recognizing Israel's annexation of the Golan, and vastly improving Israel's relations with her Arab neighbors as well as with other Islamic countries. However, in late 2022, he had a friendly dinner with neo-Nazi Nick Fuentes and rabid antisemite Kanya West at his Mara Lago resort.

I am grateful to Donald Trump for getting good justices on the Supreme Court as well as various other federal courts. In June 2023, the Supreme Court decided that it is unconstitutional to force Christian marriage website designers, florists, and bakers to use their talents for same-sex couples celebrating same-sex marriages.

Real Republicans used to believe in the rule of law and the United States Constitution. Trump refused to admit that he lost the 2020 election, even though he lost by over 7 million votes and numerous court challenges in various states and lost them all. Then, as Instigator-in-Chief, he launched the insurrection of the US Capitol building on January 6, 2021. That is treason. **RAC**

Hello Rick & Miriam ~

I visited your fellowship on Sabbath about ten years ago. I was preparing to move again, and as I sorted through my things, I found the **Petah Tikvah** magazine you graciously gave to me. To this day, I cherish the memory of that short time with you, and wish that there were more folks like you where I now live in North Carolina. The few hours I spent with you were a welcome glass of cold water in the desert wasteland I was experiencing. I still live with despair, but I appreciate little oases of happiness like the fellowship I experienced with both of you. It is so good to see your webpage www.petahtikvah.com is still running.

David Purdy, NORTH CAROLINA

Rab Richard 'Aharon' Chaimberlin ~

Thank you for the latest issue of **Petah Tikvah**. As usual, your commentaries exceed the common cookie cutter articles that are approached with no serious depth.

Your Middle East articles cover items hidden by most of the media. This is sheltering of information that slants in favor of Israel's provocateurs. Joe Tenorio, Huntsville TX

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

One of my Messianic brothers shared one of your magazines with me this week. I absolutely love it! I was excited to find that you guys have calendars and commentaries as well. I am writing to subscribe to your magazine and to obtain your calendar, as well as your commentary on Revelation. I appreciate that you offer your literature to inmates.

Caleb Rains, Lumberton NC

Rav Richard Chaimberlin ~

I was recently referred to this religion by the pastor of my county jail. We were having a heated conversation (I was the one who was heated) about Christianity and Paul, and the lack of Torah's teachings in modern-day churches and lifestyles.

He asked if I had heard of Messianic Judaism, which I had not. Then he sent me a copy of your **Petah Tikvah**, and I was astonished! I absolutely love it. I love the content, the context, and the Hebrew references on the words. The chaplain told me that God might be calling me toward Messianic Judaism, and I think he may be right. I'm not asking for anything, other than for you to keep on keeping on! Thanks, man! Nick Shroads, Greeley CO

Shalom Rav Chaimberlin ~

I didn't receive the new **Petah Tikvah**, so I am enclosing a money order for \$____. This prison does not allow us to send stamps.

I'm grieving the loss of my mother who died just three days after my birthday. I was able to sit shiva for her. We had a minyan in our Messianic Jewish prayer group and said the kaddish prayer for her. It has been hard losing her, but I know I will see her again in the Olam Haba.⁴ But it is still hard, not being able to hear her laugh. She was so proud when I told her I was accepted in the United Messianic Jewish Ministries⁵ yeshiva.

I will be doing a teaching on Law and Grace in our Messianic Jewish group. Way too many teachers say that Grace replaces Law. They do not understand Matthew 5:17-19 and John 5:17. Twistianity is engraved in them. I call it Twistianity because they remind me of the Rev. Twistruth cartoons of Daniel Botkin that you publish. They twist the clear teachings of the Bible to fit their theology.

John Johnson, Lisbon OH

Dear Rick, Miriam, and Tzippy ~

Tzippy the cat is so adorable. It makes me smile when I open your publication and see all of you smiling at me! Toda raba for another wonderful edition of your publication. Words cannot express how much it edifies me and lifts my spirits.

I really enjoyed your comment, "The Scriptural Ideal is that the Gentile should be grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree of Romans 11. Regrettably, for centuries the Gentiles have been trying to graft the Jewish people into the Gentile Christmas tree." So funny and so true!

I am enclosing a small donation, as well as stamps for your copies of Rod Tucker's Passover Haggadah and a copy of your Sabbath siddur.

Michael Seibert, Miami FL

Shalom Rav Rick ~

Toda raba for your outreach ministry outreach to those of us who are incarcerated. Your love has a profound influence on us all.

It is refreshing to read exactly what my belief is, and who Yeshua truly is, and what it meant when Yeshua told the world that He did not come to destroy the Law (Torah), but to fulfill (uphold) the Law, and gave us an example for us to follow. As a fairly new convert to Messianic Judaism, your publication has been a light and guiding hand to me and many others in my walk of faith who are touched by your articles.

Sylvio 'Yoseph' King

⁴ The "World to Come."

⁵ 28338 Holly Run Dr, Carrsville VA 23315

The Bummer Lamb

Author Unknown

Every once in a while, a ewe will give birth to a lamb and reject it. There are many reasons she may do this. If the lamb is returned to the ewe, the mother may even kick the poor animal away. Once a ewe rejects one of her lambs, she will never change her mind.

These little lambs will hang their heads so low that it looks like something is wrong with its neck. Their spirit is broken. These lambs are called "bummer lambs." Unless the shepherd intervenes, that lamb will die, rejected and alone. So, do you know what the shepherd does?



He takes that rejected little one into his home, hand-feeds it and keep it warm by the fire. He will wrap it up with blankets and hold it to his chest so the bummer can hear his heartbeat. Once the lamb is strong enough, the shepherd will place it back in the field with the rest of the flock.

But that sheep never forgets how the shepherd cared for him when his mother rejected him. When the shepherd calls for the flock, guess who runs to him first?

That is right, the bummer sheep. He knows his voice intimately. It is not that the bummer lamb is loved more, it just knows intimately the one who loves it.

It's not that it is loved more, it just believes it because it has experienced that love one on one. So many of us are bummer lambs, rejected and broken. But He is the good Shepherd. He cares for our every need and holds us close to His heart so we can hear His heartbeat. We may be broken but we are deeply loved by the Shepherd.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of

righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." ~ Psalm 23

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt Enacts Women's Bill of Rights

By Ryan Foley, Christian Post Reporter

The governor of Oklahoma has signed an executive order establishing a Women's Bill of Rights as concerns about the impact of trans ideology on fairness and privacy for women continue.

Oklahoma's Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt announced on August 8th that he had signed an executive order establishing a Women's Bill of Rights in his state. He began his executive order by noting the significance of Title IX, legislation passed to ensure equal opportunities for women and girls in education, including sports. Stitt warned, "Today, radical gender ideologues threaten the hard-fought progress won by women and girls in our society."

Stitt stressed that his state had enacted a Save Women's Sports Act requiring athletes to compete on sports teams that align with their biological sex as opposed to their stated gender identity, adding: "More remains to be done to counter the regression of women's rights in this country." According to Stitt, "There are definitional, practical, and material differences between the sexes that have implications for our law in Oklahoma."

Stitt cited his executive order as necessary to "provide clarity, certainty, and uniformity to administrative actions and rules." Specifically, it implements a uniform definition for the word "female" as a "person whose biological reproductive system is designed to produce ova" and a universal definition for the term "male" to refer to "a person whose biological reproductive system is designed to fertilize the ova of a female."

The order clarifies that the terms "woman" and "girl" shall only apply to biological females while "man" and "boy" shall only apply to biological males. In addition to defining "mother" and "father" as female and male parents of a child, respectively, it unveils a definition of "sex" as based on a person's reproductive characteristics as determined at birth...

If your faith is leading you to militancy, it is *not the Spirit of Yeshua*. If you look at every final word Jesus shared with his disciples, *none of them had to do with waging violent warfare to extend the faith*.

With more and more Christian/political rallies (and more to come as we get closer to 2024), it would be a good time to read the words of Yeshua regarding how we live and oppose evil. When we mix the true gospel with politics (on the left or right), we get a Franken-gospel.

If your faith is leading you to militancy, it is not the Spirit of Jesus. If you look at every final word Jesus shared with his disciples, none of them had to do with waging violent warfare to extend the faith. (That does not mean there cannot be a just war — but that would come from your duty as a citizen, not your faith expression. And then, your goal would be to be a witness to everyone around you in how you conduct yourself.) With more and more Christian/political rallies (and more to come as we get closer to 2024), it would be a good time to read the words of Jesus regarding how we live and oppose evil. When we mix the true gospel with politics (on the left or right), we get a Franken-gospel. Just as "Rev" Al Sharpton used the gospel to push a leftwing political agenda, the right is capable of doing the same.

Yeshua's last words of instruction to his talmidim (disciples) were about...

Going into all the world.

Making disciples.

Immersing these disciples.

But first, go to Jerusalem.

Wait for the Holy Spirit to empower you.

(See Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8)

Imagine you lean to hear the dying words of a friend as he or she summons strength. Maybe it is a parent or a mentor. You would be shocked if their final words were not significant. Which is why we must understand that Yeshua's final instructions are valid today; they are our primary task.

Yeshua left; he didn't overthrow

Why did Yeshua leave? Think about this: Yeshua had the power to bring a revolution but didn't. He could have overthrown Rome but chose another path. When the disciples asked him about restoring Israel (which would have included overthrowing Rome), he told them not to worry about that but to focus on being

Are You Following a Franken-gospel?

by www.RonCantor.com

witnesses of the gospel to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). That remains our task. But many have gotten sidetracked by conspiracy theories, calls for revolution, and politics. Some have even called for violence in the name of Jesus.

When Peter tried to use his sword, Yeshua rebuked him. When someone says you better fight for your country, remind them that you fight on your knees—in prayer. Your enemy is not flesh and blood, but dark principalities and powers (Eph. 6:12). When they ask if you are on the left or the right, you say, "I serve the commander of the army of the Lord" (Jos. 5).

God has his own agenda, and that is to reach the world with the gospel. God never called us to save "America," but he did call us to save "Americans" (Or at least let them know how they can be saved). We are to strive to win the souls of men, not nation-states. That being said, I do believe that America has a great calling and that God has used America to spread democracy, promote world missions and support Israel. But when people use the gospel message or the person of Jesus as a rallying cry to fight or revolt, they are misusing the gospel and creating a Franken-gospel. They are putting themselves and others in danger of judgment.

Fear the Lord before you use his Name

Just over a year ago, a "prophet" posted a veiled call to uprising and ended his rant with the words, "In Jesus's name." I saw it shortly after he posted it (by chance), and I cringed... He was merging his political opinions and outrage with the cause of the gospel. That night, he died. Think about that: his last public words were to use the most precious name there ever has been to promote political violence and division. Why did he die? It is not for me to say, and I will not pass judgment—but it puts the fear of the Lord in me. Some might think, "But what about this...and that..."

I understand. The cultural issues our world faces are serious. I am deeply concerned about wokeism, cancel culture, transgenderism and how schools are pushing this on families. And in a democracy, everyone is supposed to have a voice. We should use ours. There is a huge difference between challenging your school council and calling for Mike Pence to be hanged.

But let's go back to the New Testament. Can anyone show me in the New Testament where Yeshua expects his disciples to fight for

a nation-state in his name? Is there ever a call to arms or war for the cause of the gospel? The answer is "no." At least, not that I can see.

Some are hosting "Christian" rallies to Save America, but many speakers are not even known to be believers. One speaker declared "preachers need to 'put aside the Bible and read the Constitution' during their sermons." These rallies do not express the unconditional love of God or God's broken heart for lost Americans but stoke anger and hatred against one's political opponents. Only Yeshua can save America, and it will not be through hate, mocking, or misusing Yeshua's name.

[This is where I need to make it clear that I think believers should be involved in politics. What is the point of having a democracy if you are not going to let your voice be heard? I absolutely think that believers should run for office and be part of the political process. But, while we are doing that, we need to remember who we represent. We are to be salt and light and express God's love throughout the political process. If God calls you to politics, it is to be a witness for Yeshua to those around you, as well as seek change on political/social issues.]

Don't be a Zealot

During the time of Yeshua, there were nationalistic Jewish groups. They were absolutely convinced that God wanted them to fight against Rome so the kingdom could be restored to Israel. They were called Kania'im or Zealots. They knew they were outnumbered but believed God was on their side. Yeshua, on the other hand, constantly resisted when people wanted to force his hand. He said his kingdom was not of this world—because it's a spiritual kingdom. In John 6, they wanted to make him king (v. 15), but he would have none of it! Yes, he will one day return as a warrior king (Zech. 14:3-4), but until then, we have no New Testament commission to take up arms for ideology or religion. It has never worked in church history. Study the 30 Years War, where eight million Christians were killed by other Christians, or the Crusades, which was Christian Jihad, or the Inquisition, where Jews were forced into baptism or kicked out of the country (or tortured and killed **RAC**).

The ecclesia is not a nation-state or an earthly empire. It is an unseen kingdom. Less than 100 years after Rome embraced Christianity, many Christians thought the Roman Empire was the New Jerusalem. When Rome fell, so did their faith, because they wrongly

believed a country or empire could be the Kingdom of God.

What happened to the Zealots?

The Zealots? They all died. They were wrong. God did not defend them, and they were not fighting his battle. When you hear people saying this politician should hang and this politician should be shot, **run!** That is Zealot-ism and not of the Spirit...

But once we embrace the idea of violence to impose an agenda, we are in danger of losing the democracy. The good news is that the gospel can survive, and even thrive, in both a democracy and a dictatorship. Communism tried to kill it in the Former Soviet Union, but the moment the Iron Curtain fell, revival broke out all over Russia, Ukraine, and other states.

The gospel prospers in China and India despite persecution. It was Tertullian who wrote, during a time when Rome was trying to stamp out Christianity by killing believers, that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.

I don't know what the next election cycle is going to bring, but it would not be shocking if some try to use the message of Jesus to promote a civil conflict (Some already are!). We must be on our guard. We are not zealots. We are Spirit-filled witnesses to the unseen kingdom of God and the resurrection of Yeshua. Feel free to respond, but make an argument from Scripture. Bless you!

Footnote: these are the hardest blogs to write, because people tend to read fast and take words out of context. That is why there are many disclaimers and clarifications. This is a very sensitive, but extremely important, issue for our day. We should be in prayer together.

[1] William J. Larkin Jr., *Acts*, vol. 5, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series (Westmont, IL: IVP Academic, 1995), Ac 1:6-11.

**I ♥
NY...
...but
jerusalem
☆ is home**

Jews of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Remembered in Poland, 80 Years after Their Deaths

Julie Stahl www2.cbn.com

During the summer of 1942, the Germans deported close to 300,000 Jews and sent them to the death camp at Treblinka. At a ceremony in Warsaw in March, Israeli President Isaac Herzog poignantly read the words of one Jewish victim:

"The end of the road. Calmly, I calculate, it is now 2:00 p.m. I look at the clear April skies. Come nightfall, we will be taken to Treblinka. When dawn breaks, I will no longer be alive. It's a simple calculation: this is the last time I am seeing the blue skies between the clouds." Herzog concluded, "Today, exactly eight decades later, I think about that anonymous Jew. I look at the skies, like he did. The same cloudy April skies. And the pain pierces my heart."

After the ghetto deportation, Jews saw what they were likely to face, so those who remained decided to fight. They began to secretly build bunkers, smuggle weapons and train for the right moment.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began on April 19, 1943, when the surviving residents refused to surrender to the police commander, who then ordered the ghetto to be destroyed. For nearly a month, the Jews fought a battle knowing they would not win.

In the end, 13,000 Jews died in the uprising; about half burned alive or suffocated. It would become the largest single Jewish revolt during World War II.

In the April ceremony, Herzog read another passage written by a Jewish woman, Zivia Lubetkin, who helped lead the uprising, survived, and later moved to British Mandatory Palestine:

"It was clear to us that we had no chance of victory, in the usual sense of the word. But we knew that at the end of the day, we would emerge victorious. We are the weak ones. But our strength lay in this: we believed in justice. We believed in humanity."

Herzog reflected on their stand, noting, "Zivia Lubetkin and her comrades were right, and doubly so. Most of the warriors of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising did not survive. But their spirit, the spirit of man, won here, on this soil, sanctified with the blood of our heroic brethren."

Today, some 700 Jews remain in Warsaw, a small fraction of the population. In the annual April memorial ceremony, Herzog called it

"the emblem of heroism during humanity's darkest hour."

He continued, "Here – at this place where we gather – stood the ghetto: cramped, bustling, and bursting with life. Nearby was the 'collection point,' or *Umschlagplatz*. It was there that the fate of 300,000 Polish Jews was sealed: children, the elderly, women, and men who were deported to the Treblinka Death Camp. When I close my eyes, I can see the brave warriors of the revolt, the members of the Jewish Combat Organization and the Jewish Military Union, the few hundred souls who faced the thousands of Nazi soldiers who stormed the ghetto to annihilate them."

For the first time, a German head of state, President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, participated in the ceremony that's been held since 1948. Steinmeier stated, "I stand before you today and ask for your forgiveness for the crimes committed here by Germans." He added that, as a German and the country's president, it was difficult to be there.

"The terrible crimes that Germans committed here fill me with profound shame," he said. "Here in this square, by the memorial to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, I stand before you in grief and humiliation. I affirm our responsibility for the crimes of the past and our responsibility for our shared future."

Although Israel, Germany and Poland still have their differences, Herzog, Steinmeier, and Polish President Andrej Duda shook hands in front of the monument to the ghetto heroes, a testimony to the bravery of the fighters and the power of reconciliation.

Shalom Rick & Miriam ~

All the way from Nova Scotia, just a note to say "Toda raba," especially for the great work you do in faithfully getting the Besorah³ out there into a dark world. This is a shining a great light into many lives. Darkness does not really exist. It is only the absence of light. You, Rick, have been shining that light.

David Harrington, Nova Scotia, **CANADA**

Editor's Note: Keep the good folks of Nova Scotia in prayer. They have had the unusual confluence of horrendous forest fires, followed by record flooding. We here in New York State did not have any forest fires. However, in the early part of the summer, we suffered dangerous smoke wafting in from the forest fires in the prairie provinces of Canada.

³ "Good News."

A Christmas Conversation

By Mary Adams Tweedy

"Have a wonderful Christmas," my friend enthused. "Yes, everyday is wonderful," I replied, "But I don't celebrate Christmas."

"Why? I thought you would especially want to show your appreciation for your dear Lord and Savior at this time," he exclaimed.

"That's just it," I replied. "I don't celebrate Christmas because of my deep love and respect for my Lord and Savior. You know that history and the Bible both make it clear that His birth was not on December 25th."

"Oh, I've heard all that," my friend responded, "but what difference does that really make?"

"Because, I replied, "December 25th was celebrated in honor of a very evil and pagan god long before the birth of the Savior.¹ The wreath, so much used at Christmas, was used then, also. It was sacred to Bacchus, the god of drunkenness and revelry. Also, the tree, giving of gifts,² and mistletoe at this time—the whole works were all part of that worship."

"Well," he answered, "all the more reason to put Jesus into it. Make something good come out of something bad."

"I don't believe that honors Jesus," I replied. "You know He says, 'My honor I will not give to another.'"

"Let's suppose you and I have a very special Jewish friend," I continue. "He has done more for us than we can ever repay."

We decide to do something to honor him, so I suggest that we have a birthday party for him. You agree to that but wonder when his birthday is.

"I don't know, so let's just have the celebration on Hitler's birthday," I reply. Hitler was the worst enemy that the Jews ever had. That way, we'll make something good out of something evil. And since we are using Hitler's birthday, we can decorate the room with swastikas. Let's really get into it."

"Our dear Jewish friend doesn't care much for material things, so we could just give presents to each other! Oh, we'll have a really

merry party! ... Now the question is, would our dear Jewish friend feel honored?"

My friend considered this, and gave this thoughtful reply:

"I have never thought of it that way before. You know, Jesus said those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and Truth. There just isn't any truth in the December 25th celebration, is there? This is something I really need to think about," he said as he slowly walked away.

Ukraine Finds Sexual War Crimes Where Russian Troops Ruled

By Carlotta Gall www.nytimes.com

Investigators have uncovered widespread evidence of abuse by Moscow's forces, including rape and forced nudity. Kremlin officials have repeatedly denied accusations of rights violations.

"We are finding this problem of sexual violence in every place that Russia occupied," said Ms. Sosonska, 33. "Every place: Kyiv region, Chernihiv region, Kharkiv region, Donetsk region and also here in Kherson region."

After months of bureaucratic and political delays, Ukrainian officials are gathering pace in documenting sexual crimes, which are prevalent and devastating in times of war but often remain hidden under layers of shame, stigma and fear.

"We found all types of cases of war crimes: rape, forced nudity, sexual torture" inflicted on men, women and children, Ms. Sosonska said. A pattern to the crimes is emerging, she added. "Now we see there is a line of war crimes in the Russian Army."

Victims ranged from older than 80 to as young as a 4-year-old girl forced to perform oral sex on a soldier, which is rape, the report said. It detailed more than a dozen cases involving gang rapes, family members forced to watch a relative being sexually assaulted and sexual violence against detainees.

The trauma is raw and inhibiting. Viktoriya, a 42-year-old woman in the Kyiv region, shakes when she describes how, in early March, Russian soldiers shot dead her neighbor and then hauled her and her neighbor's wife off to be raped. "The fear still remains," she said. "Sometimes when the electricity is out, I am seized by fear and I feel they could come back." She asked that only her first name be used and that her face not be photographed, as did several other women, for fear of reprisals by Russian forces. But the stigma and judgment of neighbors and acquaintances were also an abiding pain, she said.

¹ In the pagan worship of the Sun called Mithraism, Sunday, was the sacred day of the week. The **Catholic Encyclopedia** confirms the connection with sun worship, saying, "The well-known solar feast of *Natalis Invicti*" — the Nativity of the Unconquered Sun—"celebrated on 25 December, has a strong claim on the responsibility for our December date." Vol. 3, page 727.

² See Jeremiah 10:3-4 and 3:20.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed a virtual conference of approximately 400 Evangelical Christian leaders in September hosted by Mike Evans, the founder of Friends of Zion.¹

"I'm a great champion of devout Christians because devout Christians are the greatest champions of the State of Israel," Netanyahu said. Netanyahu addressed a range of topics during his 21-minute address, including historic Christian Zionism that led to the Balfour Declaration and the foundation of the State of Israel.

He also spoke about his family's history of Zionism. Netanyahu's grandfather, Rabbi Nathan Mileikowsky, was a Zionist political activist, rabbi, and writer. The Prime Minister's father was the scholar and academic Benzion Netanyahu. Netanyahu described how President Eisenhower took inspiration from Benzion and the Jewish people. Netanyahu also discussed how, under his guidance, Israel has made alliances with some of its Arab neighbors.

"There's a very cruel rule, really a physics of politics, internationally and everywhere else, and that is that strength attracts weakness because if you're strong people will come to you," Netanyahu said. "We had to be strong, not only in our faith and in our resolve, but we also have to be strong in the material capacities that make a nation strong. The most important thing that you need for strength is a strong military. But a strong military requires a strong economy. I devoted a good deal of my time in office, as Prime Minister of Israel, to convert Israel from a semi-socialist economy to a free market capitalist economy. And once we did that, we had all the genius that is embedded in our people, the technological and scientific prowess to meet the forces of the market."

"And that created this great transformation of Israel into the startup nation into one of the preeminent powerhouses of technology in today's world." Netanyahu explained that this was the basis for the success of the Abraham Accords. "If you're strong, people will make peace with you. Nobody makes peace with the

Netanyahu: "Devout Christians are the Greatest Champions of the State of Israel"

Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz
www.israel365news.com

"For Zion's sake, I will not be silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet."
Isaiah 62:1

weak." Netanyahu also explained that the success of the Abraham Accords was that it sidestepped the Palestinians.

"It took a while to persuade people, even the previous administration, that we don't have to go through the Palestinians to get their consent to try to get peace with the broader world," Netanyahu said. "And that's what people were telling us for 25 years. They said, 'You can't go beyond the peace that we made with Egypt and with Jordan. You're not going to get to the broader Arab world if you don't make peace with the Palestinians.' The problem with that is that **the Palestinians don't want peace**. You know, they don't want peace with Israel. They want peace without us. They don't even want a state next to Israel. They want a state instead of Israel. So if we wait for them, we'll wait another quarter of a century, and we're still not going to get it."

Evans asked on behalf of his Christian listeners if it was safe to come visit Israel. The interview came during a period of increased tensions between Jews and Christians in Israel. "I heard two American friends talking," Netanyahu quipped. "And one of them said, 'Is it safe to go to Israel?' And the other answered, 'Well, you know, once you get past JFK Airport, it's fine.'" Netanyahu acknowledged that there were problems to be dealt with.

"But I can assure you it is safe," he said. "Those who've been to Israel know that when they come here, they're really embraced. I mean, you will find that there is a very small minority who doesn't share that view. We take very strong action against them because you are the greatest friends that the Jewish State has. I will never forget this and the vast majority of Israelis strongly agree with me, so please come to be safe. You'll be welcome."

Evans asked what the Christian community in the US could do at this time for Israel.

"Right now, the most important thing that you can do is to educate your younger generation, to infuse them with your faith, with your knowledge, with your heritage, with our common heritage, to tell them how important it is for history, for humanity, and for our Judeo Christian tradition. The revival though, the

¹ Friends of Zion, PO Box 30,000, Phoenix AZ 85046-0009.

return of the Jews to the Holy Land, and the reconstruction of an independent Jewish state, in the Jewish home, I think that's important. If I had to say what is the most important thing that you can do? Pass the torch."

Rabbi Elie Mischel, the Director of Education at Israel365, agreed with Netanyahu's high praise of Christian support for Israel. "Prime Minister Netanyahu is right that Evangelical Christians are Israel's best friends," Rabbi Mischel said. "Many Christian groups come to Israel to selflessly and humbly support the Jewish people." Rabbi Mischel added a disclaimer:

"That said, the Prime Minister did not mention the elephant in the room," Rabbi Mischel said. "The cause of the current tensions are Evangelical groups that actively engage in proselytizing Jews in Israel. Given the history of almost two millennia of Christian persecution of the Jewish people, this activity is deeply inappropriate and insulting to Jews across the spectrum, from right to left. To end Jewish-Christian tensions, the State of Israel must learn to distinguish between Christian organizations that love and respect the Jewish people, and those who are trying to convert us all to Christianity."

Josh Reinstein, the Director of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus and President of the Israel Allies Foundation, emphasized Christians are indeed major supporters of Israel.

"It is Christians, not countries, that stand with the State of Israel, and Christians are bringing their governments with them," Rein-

stein said. "If you look at a lot of the diplomatic successes that we are seeing, most of it is due to faith-based diplomacy. It's people of faith putting their biblical support behind Israel and turning it into real political action. All Israelis, up to the highest levels of government, understand that Christians are our dearest allies, and that faith-based diplomacy is the most important weapon we have in our diplomatic arsenal today."

Tommy Waller, the head of HaYovel, acknowledged that Christian support for Israel is considerable but he added that this must increase.

"After Christianity's almost 2000-year opposition to Jewish identity and the restoration of Israel, it is a blessing to see any support or trust from the Government of Israel," Waller said. "It is important for us to understand, both Jews and Christians, that the Biblical Prophetic purpose of the Jewish people and Israel changed when the Jewish people returned to the Promised Land. The Prophet Ezekiel says clearly that God's Name is sanctified and hallowed among the nations when His people return. It has been 75 years since the declaration of the State of Israel was made. Replacement theology should have ended then. Unfortunately, the process of Christianity understanding or waking up to this new reality has been slow and difficult. It is time for the nations to stand with Israel in a more significant way. We need to engage against the conflict now – for Zion's sake."



"Sol the Answer Man" used to have a newspaper column that appeared in the *Baltimore Jewish Times*. People would write in with their questions, and with a great deal of wisdom, humor, and wit, Sol would bravely answer questions where no man dared to go before. Sol the Answer Man is best known for his book of great depth, *Do They Keep Kosher on Mars? (And Other Pressing Issues of Jewish Life)*.

One of his readers asked some questions about Halloween, which Sol was happy to answer:

Q: What is a hobgoblin? Where did the word originate? What is the Orthodox Jewish view of Halloween?

A: Halloween is a big headache for just about every major religion, unless you consider paganism a major religion.

A casual exploration of the ever-helpful *Oxford Universal Dictionary* reveals that "hobgoblin" is just another name for Robin Goodfellow, a particularly nasty sprite.

Halloween, the reason we know about goblins, is a contraction of "All Hallows Eve," or "All Saints Eve," a bad sign as far as Jewishness goes. In pagan tradition, this falls on the last day of October, a day when the witches and imps run about. In those days, the event had a slightly more sinister meaning than a bunch of Cinderellas and Supermen gorging themselves on chocolate and lollipops.

The whole shmeer was incorporated into Christianity in the ninth century, another attempt of early Christianity's impressive "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em philosophy."

Interestingly, the pumpkin, that universal symbol of the day, isn't so universal after all; until Halloween was brought to America, the vegetable symbol of Halloween was a carved turnip. Just try hacking a grinning face on one of those!

As for the Jewish angle on Halloween, many Orthodox Jews today refuse to allow their children to participate in the festivities, because of its connections with alien religions. Reform leaders make a big deal about Purim costumes – but in the end, many concede that the allure of Halloween is too strong to resist, especially for candy-crazed 10-year-olds.¹

¹ *Do They Keep Kosher on Mars?* By Sol the Answer Man, Collier Books, © 1990, p.101.

Forgive me for quoting Sol so liberally. Normally I start out quoting someone more famous, like Isaiah the prophet for instance. However, Sol said it so good, and so concisely. It is a very difficult holiday for those who want to avoid paganism. Halloween has so much that appeals to kids: dressing up in costumes, going door to door to get candy, and they are also permitted to do a little bit of mischief.

It is also hard to say **No** to a child who simply wants fun and games.

Sol the Answer Man should have made more of an emphasis on the fact that Halloween

was (and still is) the High Holy Day of Satanists everywhere. Jewish opinion is not universally op-

posed to Halloween. As you know, wherever you have two Jews, you have three opinions. Ted Roberts took a more conciliatory view in his article, "Is Halloween a Jewish Holiday?" To this, I would have simply said, "No," a very short article indeed! However, Roberts said (and I quote):

"Halloween is **not** a Jewish holiday. You should go to work as usual. And don't fast.

"However, I have just thoroughly researched both the Jerusalem and Babylonian Talmuds and I can't find a single prohibition about Jews engaging in Trick or Treat activities. So, halachically, sure, it's okay, as long as your neighbors don't distribute pork chops or young goats stewed in their mother's milk. If they do, cite Exodus 23:19 and ask if you could have a Hershey bar with nuts instead.

"Philosophically, it's a very non-Jewish holiday because the air is full of witches, spooks, and spirits. And they're not singing "Adon Olam," either! Witches, in our Bible, don't get very good press because, basically, it was a heathen occupation. It **still** is. You NEVER hear a Jewish mother say, "Well, your daughter might be the best pediatrician in town, but MY daughter's a very successful witch." And in the *Chumash*,² the book of books, statements about these evil creatures are usually linked to stones – like, 'She shall be stoned to death.'³

Actually, Torah is a bit more specific about

² A book containing all the Torah portions and usually the Haftara portions for the entire year.

³ *The Jewish Ledger*, Oct 19, 1995, p. 10.

Is Halloween KOSHER?

Rick 'Aharon' Chaimberlin

Halloween than Ted Roberts might like to admit. One rabbi wrote that because Halloween was a pagan holiday, and not a Christian holiday, that it was okay for Jewish kids to enjoy. That sounds like twisted logic to me. The Scriptures offer blanket condemnation of paganism. Witchcraft and the entire occult world are, of course, strongly condemned in the Scriptures.⁴ We are not supposed to follow after the ways of the nations.⁵ Also, we are supposed to even "abstain from the appearance of evil."⁶

I wish that it weren't true, but the customs and traditions that folks hold dear to on Halloween are pagan rituals, usually with Satanic origins. In recent decades, Satanism has seen a resurgence in popularity. Satanic ritual abuse, torture, and even murder of animals, women, and children have become much more common. Satanism is often glorified in Heavy Metal "music," often resulting in young people being inspired to commit acts of mayhem or suicide. Satanism is **not** fun and games.

King Saul Meets the Witch at Endor

Perhaps a good substitute for Halloween would be telling your children the story of the witch at Endor. It's a spooky tale sure to grab the imaginations of the kids.

King Saul had his problems. He was the first king of Israel. Such a job. Long hours, not such good longevity, no pension. But such naches⁷ for Mama. "Oh, so your son's a doctor... Well, **my** boy is the king!"

Saul had a young rival named David. His own son, Jonathan, had a great attachment to his competitor. Those were among his personal problems. Politically, he isn't so popular, plus there's this war with the Philistines. And these Philistines had gone high tech. They knew how to work iron. They had iron swords, shields, and daggers that were sharp and hard, not like the wimpy bronze weapons of the Israelites. They had an edge, so to speak.

King Saul prepared to meet the Philistines at Gilboa. "His heart trembled greatly."⁸ He needed all the help he could get, but the prophet Samuel had recently died, so he didn't have anyone to bring him the word of the Lord. So he decided to meet the witch that lived at Endor.

⁴ *D'varim* (Deuteronomy) 18:9-22.

⁵ *B'Midbar* (Numbers) 23:9.

⁶ 1 Thessalonians 5:22.

⁷ Joy or gratification, especially from children.

⁸ 1 Samuel 28:5.

Mediums, rare...

One little problem: Saul had banned witchcraft in Israel, the most profitable occupation for a woman to have, besides that other one. Witches and mediums were as illegal as ham on Yom Kippur.

Saul decided to visit the witch incognito, one of the few mediums left in Israel. He took off the royal duds and put on some street clothing. He went to the woman saying, "Conjure up for me, please, the one whom I shall name to you."

The woman said, "Behold, you know what Saul has done, how he has killed those who are mediums and spiritists in the land. Why are you then laying a snare for my life to bring about my own death?"

Saul managed to allay her fears, and she went about her incantations, and brought up the ghost of Samuel, as Saul had requested. As she did this, she immediately recognized that she had Saul in her house. King Saul said, "Do not be afraid. What do you see?" She described Samuel, and Saul bowed with his face to the ground.

Samuel wasn't at all pleased. He said, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" King Saul explained that the Philistines were waging war, and that God had departed from him, and that God didn't speak to him anymore through dreams or prophets.

It is forbidden in the Scriptures to communicate with the dead or to make use of witchcraft.⁹ Samuel told Saul, "Tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Indeed YHWH will give over the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines." It is interesting that although the Bible strongly condemns witchcraft, that it includes this story. As usual, the Bible tells it like it is.

A similar holiday has been observed in Mexico for many centuries: "Halloween is historically related to similar folk holidays celebrated in other countries. The Day of the Dead (El Dia de los Muertos), a Mexican holiday that coincides with All Souls' Day, blends Roman Catholic and Native American traditions about the souls of the dead. On the Day of the Dead, Mexicans decorate their homes with playful imagery of animated human skeletons, leave offerings of food for wandering spirits, and tend the graves of their deceased relatives."¹⁰

⁹ *D'varim* (Deuteronomy) 18:10-11.

¹⁰ "Halloween," *Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000*. © 1993-1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

The assault rifle, America's most popular gun, has become the preferred instrument for mass murder. Here's everything you need to know:

Mass Shooters' Favorite Gun

What defines an assault rifle?

Assault rifles, often called AR-15-style weapons, have been used in many mass shootings, including the recent massacre of 10 Black people in a Buffalo supermarket and the slaughter of 19 elementary school students and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas. These weapons are identifiable by three features: They're semi-automatic, meaning they can be repeatedly fired with the squeeze of the trigger; they have detachable magazines for easy reloading; and they have components, such as a pistol grip, that allow shooters to fire continuously with their rifle trained on the target. The AR-15 is the civilian counterpart of the U.S. military's M16, which has a shorter barrel and can fire three-round bursts with one pull of the trigger...

Why the term AR-15?

AR-15 was originally named for the gunmaker ArmaLite and trademarked by Colt after it bought the manufacturing rights to the weapon. But the patent is long expired, and about 500 gunmakers sell similarly designed weapons. There were about 400,000 assault weapons in circulation when a federal ban on them was passed in 1994, but sales exploded when the law expired a decade later. Today, there are about 20 million AR-15s in the U.S. One in five gun purchases is now an assault weapon.

How deadly are they?

The AR-15 was engineered to cause "maximum wound effect," as one of its designers put it. It fires needle-nosed bullets that travel three times faster than handgun rounds and fragment when slamming into flesh, causing enormous damage... "It's the perfect killing machine," says Dr. Peter Rhee, a former Navy trauma surgeon. A study of mass shootings from 2000 to 2017 found that killers who used assault rifles caused 97% more deaths and wounded 81% more victims than those who used handguns...

What makes them so lethal?

Unlike a heavier handgun bullet, which punctures the body like a nail, a high-velocity round from an AR-15 delivers a payload of kinetic energy that radiates outward from the wound, obliterating organs, pulverizing bones, and causing massive bleeding. It can leave a jagged exit wound the diameter of a soda can. When radiologist Heather Sher examined a teenage victim of the 2018 high school shooting in Parkland, Florida, she says she found that one organ looked like "an overripe melon smashed by a sledgehammer." The victim could not be saved. After the Uvalde shooting, DNA samples were needed

to help identify victims, many of whom were left unrecognizable by horrific wounds.

How are assault rifles marketed?

Gunmakers call the AR-15 a "modern sporting rifle," and its fans insist it just has cosmetic differences from other semiautomatic long guns. But marketing strategies have grown increasingly unsavory... Appeals to masculine insecurity are common, such as a Bushmaster ad

for the rifle that said "Consider your man card reissued." Gunmakers increasingly advertise their weapons as necessary tools if and when the U.S. descends into anarchy or tyranny. The NRA's magazine advised that a 5-year-old boy could fire an AR if taught the "two-finger trigger-pull method."

Would restrictions be effective?

...A 2019 Columbia University study found that banning large-capacity magazines resulted in a 206 percent drop in the fatality rate of gun massacres. One inescapable irony is that any time there is renewed discussion of banning assault weapons, it triggers a boom in gun sales. In fact, says Josh Koskoff, an attorney who represented victims' families after the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, gunmakers know mass shootings help sell more assault weapons. "They cashed in on that imagery," he said. "And muscularity. And violence."

The assault weapon's role in massacres

For years, semiautomatic handguns were the preferred weapon of mass shooters. But assault rifles have emerged over the past decade as the weapon of choice, and large-capacity magazines ranging from 30 to 100 rounds enable gunmen to increase their kill count without having to pause to reload. Adam Lanza attacked Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, with a Bushmaster assault weapon, firing 154 rounds in 264 seconds. James Holmes opened fire in an Aurora, Colorado, movie theater in 2012 armed with Smith & Wesson's "Military & Police" AR-15 outfitted with a 100-round drum magazine, killing 12 people and wounding 58 as he fired roughly 240 rounds. Omar Mateen stormed Orlando's Pulse nightclub in 2016 armed with Sig Sauer's AR-15, firing about 200 rounds as he murdered 49 people and injured dozens more. Stephen Paddock fired more than 1,000 rounds from his Las Vegas hotel room in 2017, killing 60 people and wounding 411. Assault weapons, a New York University School of Medicine study found, accounted for 85% of mass-shooting deaths from 1981 to 2017.

Editor's Note: Assault weapons are military weapons, not weapons of defense. That's why they are called **assault** weapons. We should love our children enough to protect them from such weapons. **RAC**

The Alliance of the Far-Left and Far-Right on Antisemitism

*Jonathan S. Tobin, editor-in-chief of JNS
(Jewish News Syndicate)*

The focus on Kanye West should lead to a discussion about the acceptance of hate among African-Americans and the bizarre alliance of far-left and far-right, not partisan bickering.

As he has done with just about every other issue, former President Donald Trump is sucking the oxygen out of any discussion on the antisemitism of rap star/fashion mogul Kanye West and his far-right allies. Rather than express remorse for his unfathomable dinner meeting at Mar-a-Lago with West, Holocaust-denier Nick Fuentes and fellow alt-right hater Milo Yiannopoulos, he characteristically refused to apologize.

The event provided the trio with publicity and a degree of legitimacy in circles where his whims are treated as indisputably rational. It was itself deeply problematic. It was made worse, however, by the fact that the focus of the debate it engendered about the rising tide of antisemitism turned into one about Trump himself. To some extent, this is justified. Some of his supporters predictably dismissed the controversy as the product of a setup or liberal media bias; others tried to find ways to condemn West and his friends without mentioning the host's culpability.

Yet, as much as Trump deserves the drubbing he's received, his involvement in the incident is unfortunate. This is not merely because it's become embroiled in his effort to win back the White House in 2024. Nor does citing his exemplary, even historic, record on Israel, especially in comparison to the Democrats' equivocal attitude toward the Jewish state, get us anywhere with respect to antisemitism.

Liberals and conservatives alike have been too busy either condemning or rationalizing his dinner with Kanye—and subsequent outrageous threat to suspend the Constitution in order to be declared the retroactive winner of the 2020 election—to notice the far bigger picture.

Had they been zooming out with a wider lens, they might have taken notice of the latest statistics put out by the New York City Police Department about hate crimes committed in November. The numbers show that attacks against Jews comprised 60% of the total, an increase of 125% over the previous month. And the 45 incidents that were reported (with most observers assuming that many more go unreported) amount to a Jew being attacked in the Big Apple on the average of once every 16 hours.

The vast majority of the assaults are carried out by African-Americans on Orthodox Jews. Others involve acts of anti-Zionist prejudice, such as the vandalizing of a Chabad vehicle with

"Free Palestine" graffiti.

What this means is that the epidemic of anti-Jewish hate crimes, aptly described by *Tablet Magazine* in August as an "Open Season on Jews in New York City" has only gotten worse. But why the main perpetrators are African-Americans also has to be addressed.

West's maniacal utterances are not merely the ravings of a person with a mental-illness diagnosis. Rather, they are a form of hate that can be linked to the popularity of figures like the Nation of Islam's Louis Farrakhan and the intersectional ideology promoted by the Black Lives Matter movement. Both denounce Jews as white oppressors and Israel as an "apartheid state."

But the press doesn't seem interested in exploring how someone like West could wind up with alt-right trolls like Fuentes and Yiannopoulos in the latter's faux campaign for president. Few, if any, in the mainstream media are aware of how comfortable Farrakhan is with members of the White Aryan Resistance group.

They also appear to have no knowledge of the bizarre alliance that existed between George Lincoln Rockwell and the American Nazi Party, and the Nation of Islam and its leaders, Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X, in the early 1960s, all of which was recounted recently by Rabbi Yisrael M. Eliashiv in his *Magen Yehudi* Substack.

Meanwhile, unlike Trump's scandalous get-together with West, Fuentes, and Yiannopoulos, meetings with Farrakhan, held by figures like former presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, as well as many members of the Congressional Black Caucus, are not viewed as toxic or disqualifying. Nor is the willingness of the Democratic Party to treat the BLM movement as sacrosanct and BDS supporters like House Reps. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) and Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) as party rock stars, something for which its elected officials are asked by the press to condemn and disavow.

Seen in this light, President Joe Biden's declaration, directed at Trump over his dinner with Kanye, that "silence is complicity," was not so much a necessary call to action as it was a partisan potshot. He's right that Trump's silence about the vile hatred spouted by West, Fuentes and Yiannopoulos is deeply wrong. But his own praise of Tlaib and others who routinely spew antisemitic vitriol is more than hypocritical.

If Biden could tell Tlaib, in a speech in Dearborn, Mich., last spring, that, "I admire your intellect, I admire your passion and ... thank you for being a fighter," he has no standing to be calling out anyone, even Trump, for legitimizing antisemites. Those on the right and the left have tunnel vision when it comes to hate and antisemitism. Liberals see only the antisemitism on the far-right, and concoct it in relation to mainstream conservatives...

"Behold, the Virgin..."

Richard 'Aharon' Chaimberlin

ONE of the most remarkable events in the history of mankind is the coming of Messiah to Planet Earth. The Messiah was Co-Creator of the world.^[1] He left the glory that he had with the Father (Yochanan—John 17:5) to come into this world, take on human flesh^[2] as part of a persecuted ethnic group (the Jews, of course), where he was rejected by his own people according to prophecy (Isaiah 53:1, 13), and eventually suffer a terrible, painful, and humiliating death for the sins of the world.^[3]

It might not have been so bad if he had come to Planet Earth as a full-grown adult, and then begun to reign over the adoring masses as King Messiah. Instead, he came into the world via a simple Jewish virgin named Miriam, who was betrothed to a Jewish carpenter named Joseph. **Betrothal** in Jewish tradition meant that a divorce would be needed to break the arrangement, much as would be the case for the actual marriage. However, **betrothal** was a pre-marriage tradition, and did not carry with it any of the sexual privileges of marriage. Therefore when Miriam^[4] became pregnant "by the Holy Spirit,"^[5] Joseph knew that he didn't do it, and suspected his "betrothed" of unfaithfulness. He could have subjected her to public humiliation, even death by stoning. However, being a good guy, he merely desired to divorce her quietly.^[6]

An angel, whom we presume to be Gabriel (see Luke 1:26) appeared to Joseph in a dream, letting Joseph know that, yes, Miriam had conceived a child by the Holy Spirit. Keep in mind that nothing like this had ever happened before or since! This must have been quite a vision, because Joseph was now convinced, and did not put Miriam away. The angel told him, "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Yeshua, for He will save his people from their sins."^[7] This may be further proof that Matthew was originally written in Hebrew. **Yeshua** means **salvation**. In all likelihood, Yeshua's proper birth name may have been Yehoshua. The shortened version would have been Yeshua, much as my name is Richard, but I also answer to "Rick."

Matthew 1:23 uses Isaiah 7:14 as a proof text that Yeshua is the virgin-born Messiah: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name

Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'"

Isaiah 7:14 is correctly used as a Messianic passage referring to Yeshua. However, let me give you an Orthodox rabbinic interpretation of this same

passage based on the word for "sign" as quoted by Artscroll:

SOURCE	TRANSLATION
ARTSCROLL TANACH (STONE EDITION; AST)*	THEREFORE, MY LORD HIMSELF WILL GIVE YOU A SIGN: BEHOLD, THE MAIDEN WILL BECOME PREGNANT AND BEAR A SON, AND SHE WILL NAME HIM IMMANUEL.

* **AST COMMENTARY:** EITHER ISAIAH'S (RASHI) OR AHAZ' (RADAQ) YOUNG WIFE WILL BEAR A SON AND, THROUGH PROPHETIC INSPIRATION, WILL GIVE HIM THE NAME IMMANUEL, WHICH MEANS "GOD IS WITH US." THUS IN EFFECT PROPHECYING THAT THAT JUDAH WILL BE SAVED FROM THE THREAT OF RESIN AND PEKAH..

AN ORTHODOX JEWISH PERSPECTIVE ON ISAIAH 7:14:

THE SEVENTH CHAPTER IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH BEGINS BY DESCRIBING THE MILITARY CRISIS THAT WAS CONFRONTING KING AHAZ OF THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH. AROUND THE YEAR 732 B.C.E., THE HOUSE OF DAVID WAS FACING IMMINENT DESTRUCTION AT THE HANDS OF TWO WARRING KINGDOMS: THE NORTHER KINGDOM OF ISRAEL, LED BY KING PEKAH, AND THE KINGDOM OF SYRIA (ARAM), LED BY KING REZIN. THESE TWO ARMIES HAD BESIEGED JERUSALEM. ISAIAH RECORDS THAT THE HOUSE OF DAVID AND KING AHAZ WERE GRIPPED WITH FEAR. G-D SENT THE PROPHET ISAIAH TO REASSURE KING AHAZ THAT DIVINE PROTECTION WAS AT HAND - G-D WOULD PROTECT HIM AND HIS KINGDOM AND THAT THEIR DELIVERANCE WAS ASSURED, AND THESE TWO HOSTILE ARMIES WOULD FAIL IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO SUBJUGATE JERUSALEM.

IT IS CLEAR FROM THE NARRATIVE IN THIS CHAPTER, THAT ISAIAH'S DECLARATION (IS 7:14-16) WAS A PROPHECY ABOUT THE UNSUCCESSFUL SIEGE OF JERUSALEM BY THE TWO ARMIES FROM THE NORTH. THE VERSES ISAIAH 7:15-16 STATE THAT, BY THE TIME THIS CHILD (WHOSE IMMINENT BIRTH WAS FORETOLD IN ISAIAH 7:14) REACHES THE AGE OF MATURITY ("... HE KNOWS TO REJECT BAD AND CHOOSE GOOD ..."), THE KINGS OF THE TWO ENEMY NATIONS WILL BE GONE. IN FACT, THEY WILL BE KILLED.

TWO BIBLICAL PASSAGES, 2 KINGS 15:29-30 AND 2 KINGS 16:9, CONFIRM THAT THIS PROPHECY WAS CONTEMPORANEOUSLY FULFILLED WHEN THESE TWO KINGS WERE ASSASSINATED. WITH

AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTEXT OF ISAIAH 7:14 ALONE, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE NAME OF THE CHILD IN ISAIAH 7:14, IMMANU'EL, IS A SIGN WHICH POINTS TO THE DIVINE PROTECTION THAT KING AHAZ AND HIS PEOPLE WOULD ENJOY FROM THEIR OTHERWISE CERTAIN DEMISE AT THE HANDS OF THESE TWO ENEMIES. CLEARLY, ISAIAH 7:14 IS A NEAR-TERM PROPHECY THAT IS PART OF AN HISTORIC NARRATIVE, AND WHICH WAS FULFILLED IN THE IMMEDIATE TIME FRAME, NOT SOME SEVEN-AND-A-HALF CENTURIES IN THE FUTURE. (ALSO QUOTED FROM ARTSCROLL)

APPLICATIONS OF אִיט ("SIGN") IN THE HEBREW BIBLE:

TERM	(PRONUNCIATION)	MEANING	#	REFERENCE
אוֹת	OT (AS IN <u>BOAT</u>)	A VISIBLE SIGN, A SIGNAL	32	ISAIAH 38:22
		AN EXEM- PLARY MODEL, A MARVELOUS DEED	36	ISAIAH 44:25
		AN EXAM- PLE	9	ISAIAH 19:20
		A SIGN TO DETERMINE TIMES OF FESTIVALS	1	GENESIS 1:14
		A MILITARY INSIGNIA	1	NUMBERS 2:2
		TOTAL	79	

Well, that is the "Orthodox" Jewish perspective. Sometimes the word אִיט (*ot* or "sign") is a supernatural sign. In the example of Isaiah 44:25, it is an occult counterfeit sign of false prophets, who nonetheless were able to produce supernatural manifestations. But it can simply be a signal for certain events, such as the moon which is used as a **sign** or signal, such as to determine the timings for the various festivals of the Bible, as in Genesis 1:14. The word for "sign" has various uses in the Hebrew text.

In context, Isaiah was prophesying about 200 years after the breakup of the Kingdom of Israel into two separate kingdoms. The kingdom in the south was henceforth renamed as Judah and the kingdom in the north was known as Israel.

Judah in the south was panicking because the northern kingdom of Israel had entered into an alliance with the Arameans (Syrians). No doubt, King Ahaz wasn't sleeping too well, as the fate of Judah was very much threatened by this alliance. He went to the prophet Isaiah in hopes of finding out what would be happening in the future, and perhaps counter-

act this threat from the north.

It was at this time that God spoke to Ahaz via the prophet Isaiah saying, "Ask a sign of YHWH your God. Make it deep as Sheol or as high as heaven." Ahaz refused, saying, "I will not ask, nor will I put YHWH to the test." At that time, God seemed to lose patience, not only with Ahaz, but with the entire House of David that Ahaz was descended from. Isaiah (7:13) said, "Listen now, **O House of David**. Is it too little that you weary the patience of men, that you try the patience of my God as well?"

Then at this time we receive the prophecy, given as a **sign**, not just to Ahaz, but to the entire house of David, past, present, and future: "Behold, the **virgin** (*"almah"*) shall conceive, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

The Orthodox Jewish perspective is that the **sign** in Isaiah 7:14 is the name of the child that would be born. The Messianic interpretation is that this is a supernatural event, in which a virgin gives birth, prophesying the birth of Yeshua. Matthew 1:23 quotes this verse as being fulfilled with the birth of Yeshua. Jewish translations of Isaiah 7:14 say something like, "Behold, the **young woman** (*"almah"*) shall conceive, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

In Messianic interpretation, the אִיט ("sign") isn't regarding the name of the child, but the fact that this child is born of a virgin. Messianic Jews and Christians translate Isaiah 7:14 as something like: "Behold, the **virgin** (*almah*) shall conceive, and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

I happen to believe that this is one of those verses of prophecy that has dual fulfillment. Something may have occurred in the days of Ahaz as a partial fulfillment, but it also had a supernatural fulfillment with the birth of Yeshua the Messiah. This is disputed among Orthodox Jews, because they say that the word *"almah"* actually means "young woman," and that any translation of it as "virgin" is **incorrectly done** by those who don't know Hebrew very well, or (even worse) is a **deliberate** mistranslation.

The word used in Isaiah 7:14 is עַלְמָה (*"almah"*). Most Jewish interpreters say that the Hebrew word for "virgin" is *betulah*, and that if Isaiah meant to refer to a **virgin**, he would have used the word *betulah* instead of *almah*. Of course, if *almah* was only a young woman, it wouldn't have been much of a sign, since it is fairly common practice that

young women give birth to children! However, when a virgin gives birth... Well, that is something out of the ordinary.

About 200 years before the Common Era,^[1] the Greek-speaking rulers of Egypt under Ptolemy commissioned six elders from each of the twelve tribes of Israel to translate the Tanakh (O.T.) from Hebrew into Greek. Since there were approximately seventy elders doing the translating, the final translation was called the Septuagint, from the Greek word for "70." When these learned Jews came to Isaiah 7:14, they must have felt that *almah* meant more than simply a young woman, because in their translation, they used the Greek word *parthenos*, which means "virgin."

"Almah" and "Betulah"

It helps to see how the words *almah* and *betulah* are used in other places in Scripture. In every case where the term *almah* is used, it is apparent that the woman referred to is a virgin. The young woman sought as a wife for Isaac was to be an *almah*, which is the word used in Genesis 24:43. Another Scripture reference using the word *almah* is Song of Solomon 6:8.

Contrary to popular Rabbinic opinion, the term *betulah* is used in the Tanakh to simply mean "young woman." Occasionally, this young woman may be a virgin, and occasionally this term is used for a woman who most definitely is not a virgin, much as the term "young woman" in English tells us nothing about whether a woman is (or is not) a virgin. Curiously, the King James translators liked to translate both *almah* and *betulah* with the English translation "virgin" in most instances. In some cases, this simply doesn't fit when the word being translated is *betulah*. An example of this is Joel 1:8: "Lament like a virgin (*betulah*) girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth." I haven't taken any surveys, but I suspect that there were very few married women who were virgins. Also, in Judaism, the marriage would be considered null and void if it wasn't consummated.

Another instance in which the term *betulah* is used is in Esther 2:17: "And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins (*betulot* - plural form), so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti." These are young women who had slept with King Ahasuerus. I am willing to concede that they might have been virgins prior to sleeping with

the king, but I doubt that many remained virgins afterwards.

Job prays, "I have made a covenant with my eyes. How then could I gaze at upon a maid (*betulah*)?" During an era in which men often had more than one wife, it would not have been considered a sin to gaze at a virgin, although it would have been considered sinful to gaze upon another man's wife.

The term *betulah* is also used in Ezekiel 23:3: "And they played the harlot in Egypt. They played the harlot in their youth; their breasts were pressed, and their virgin bosom was handled (NAS)." Grant me this one, will you? How many harlots are virgins? When the Rabbis insist that *betulah* means "virgin" and that *almah* means "young woman," they have it exactly backwards.

Because of Matthew's use of Isaiah 7:14, our interpretation of *almah* takes on added significance. Was Matthew correct or wrong in quoting this verse as a Messianic prophecy? Since most Jewish scholars, in their zeal to "debunk" prophecies relating to Yeshua, claim that *betulah* is the correct word for "virgin," it becomes important for us to study the contexts, further demonstrating (from the Hebrew!) that Yeshua is, indeed, the Messiah. Miriam supernaturally conceived a child without the benefit of a man or the sperm of a man. Yeshua is what He claimed to be - the Son of God.

[1] Colossians 1:16; Yochanan 1:3; Gen.1:1.

[2] Hebrews 10:5; Yochanan (John) 1:14.

[3] Isaiah 53:4-12.

[4] "Mary"

[5] Matthew 1:18.

[6] Mat. 1:19.

[7] Mat. 1:21.

[8] That is, before Yeshua.



Robert Avila, Texas

The Christian Population in Israel is Growing

www.israel365news.com

Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz

The Christian population in Israel is growing, making the Jewish state the only place in the Middle East in which this is happening. Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics released a report on December 24, 2022 documenting the status and condition of Christians in Israel...

The total number of Christians living in Israel was approximately 183,000, representing 1.9% of Israel's population. The report went into detail, stating that 75.8% (138,800) of Christians in Israel are Arab, representing 6.9% of the total Arab population in Israel.

24.2% (44,400) of the Christians in Israel were not Arab... Most of these Christians immigrated to Israel since the 1990s under the Law of Return which permitted people with Jewish relatives to become citizens...

According to the report, the Christian population in Israel increased by 2% in 2021 as compared to an increase of 1.6% for the Jewish population and 2.2% for the Muslim population of Israel. The Christian population increased by 966 due to natural growth and 952 from conversion to Christianity.

Israel is an anomaly in the region as the Christian population in the region is shrinking. Christians now make up approximately 5% of the Middle Eastern population, or roughly 15 million Christians, down from 20% in the early 20th century. In Turkey, Christians were targeted for genocide by the Ottomans resulting in well over 3 million deaths and large-scale deportations in the Armenian genocide, Assyrian genocide, Greek genocide, the Dersim Massacre, and Famine of Mount Lebanon.

The Syrian Civil War and the concomitant rise of ISIS have greatly increased violence against Christians in Syria and Iraq. In Syria, the Christian population has dropped from 1.5 million (10 percent of the population) in 2011 to 300,000 today. In Iraq, the number of Christians has declined from about 800,000 in 2003 to about 400,000.

Christians in the Middle East face persecution, in various grades, depending on the residence country. This has increased considerably since the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. The rise of hate speech against Christians in state media and by religious leaders, especially in countries like Iran and Saudi Arabia, has compromised the safety of Christians and created social intolerance.

In Saudi Arabia there are strict limitations on all forms of expression of Christianity including public acts of worship. In 2017 a total of 99 Egyptian Christians were killed by extremist groups, with 47 killed on Palm Sunday in Tanta and Alexandria. Egyptian Christians were continuously targeted by extremist groups during 2017 and 2018. The eradication of Christians and other minorities on pain of "the sword" or other violent means was revealed to be the specific and stated objective of extremist groups in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, north-east Nigeria and the Philippines. An intent to erase all evidence of the Christian presence was made plain by the removal of crosses and the destruction of church buildings and other church symbols.

About 173,000 Arab Palestinian Christians lived in the Palestinian Authority (including Judea and Samaria, and the Gaza Strip) in the 1990s representing about 18% of the population. Over the last years, unlike the increase trend in the Christian population of Israel, the number of Christians in the Palestinian Authority has declined severely and is currently estimated to be about 75,000, about 1% of the population. Before Hamas took control of Gaza, an estimated 2,000—3,000 Christians lived there. The Christian population is currently estimated at around 1,000. This demographic threat is most pronounced in Bethlehem.

Revered by Christians as the birthplace of Jesus, Bethlehem was historically mostly Christian but that has changed drastically. Bethlehem came under Muslim Jordanian rule during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and was later captured by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. Since the 1995 Oslo Accords, Bethlehem has been administered by the Palestinian Authority as part of Area A of the West Bank. In 1947, Christians made up 85% of the population, but by 2016, the Christian population of Bethlehem had declined to only 16%.

Editor's Note: Israel is often falsely accused of apartheid policies and ethnic cleansing. Many of the accusers happen to be Islamic nations, which curiously happen to be the ones actually **doing** the ethnic cleansing and practicing apartheid. Almost 90% of the Christians in northern Africa have been forced to convert to Islam or leave since Islamic conquests of North Africa over 1300 years ago. Jews who remained in Arab nations suffered terrible persecution. Since 1947, almost 99% of the Jews of Arab nations have been forced to leave their homes, often with little more than the clothes on their backs. Both Muslims and Christians do very well in Israel. **RAC**

Critical Race Theory's Anti-Semitism Problem

Ellie Krasne Jewish News Syndicate

Critical race theory (CRT) is a popular left-wing ideology that purports to explain the societal inequalities that prevent racial and ethnic minority groups from achieving social and economic success. While it presents itself as fighting prejudice, a closer look reveals that it is the driving force behind much of today's left-wing anti-Semitism.

The clearest example of this occurred in 2020 at a Black Lives Matter protest in Washington, D.C. There were chants of "Israel, we know you murder children, too," and a Harvard student read a poem that called Israel "puppet master of continents," invoking the stereotype of evil Jews manipulating global politics. (CRT is now taught in many schools and colleges across this country. **RAC**)

The language used cannot be attributed to the folly of youth, as these stereotypes have also made their way into the halls of Congress. In 2019, Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., paraphrased a popular rap lyric, "It's all about the Benjamins, baby," as she tweeted support for her anti-Israel politics. The tweet referred to money and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and made use of the anti-Semitic trope that Jews and their money wield an outsized influence on politics.

Omar, a U.S. congresswoman, embraced the old anti-Semitic narrative that wealthy, powerful Jews manipulate our political system for their own gain and against the common good. Left-wing proponents of CRT may see themselves as fighting oppression, but their ideology's logical conclusions are stereotypes and hatred that target the Jews.

It also suggests that race, gender, and other identities are social constructs that support larger systems of oppression. White men—by virtue of their male sex and light skin color—are oppressors twice over, while black women are twice oppressed, and white women are both oppressors of blacks and oppressed by men.

Within this system, success is possible, but only if one joins the system that critical race theorists believe oppresses people of color. Thus, if an oppressed individual achieves success, he or she becomes an oppressor regardless of their identity.

If this weren't bad enough, CRT theorists generally make the mistake of assuming that all Jews are white and hence "privileged" because of their supposed economic power.

Thanks to the Jewish diaspora and to conversion, a great ethnic variety exists among Jews; there are Indian, Ethiopian, North African, and East Asian Jews, as well as those of Central European ancestry. Critical race theory, however, tends to neglect this nuance in favor of the old saw that Jews are white, wealthy, and therefore "privileged" — even more than other white people.

Moreover, because of this privilege, Jews—who endured a genocide in the 20th century—are unable to be victims of implicit bias. This is truly incredible, because according to the FBI, Jews make up 60% of all religious-based hate-crime victims.

By the theory's perverse logic, Jews are first and foremost members of the oppressor class, bearing guilt for any wrong done to any nonwhite group by any white people. Simply put, critical race theory repeatedly casts Jews as having outsized economic success, even relative to other white people, and this supposed success makes them the worst of the capitalist oppressors.

Anti-Semitism has long depicted Jews as racially inferior and extremely clever puppet masters who surreptitiously control banks, politicians, and the media. The clearest example of this was in Nazi Germany, where Jews were targeted both for being an inferior race and having an outsized grip on German political, economic, and intellectual life. Modern-day CRT does much of the same.

This, coupled with anti-Semitism, both target the Jews and blame them for perceived societal ills. But the goal is not simply hatred of the Jewish people; it is to upend the civic order. Jews are just the scapegoat.

Christians killed by Muslim extremists in Uganda

www.christianpost.com

Muslim extremists killed five Christian evangelists by throwing them off a boat into central Uganda's Lake Kyoga, per sources. A survivor, Amos Kyakulaga, a deacon at a church in Namutumba, said Christians began preaching the Gospel to a group of 10 Muslims in Islamic attire aboard the boat, which led to a "huge argument." One of the Muslims, identified only as Bashir, demanded the Christians "stop [their] blasphemy" and convert to Islam. When the Christians refused to renounce Christ, the Muslims seized and pushed them off the boat one-by-one, with all 10 Muslims agreeing that the Christians should be killed. Five Christians drowned...

Trans Biden Official Rachel Levine: Hormone Drugs Prevent Kids Going Through 'Wrong Puberty'

By **Samantha Kamman**, Christian Post Reporter, www.christianpost.com

Trans-identified U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary Rachel Levine contends that minors shouldn't wait until they're 18 to undergo gender transition procedures because some adolescents might be going through the "wrong puberty."

Levine, a biological male who previously went by the name Richard Levine before identifying as female, made the remarks during a Friday interview in an ABC Nightline segment called "Identity Denied: Trans in America."

The episode focused on teenagers who have trouble identifying with their biological sex as more than 20 states have passed laws designed to ban puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and body-altering surgeries for minors. "Adolescence is hard and puberty is hard," Levine said. "What if you're going through the wrong puberty? What if you inside feel that you are female, but now you're going through a male puberty?"

...As the number of children with gender dysphoria who are seeking surgical or hormonal interventions has skyrocketed in the last decade, some European governments are beginning to take more cautionary approaches.

England's National Health Service recently took steps to restrict the use of puberty-blocking drugs for gender transition outside of clinical trials. The NHS announced the new interim guidance last month, releasing a 25-page document outlining the approach.

The guidance follows an independent review led by Dr. Hillary Cass, the former president of the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health, "highlighting the significant uncertainties surrounding the use of hormone treatments."

Children who have already received cross-sex hormones or puberty blockers will be treated on a case-by-case basis, according to the NHS. The guidelines also warned that socially transitioning a child is not a "neutral act" and that more research is necessary to determine the "social and psychological implications." The NHS released guidelines in October warning doctors against advising children to socially transition during what may be a "transient phase."

In the United States, several detransitioners have spoken out publicly, regretful of the permanent changes made to their bodies...

Tony Bennett's WW II Experience Haunted Him

By **John Johnson**, Newser Staff

Upon news of the death of crooner Tony Bennett in July 2023, all kinds of tributes are surfacing about his musical legacy. But a number of stories also are taking a look at his extraordinary experience in World War II as an 18-year-old. As he would write years later, the experience would shape his adult life by pushing him toward pacifism and against racism. "The main thing I got out of my military experience was the realization that I am completely opposed to war," Bennett wrote in *The Good Life*, his 1998 autobiography. "Although I understand why this war was fought, it was a terrifying, demoralizing experience for me. ... Life can never be the same once you've been through combat."

Battle of the Bulge: Bennett, then known as Anthony Dominick Benedetto from New York City, was drafted at age 18 in 1944. He trained as an infantry rifleman, then got shipped overseas, where he soon found himself fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. "Most nights, we'd be awakened by the bombs that were going off around us," Bennett wrote. "On the front line, we'd see dead soldiers, dead horses and big craters in the ground where bombs had exploded."

Afterward, his company entered Germany in 1945, where they fought "house by house to take German towns," per Military.com.

Death camp: His regiment's last mission was to liberate a concentration camp near Landsberg, Germany, described as a subcamp of the infamous Dachau, per the Washington Post. "Many writers have recorded what it was like in the concentration camps much more eloquently than I ever could, so I won't even try to describe it," he wrote in his autobiography. "Just let me say I'll never forget the desperate faces and empty stares of the prisoners as they wandered aimlessly around the campgrounds."

Racism: On Thanksgiving of 1945, Bennett invited a Black fellow soldier, a friend named Frank Smith that he knew growing up, to eat with him, per PBS. An officer stopped them in the segregated mess hall. "This officer took out a razor blade and cut my corporal stripes off my uniform right then and there," Bennett wrote. "He spit on them and threw them on the floor." Two decades later, Bennett would join the civil rights march in Selma, Alabama. "I kept flashing back to a time twenty years ago when my buddies and I fought our way into Germany," he wrote. "It felt the same way down in Selma: the white state troopers were really hostile, and they were not shy about showing it."

One good thing: Bennett saw Bob Hope perform while serving, and it convinced him to pursue a career in show business.

U.S. Presidents Support a Jewish National Home in Palestine - *Eretz-Israel* -

July 13, 2009 | Eli E. Hertz

Before the Zionist movement assumed concrete form, among the first to express approval of the return of the Jews to Palestine was John Adams, the second President of the United States, who wrote to Maj. Mordecai Manuel Noah, the first American Zionist:

"I really wish the Jews again in Judea, an independent nation; as I believe, the most enlightened men of it have participated in the amelioration of the philosophy of the ages; once restored to an independent government, and no longer persecuted... I wish your nation may be admitted to all the privileges of citizens in every part of the world. This country (America) has done much; I wish it may do more and annul every narrow idea in religion, government, and commerce" (1819).

President Woodrow Wilson (the 28th President, 1913-1921) was the founder of the League of Nations for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1919... President Wilson was the first American president to support modern Zionism and efforts for the creation of a National Home for Jews in Palestine (the text of the Balfour Declaration had been submitted to President Wilson and approved by him before its publication). President Wilson expressed his deep belief in the eventuality of the creation of a Jewish State:

"I welcome an opportunity to express the satisfaction I have felt in the progress of the Zionist movement in the United States, and in the allied countries, since the declaration of Mr. Balfour" (August 31, 1918).

"I am persuaded that the Allied nations, with the fullest concurrence of our own government and people, are agreed that in Palestine shall be laid the foundation of a Jewish Commonwealth" (March 3, 1919).

President Warren G. Harding expressed support for a Jewish home in Palestine:

"It is impossible for one who has studied at all the service of the Hebrew people to avoid the faith that they will one day be restored to their historic national home and there enter on a new and yet greater phase of their contribution to the advance of humanity." (1921)

"I am very glad to express my approval and hearty sympathy for the effort of the Palestine Foundation fund in behalf of the restoration of Palestine as a homeland for the Jewish people. I have always viewed with an interest, which I think is quite as much practical as sentimental,

the proposal for the rehabilitation of Palestine and the restoration of a real Jewish nationality, and I hope the efforts now being carried on in this and other countries in this behalf may meet the fullest measure of success." (1922)

The Lodge-Fish joint resolution of both Houses of Congress of the United States unanimously endorsed the "establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people," confirming the irrevocable right of Jews to settle in Palestine - anywhere between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea:

"Favoring the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That the United States of America favors the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which should prejudice the civil and religious rights of Christian and all other non-Jewish communities in Palestine, and that the holy places and religious buildings and sites in Palestine shall be adequately protected." [Italics in the original] (June 30, 1922).

President Warren G. Harding signed the Lodge-Fish joint resolution of approval to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine (September 21, 1922). Writing to the Zionist Organization of America, Harding stated:

"A long-time interest, both sentimental and practical, in the Zionist movement causes me to wish that I might meet the members of the organization and express the esteem which I feel in behalf of the great movement" (1922).

President Herbert Hoover stated: "On the occasion of your celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, which received the unanimous approval of both Houses of Congress by the adoption of the Lodge-Fish Resolution in 1922, I wish to express the hope that the ideal of the establishment of the National Jewish Home in Palestine, as embodied in that Declaration, will continue to prosper for the good of all the people inhabiting the Holy Land" (October 29, 1932).

President Calvin Coolidge ratified the Convention between the USA and Great Britain - a relationship governed by international law. The United States of America upon ratifying the said Convention formally recognized the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and to the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country.

UK Girl Who De-transitioned After Transgender Surgery Says She Feels 'Like a Mutilated Experiment Gone Wrong'

by Hannah Grossman, Fox, 6-20-23

A girl from the United Kingdom, who had both of her breasts removed during a medical gender transition, is calling out the gender clinic that was involved in some of her care, according to a Monday report from the Telegraph.

Jasmine, a former patient at the Tavistock gender clinic, says she regrets medical interventions to change her gender. The girl reported that transitioning made her feel worse at every stage.

"I don't really know what it's like to have the body of an adult," she said. Jasmine said she was relying on medical professionals.

"When people do know I'm de-transitioned they reframe it as a journey, and I would not consider it a journey... I think it was a mistake I made. But because I was a child, I also think that part of the onus is on the various professionals that treated me," she said.

After a few visits, Jasmine said she was referred for medical and surgical sex change interventions. At 15, she underwent a surgery to remove both of her breasts.

"I kind of feel a bit mutilated and like an experiment gone wrong walking through society sometimes. I feel, like, sometimes jealous of other people, women, who are biologically female. That they still have their natural voice, their natural characteristics. And I don't anymore," she continued.

The gender clinic Jasmine went to, Tavistock, is currently shutting down and fundamentally changing its practices after a critical independent review by a pediatrician.

Renewable Energy Company Commissions First of 39 Wind Turbines on the Golan Heights

A wind turbine manufacturer is commissioning the first of 39 turbines for the Genesis Wind project located on the Golan Heights. When the 39 turbines are fully functioning, hopefully by the end of September this year, it will be the largest renewable energy project in Israel and will revolutionize the renewable energy industry. The project will supply electricity to 70,000 households and saving 180,000 tons of CO₂ annually. *Pray that this project will be successful and that it will continue to grow, further reducing CO₂ emissions.*

Films Regarding Gender Transition

The article on the left-hand side of this page concerns one girl who had transgender "care" and lived to very much regret it after the damage had been done to her body. There are some excellent documentary films that you can view on www.youtube.com which I recommend to educate others about the dangers of childhood gender transition, including interviews with young people who have completed gender transition, and then de-transitioned, unfortunately with mutilated bodies.

The first film is **Gender Transformation: The Untold Realities** by Epoch Films. The second documentary is **No Way Back: The Reality of Gender Affirmation Care**. Parents are often warned that medical intervention for gender transition is "necessary medical treatment" for transgender youth. Often this is a temporary gender dysphoria. Unfortunately, there is no way back after surgical removal of genitals. Even hormone blockers and cross-gender hormone treatments leave lasting effects on the body that are often much regretted as these children enter adulthood. Both films are on WWW.YOUTUBE.COM

I recently read an article by Briana Oser in the **Washington Examiner** with the title, "Transgender Activists are Now Running Summer Indoctrination Camps for Children." The title kind of says it all. It even mentions the names of a couple of these camps that are grooming children to be the opposite of their biological gender. One of them is Camp Indigo in St. Louis MO. There are other Camp Indigos in other states which are good wholesome camps, but the one in St. Louis is dangerous to our children. You can google that for yourself. I am not making this up.

The same article revealed that the suicide rate for young people in Sweden who had medically transitioned to the opposite gender is 19 times **higher** than the general population of young people. This is the opposite of what medical groups like the AMA are now saying. These medical "professionals" are claiming that medical gender affirmation care is "**necessary**" medical care to prevent suicides among our youth. That is not true.

If someone above the age of 18 (or 21) wants to "medically transition" to their opposite gender, that's their own decision. However, it should be at their own expense. Such medical procedures should be absolutely forbidden for those under the age of 18. Let the kid go through adolescence. When the hormones click in, he (or she) will probably be happy with his (or her) biological gender.

Messianic Jewish Commentary on the Book of Matthew

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

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

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



Do NOT order this book from Petah Tikvah.

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

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

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

www.RockFoundationRanch.com

Order online or by check payable to:

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

(Recommended to our readers! RAC)

♦ 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, 7576 San Jose Blvd; Jacksonville FL 32217. Call 904-318-6002. Shabbat service at 2 pm.

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

♦ GEORGIA

Kehillat 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.

♦ IOWA

Siouxland Messianic Fellowship. 1620 Glen-dale Blvd, Sioux City IA 51105.

♦ MASSACHUSETTS

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

Petah Tikvah Magazine is the official publication of the UMJA.

♦ NEBRASKA

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

♦ NEW JERSEY

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

♦ NEW YORK

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

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

♦ PENNSYLVANIA

Beit Torah. 4744 RT 300, Schnecksville PA 18078. Call 484-425-3499. www.BeitTorah.org BeitTorah2015@gmail.com Shabbat Services: 11:00 am.

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. 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 newsletters and haggadahs to inmates as finances permit.

♦ VERMONT

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

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



**SUPPORT
YOUR LOCAL
MESSIANIC
CONGREGATION**



FEATURE STORY

THE TORAH KIDS CLUB

by Jose Gimeno

The Torah Kids Club started “officially” in Yom Teruah of 2023 when it became a weekly organized teaching/mentoring program for young children (ages 4 to 12 years old) in the Grafted-in Israel Torah Community, Inc. congregation meeting place in Gulang-gulang, Lucena City.



The teaching that these children are getting is a full Bible teaching from Genesis to Revelation. Unlike your typical Christian curriculum, these children are being taught the importance of Torah obedience in their lives and unlike the rabbinical curriculum, Yeshua (Jesus) is the center and focus of the teachings.

This outreach ministry was started by Sister Emelyn Orivida in October 2015 with the Badjao and Aeta Tribal communities in Dalahican and Gulang-gulang. It was primarily a feeding program for children that also afforded Emelyn a chance to proclaim the good news of God's salvation.

This feeding program was done twice a month on average which then expanded to other communities including some churches, schools and kindergartens, and juvenile facilities.

Emelyn has traveled to other places such as Marinduque, Palawan, Davao, Alabat in Quezon Province, Cebu, Tarlac, and Batangas. Unsatisfied with just a feeding/missionary model, Emelyn sought out other ideas and this is where Bible Pathway Adventures came into the picture.

It was in March of 2019 that Emelyn saw the BPA website and had a chance to talk with Pip Reid. Pip agreed to partner with Emelyn by providing BPA teaching materials which happened to be pro-Torah and pro-Yeshua who they acknowledge to be God. The immediate effect of the BPA materials was it garnered more interest from different people and it allowed Emelyn to present the good news in a more organized manner.



FEATURE STORY

Bible Pathway Adventures was founded in 2012 in New Zealand and is the brainchild of Curtis & Pip Reid. Currently, BPA operates out of Alberta, Canada. As per their website, they are:

“Founded on a mission of teaching and discipling children, Bible Pathway Adventures® is committed to supporting educators around the world to teach children the whole Word of God. Via our Classroom Pack program, we provide discipleship resources and support to local leaders embedded in their communities. By helping these educators teach children a biblical faith, we can impact and grow the next generation!”



“Missions are close to our heart. We partner with educators in Pakistan, Uganda, Kenya, India, Nigeria, and the Philippines as part of our Classroom Pack program to provide teaching materials and classroom supplies at no cost. When you purchase Bible Pathway Adventures® Activity Books, we donate 10% of your

order value to this Bible education program.”



BPA's materials are interactive and include sketches, coloring book diagrams, word search puzzles, and memory verses. There is a section where the students are asked their thoughts on specific situations in the parasha. There is also a section about the basics of the Aleph-Bet (Hebrew alphabet). A teacher's guide is also available.

You may visit their website to check out their resources:

<https://shop.biblepathwayadventures.com/>

Emelyn shares photos of this ministry as well as snapshots of the BPA materials and there have been several inquiries from Messianic as well as Christian congregations. This is an excellent opportunity for our Christian brethren to uncover the treasures found in the Tanakh and also hopefully a re-evaluation of their doctrinal beliefs.

ACCORDING TO ROGER

THANKSGIVING 2023

by Roger Walkwitz

All who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to bring you back again into fear; on the contrary, you received the Spirit, who makes us sons and by whose power we cry out, "Abba!" (that is, "Dear Father!").

Romans 8:14-15 CJB

How Thankful we are that Abba led us together 67 years ago to bring His Word to the tribes in the northern mountains of the Philippines!

After 32 years and retirement, Abba led us to continue our Bible teaching ministry to the whole country and beyond to many Asia Pacific nations.

Abba also led me to write 4 books, **According to Roger**, available in kindle or paperback from Amazon.com.

Volume 1: my biography, including some big answers to prayer and the fiery plane crash in the Bahamas when Abba took son Ray, Carolyn, Joshua and Benjamin Home.

Volume 2: 387 pages of corrections to our English Bibles. Imagine my surprise when I looked up "church" in my Webster's Collegiate Dictionary to find that church does NOT come from Ekklesia, as theology books claim, but from Kuriacos, a pagan temple in Bible times!

The Church began in 325! Read Constantine's Letter to the Churches" after the Nicene Council – very antisemitic!!!

Ekklesia is the word for Kahal – the Congregation of the LORD - in the Septuagint (LXX), the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, about 250 BC. Replacement Theology is the heresy that God replaced Israel with a church! Abba never did and never will!!

If you or your church is not Pro-Israel, you are in big trouble, as Abba is 100% Pro-Israel!

Ekklesia in the Greek NT should be translated "congregation" of the LORD, as earliest versions did. Who brought "church" into the Geneva and King James versions, and Why???

Volume 2 has many more corrections. Challenge me if you can, I will appreciate it.

Volume 3: An in-depth study (305 pages) of the Tabernacle (Mishkan) in Exodus, an exact Copy of the Tabernacle (not Temple) in Heaven, and a Parable (Hebrews 9:9) that explains salvation, a fascinating and enriching study often neglected.

Volume 4: My understanding of The Revelation of Yeshua The Messiah. 407 pages. With Antisemitism and satanic hatred of Israel exploding, it is wise to Stand with ABBA and His Truth!! We have, for 94 & 92 years, and look forward to going Home asap!

With our love and prayers for you and for Israel,

Roger & Naomi – invalid in wheelchair, Roger her main caregiver also in wheelchair.

20TH Asia Pacific Messianic Conference

**Steadfast
and
Immovable
in these
End Times**

“Therefore, my beloved brethren,
be steadfast, immovable, always
abounding in the work of the
Lord, knowing that your labor is
not in vain in the Lord.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:58

Date: March 28-30, 2024
Venue: Riverview Waterpark
Asin, Nangalisan, Tuba, Benguet



Yoel Berkowitz
Main Speaker



ASIA
PACIFIC
MESSIANIC
FELLOWSHIP

www.apmfinc.com

For more information:
Rachel Angiwan
rachel.angiwan@gmail.com
+63-917-667-7801
FB Messenger: Rachel Angiwan

Photo is a remnant of a wall from Masada.
An ancient fortification in Israel.
Photo is royalty free from Pixabay.com

Registration Fees

Stay-out: PHP 3,500

Stay-in: PHP 2,900 + accommodation cost for 3 nights

Fees include registration, swimming, and meals (2 lunches and 3 dinners).

Room Rates

Room and Number Available	Number of People	Rate Per Night (PHP)	Rate 3 Nights (PHP)
Dorm Main (2)	15	7,500	22,500
Family Room Main (2)	6	3,600	10,800
Standard Room Main (4)	2	1,800	5,400
Economy Room (10)	2	1,600	4,800
Standard Room Ext (8)	4	2,600	7,800
Standard Double Deck (2)	6	3,100	9,300
Dorm Riverside (2)	25	12,500	37,500
Family Room Riverside (4)	7	4,600	13,800
Family Room Riverside (1)	6	4,600	13,800

1. Room charges will be paid directly to the venue.
2. The room must be paid in full even if not all beds are occupied.
3. Breakfast is included with the room.
4. Sample calculation:

Rooms	15 pax	6 pax	2 pax
Accommodation per person	1,500	1,800	2,700
Total stay-in fee per person	4,400	4,700	5,600

To register: <https://forms.gle/mAvPp3HX9PvTH4Vp6>

Registration deadline is March 9, 2024

*** There will be no walk-in registrations.**

Payments:

GCASH

+639176677801

Rachel Angiwan

OR



Venue Google Maps Link:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Mefy26E9SepkwfUr7>

**(Plus Code: CGH6+JJ
Tuba, Benguet)**

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TIME	ACTIVITY
MARCH 28, 2024 THURSDAY	
1:00 – 4:00 PM	Registration
4:00 – 5:30 PM	Check-in, Pool Time
5:30 – 7:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Conference Opening
MARCH 29, 2024 FRIDAY	
6:30 – 7:30 AM	Breakfast
7:30 – 8:00 AM	Preliminaries
8:00 – 8:20 AM	Keynote Address
8:20 – 10:20 AM	Session 1
10:20 – 10:40 AM	Coffee Break
10:40 – 12:00 PM	Session 2
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Community Reports Part 1
2:00 – 4:00 PM	Session 3
4:00 – 4:30 PM	Coffee Break
4:30 – 5:00 PM	Erev Shabbat Prep
5:00 – 6:30 PM	Erev Shabbat Service and Dinner
6:30 – 8:00 PM	Night Swimming Fellowship
MARCH 30, 2024 SATURDAY	
6:30 – 7:00 AM	Breakfast
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Community Reports Part 2
8:30 – 10:00 AM	Session 4
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Coffee Break
10:30 – 12:00 PM	Session 5
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Community Reports Part 3
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Session 6
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Session 7
4:00 – 5:00 PM	APMF Leaders Meeting
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Havdalah Service and Conference Closing
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Dinner



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

INDONESIA

Gereja Kehilat Mesianik Indonesia
(GKMI = Indonesian Assemblies of Messianic
Congregations with the gov't recognition)
Pengakuan KemenAg Kanwii DKI
KW.09.7/BAO1.1/149/2013 Jakarta
Sat 5PM Sun 8AM

Bintaro Messianic Congregation

Bumi Bintaro Permai D7-8 South Jakarta 12320.
Contact: Benjamin Obadayah +62217364258
Sat 10AM and 5PM

Shoresh Messianic Fellowship Plaza
Pasifik Bld A1/1, 4th Fl, Jl Raya Boulevard Barat
Kelapat Gading, North Jakarta
Contact: Benjamin Obadayah +62-812-9912-430

Central Java Sat 10AM
Purwokerto Messianic Congregation Jl Lend
Sudirman 883, Purwokerto, Central Java
Contact: Bambang Rianto +62-8886657801

East Java Sat 5PM

Kehilat Mesianik Congregation
Jl Wonokromo 7/5, Mojokerto,
Kab Mojokerto, East Java
Contact: Judo Nugroho +62-81913224624

South Kalimantan Sat 10AM

Banjarmasin Messianic Congregation
Jl Pasar Baru 2, Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan
Contact: Edy Purwanto +62-8125189517

North Sulawesi Sat 10AM

Yerushalayim Congregation
Manado, North Sulawesi
Contact: Jefrey Rualemba +62-89655471976
Sat 10AM Netivyah Ministry Jl Garuda 37,
Manado, North Sulawesi
Contact: Oral Bollegraf +62-853 98128567

PAPUA Sat 10AM

El Shaddai Messianic Congregation
Jl Argapura Kanon, Jayapura, Papua
Contact: Seblum Karubaba +62-81247562203
Sat 10AM

Migdal Eder Messianic Congregation

Jl Pasir Dua Jayapura, Papua
Contact: Benny Karubaba +62-812 47082149

South Korea

Korea Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

Shabbat meeting at 2PM

F2,16, Gyeongin-ro 940beon-Gil, Bupyeong-gu, Incheon, 21424, Korea.

Contact: Yehoshua Jo, yehoshuajo@msn.com, +82-10-5090-5821

Japan

Japan Messianic Fellowship

Erev Shabbat and Shabbat 10AM

4-14-11 Midorigaoka, Taihaku-ku, Sendai-shi, Miyagi 982

Contact: Takashi Yokoyama +81-22-285-9227, jmf@bekkoame.ne.jp

Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

Shabbat Service at 1PM R# 301, 3-9-12

Shinmachi Kitaku, Tokyo, Japan 114-0012

Contact: +81-3-3810-8828, yehoshuajo@me.com

New Zealand

Talmidei Yeshua Messianic Ministry of New Zealand

www.messianic.org.nz

Hawkes Bay Kehillah

Nasi: Grame Purdie talmidimak@gmail.com

+64 277101157

Auckland Kehillah

Nasi: Ashok Kumar talmidimak@gmail.com

+64 21 029 08194

PO Box 8654 Havelock North, 4157 NZ (Talmidei Yeshua Messianic Ministry of New Zealand may not necessarily accept or agree with all the views expressed in this magazine)

Singapore

The Congregation that Song Lai Hee has founded "Noahide," a totally false pathway so he is alone now until Yeshua forms a true Kehillah there. He lives at Blk 620 Bukit, Batok Central #29-522, Singapore 650620

Contact: Song Lai Hee +6590027471

laihee@gmail.com

Thailand

Bangkok Messianic House

Shabbat 10:30AM 33/5 Soi Nai-Lert, Wireless rd.

Bangkok 10330 Thailand

Contact: Nobuyuki Ito +66-81-915-6154 nobubosuke77@gmail.com

Philippine APMF Diaspora in Canada

Calgary L'Chaim Bible Fellowship

Shabbat service 4PM 138 Bridlewood Ave. SW

Calgary Alberta, Canada

Contact: Louwell Ogbinar +1 (403)-700-2131

loubinar@yahoo.com; Marvin Mayo

+1(403)-796-7657 marvin.mayo@hotmail.com

www.lechaimbiblefellowship.org

Philippines

APMF Officers Philippines

Dave Angiwan: dave@apmfinc.com

Joel Cruz: joel@apmfinc.com

Ted Franco: ted_franco@yahoo.com

Amos Baucas: albaucas@hotmail.com

Member of APMF:

La Trinidad

La Trinidad Bible Congregation (LTBC)

Shabbat Service 10AM Cruz, La Trinidad

PO Box 133, La Trinidad, Benguet 2601

Contact: Amos Baucas (0928) 332 2201

lbaucas@yahoo.com

In Fellowship with APMF

Baguio City

Baguio City Messianic (BCMC)

Shabbat service at 9:30AM

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

Contact: Dave Angiwan dave@apmfinc.com

Ifugao

Banaue Messianic Fellowship

3601 Banaue, Ifugao

Contact: Jose Sarol (0967) 966 3562

clairesarolsarol@gmail.com



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

Cebu

Cebu Messianic Community

Shabbat Service 10AM, 1PM

Contact: Joel Cruz (0922) 822 5327, Imee Cruz
(0922) 851 2454

Bukidnon

Talakag Messianic Fellowship

Talakag Bukidnon, Mindanao

Shabbat gathering 10AM-6PM

Contact: Solomon Buasag (0977) 802 1025 &
(0935) 297 4405, vivsbuasag@yahoo.com

Rizal

Cainta Torah Community

Shabbat Service at 10:30AM

Dayspring Academy Sunset Drive Brookside
Subdivision, Cainta, Rizal 1900

Contact: Willy and Lita Miranda (0939) 325 3000
(0927) 704 8000 willyz_miranda@yahoo.com

Eagles Wings Messianic Congregations

Friday 6:30PM and Saturday 9:30AM

#7 Saratoga St. Park Place Executive Village,
Cainta Rizal

Contact: Jenny Joven (0928) 655 5469 Christy
Cruz (0995) 194 1502

Also Saturday 9AM #450 L Cerrero St. Brgy.
Macamot, Binangonan Rizal

Contact: Tony Arceo (0926) 829 6338

Paranaque City

Emunah Tabgha Community

Executive Heights, Paranaque City

Contact: Eva Agustin (0917) 896 0995

Shabbat service 10:30AM

Tagaytay

Tagaytay Torah Community

Shabbat Service 10:30AM

Contact: Ning (0919) 984-0878

Davao Oriental

Pujada Community

Yakal St. Barangay Sainz, City of Mati, Davao

Oriental 8200: Saturday 3-6 PM

Contact: Mark Pineda (0918) 353 2549

Lupon Torah Community

Panuncialman St., Purok Hayahay

Brgy. Poblacion Lupon, Davao Oriental

8AM-11:30AM every Shabbat

Contacts: Petronio (Bong) Conte
bongsik04@gmail.com (0907) 731 9723

Alen Kelly Conte billionairealenkelly@gmail.com,
(0917) 162 3763

Greater Manila Area

Cavite

Emunah Torah Community

Shabbat service 9:30AM

Block 3 Lot 21 Java St., Cybergreen Hills, General
Trias Cavite 4107

Contact: Christopher Madrid (0932) 844 2958

christophermadrid75@gmail.com or
emunahtorahcommunity@gmail.com

Quezon City

Mishpachah Ha'Mashiach Torah Community

Shabbat Service 2-6PM

Bldg. 11 BLPC, Road 3, Quezon City

Contact: Ian Asuncion or Cecilia Agustin
(0918) 573 6838

Mandaluyong City

Metro Strata Learning Center

Shabbat Service 9:30AM

11th Floor 685 Nueve de Pebrero Ave.

Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

Contact: Tanggol Esquerra (0915) 320 8083

Laguna

Chesed V'Emeth Community

Shabbat Service 12:30PM

Block 11 Lot 36 Calendola Village

San Pedro, Laguna

Contact: Monette Guiruela (0920) 658 3847



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Rochester NY 14623-1348

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