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WELCOME to Petah Tikvah: APMF Edition!

Rick Chaimberlin provides us with the basic **Petah Tikvah-US** each issue, to which we add our own articles, information about events in our region, letters to our own Mail Box, Messianic Directory, etc. By printing in the Philippines and distributing from here, we hope to save you a lot of money and make PT available to a much wider audience.

Distribution. Distribution is by **Bulk Subscriptions** from Congregations and Bible Study groups. Bulk Orders will be mailed, unless hand-carried is an option. The price is our cost plus any postage. No profit! Payment is expected in advance, preferably on an annual basis. Those abroad can send payments via Western Union to Rachel Angiwan with address at #161 Purok 15, Irisan, Baguio City, Philippines, Mob. No. +639176677801, E-mail: rachel.angiwan@gmail.com.

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Editorial Board. Articles submitted for publication will be evaluated by Dave Angiwan & Roger Walkwitz. Email to: Dave@APMFInc.com and Roger@Walkwitz.com.

Directory. Listing is for Messianic Torah Communities and Bible Study groups that want to be in Fellowship (working together!) with APMF, who meet on Shabbat and agree with our 3-Point Stand: ONE way of Salvation; ONE Family of the LORD: Jew and Gentile together in the Good Olive Tree (no church replacing Israel); and ONE Way to live in God's Family, the Torah way, expected of both Jew and Gentile Believers. Contact the Publisher to be included in listing.

ARTICLES, special Congregational Event information, and letters.

These are welcome! Send by email to Dave & Roger, with your name, address, and Congregation attended clearly indicated. We all want to know what you and yours are doing! **Testimonies are requested!** The Editorial Board will evaluate each letter sent in, edit as necessary, and publish those they consider of value. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE. It is essential that as many members as possible from each Congregation in APMF and Shabbat Bible study group attend each **Annual APMF Bible Conference.** These are held in Baguio City or Manila, or potentially other cities in APMF region, usually during Holy Week, unless Yeshua shows otherwise. We encourage **Regional Conferences and Seminars** to be held at other times of the year. Please plan far enough ahead to be **published in Petah Tikvah-APMF** so that others can attend and pray for it.

YESHIVA. This is Graduate Level training for all in Fellowship with APMF, men and women. Yeshivas are held at various times and places. We do not have or train clergy.

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Websites. www.APMFInc.com
www.Walkwitz.com/Roger
www.petahtikvah.com

GREETINGS FROM ROGER

January 2018



A Great 16th Annual Bible Conference will convene in Baguio City March 29 - 31!! I say Great because our invited teacher lives in Haifa, Israel, a Jew from New York City who has lived in Israel for more than thirty years, is a Lawyer as well as an Elder in a Messianic Congregation, married a Sabra and has 3 children with the youngest son in the IDF! So MARVIN KRAMER comes to us with years of experience living for Yeshua in the business and political world of Israel, and teaching the Bible in the Bethesda Assembly and elsewhere. He will tell us what life is like as a Believer in Israel and also his insights from Yeshua on Bible characters.

Because of Naomi's worsening physical handicaps I will not be able to be with you again but all is in Yeshua's control, which is always the best situation to be in!! So we will be praying and rejoicing with you in the many blessings you will receive from the teaching and the family-fellowship together!! We miss you all and appreciate all your email updates, Bible questions and information. Ministry here in Florida is nil compared to APMF action with you in the AP region!!!!

Another exciting event at Conference will be the introduction of our first APMF Torah Tract! Ian Asuncion and I have been working on this for some months and it is now printed and available for you to buy and use in teaching others. One copy will be in your Conference Kit and bundles will be for sale at the Book Table. Bundles will be in 5s, 10s and 20s. Your price is subsidized so you are not paying the full price for this production. I am happy to do this in order to give you "no excuse" for failing to buy a quantity and become active witnessing and using these Tracts. If you use Tithing as your financial discipline or not, all you have belongs to Yeshua and is to be used for His purposes which include family needs and outreach. Be faithful stewards!!!

Ian and I are working on a 2nd tract and more will be produced as time moves on. I believe in the power of the printed page!!! You might have your Bible on your smart phone but nothing will ever take the place of a printed Bible with your notes, underlining, highlighting and your Memory Verses for those who are diligent students!! Talk about living with and for Yeshua is hollow unless His Truth is firmly in your memory and "freely flowing" out to others, to non-believers and to fellow believers! Implementing the Great Commission should be as natural as breathing, the result of the indwelling Spirit!

Mat 28:18-20. *And Yeshua came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me (not to you or me or anyone else!). Therefore, wherever you go, make disciples (not easy converts) of all nations (Gentiles & Jews), baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe (learn and do) all that I have commanded you (Genesis thru Revelation). And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Do it with your open Bible and Torah Tracts!!*

At Conference there will be a Session on "Evangelism: How do we do it as Messianic Communities?" Marvin has been asked to tell us how they do it in

Israel and our own leaders will tell us also, so if you have any questions about Messianic Evangelism, write them down and give to Dave Angiwan at the Conference. We are not looking for numbers to "help the budget" like in church but we are always looking for those in whom the Spirit is working toward conviction, and for us to be useful as His ambassadors to explain and bring them to a decision, without human pressure. It is only the Spirit who can bring people to the New Birth. **Quality** not quantity is Yeshua's way. Does that not make YOU feel special?? Yes, you are special, to Him & to us!

What does it mean, "*make disciples* (not easy converts)"? Most of us came out of a church made up mostly of "easy converts" who "prayed a printed or short prayer" with little or no follow up. A Bible disciple is a disciplined follower of Yeshua HaMashiach, as He Called them, "***Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.***" ***Immediately*** they left their nets and followed him. Can you say as Isaiah responded to His Call: ***Hineni!!*** Here am I, send me... which is exactly what I did when Yeshua Called me to leave teaching at Bryan College and go to the mountain people of the Philippines...an excellent decision!!

When there is talk of "Evangelism" people usually think of Billy Graham, and his big city-wide campaigns. This is my experience with these big campaigns. At first I was a fan of Billy Graham as he spoke and then shook my hand as I received my Diploma from Wheaton College in 1951... he graduated there in 1943. Later on as Billy chose to join with all kinds of churches in his campaigns, diluting the spiritual impact and message, I lost my interest. Compromise is not God's way.

However, one day in Baguio City in 1973, I met a church pastor in town who said, "Come with me! We have a meeting at the UCCP church for the upcoming **One Way '74** City-wide campaign here in town with the Billy Graham Associate Evangelists team. There will be simultaneous week-long campaigns in all the main cities in the Philippines!!" So I went along with him as I was not in a hurry.

At the meeting there were about 30+ Filipino church pastors from the area and I was the only white American. As the discussion and organizing went on, soon the UCCP pastor was chosen as the Campaign chairman and I was chosen as the Vice-chairman and Chairman of the Counseling and Follow-up committee! I had said nothing up to this point as I really did not want to be involved. But then I thought, Why not? I will see what these are like from the inside and besides, this is an important committee responsibility, something I was prepared for as they all knew about our BIBAK Bible Fellowship and our training programs, so I accepted. BIBAK is an acronym for the **B**enguet, **I**fugao, **B**ontoc, **A**payao and **K**alinga tribes of N. Luzon.

Training for counselors was done weekly by a mission that worked with Billy Graham so I brought all of our BIBAKers to be involved and learn. As part of the training, the counselors were told to come early and scatter all over the auditorium, do not sit together. As soon as the Invitation was given at the end of the message, the counselors were to get up and come down to the front and put their badges on. This was a "break the ice" psychology to get "people under conviction" to more easily leave their seats and come forward "to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior," thinking they were not alone.

How many of the hundreds that came forward night by night were genuine I have no idea except for one, **David Angiwan** came forward one night, was counseled by Lucas, a BIBAKer wood-carver from Hapao, Ifugao. Dave was born-from-Above and has been a disciple, co-worker and friend ever since then and is

now the President of APMF-Philippines and Elder of BCMC. Later on Lucas Buggati answered the Call of Yeshua, went home to Hapao, evangelized his pagan town mates and started a congregation there.

Why did these hundreds come forward, was there really conviction by the Holy Spirit, so after the counseling and record keeping, I asked several, "Why did you come forward?" Answers ranged from, "Sir, it was a very nice program with the music and so our Filipino hospitality required me to come forward to show my appreciation." "Sir, they were offering a free Bible so I came forward to get one as I cannot afford to buy one." "Oh sir, I just came to see what was going on." I did not find anyone that seemed to have come forward to accept Jesus.

Statistics from BG crusades found that 6 months after a campaign only about 6% of those who professed could still be found in churches. The expense for such a crusade is great. I also spent a lot of money and time. Also the BG Team were "professional" in that they put on a very pleasing program and a good 20 minute message, but afterwards it was like it was all business. The pianist was my classmate at Wheaton! But I suppose that after doing these crusades year after year and traveling away from home so much it could just become routine business.

My conclusion: no more, not for me, not worth my time and money. There were some benefits, however, as all the BIBAK counselors grew in their confidence to explain their Faith, there were some truly saved like Dave and the City of Baguio "heard the Gospel!" For some, crusades are what God has called them to do, but having seen one from the inside, **personal evangelism** is what God's main method seems to be, "every member evangelism," for me and those I minister with.

Evangelism for others like Jews for Jesus is standing on the street corner and handing out Gospel tracts in big cities and then try to engage the person in conversation. But first of all, evangelism is living like Yeshua all the time so that those around us can see a living example of what we are going to talk to them about - in season and sometimes out of season! This occurs naturally as we are to be ready always to tell the Best News of Yeshua, His love for us and what He has taught us from His Bible. As He says in **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**, *If anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Messiah reconciled us to himself and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**; that is, in Messiah God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation! Therefore, we are ambassadors for Messiah. God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Messiah, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

What a MESSAGE!! What a privilege and responsibility we have! We must continue to grow toward maturity ourselves and our Kehilot (organizational stability by maturing members) and **enhance our ambassadorship**. Ambassadors represent the President or PM of their home country and are stationed in foreign lands with security. We do not function alone. Yeshua has promised to be with us always and assigns guardian angels to serve and watch over us. Hebrews 1:14.

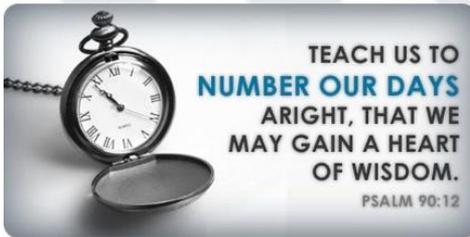
Our focus is always on Messiah Yeshua, His Propitiation for us and then the Moedim, the Appointed Times when He says he will meet with His people as

summarized in Leviticus 23. Our introduction to the correct Messianic understanding of the Bible was the celebration of the Passover, the Seder and Haggadah, at BIBAK in about 1985. This might also be an opportunity for you to show the difference between what Yeshua did and what the church did to change it. Please see my Document on this elsewhere in this Petah Tikvah...Important!!!

We also focus on ISRAEL, the country and the people. We hope you join a Tour to Israel if you have not already. A vacation is an expense but a trip to ISRAEL is an investment in your life, well worth whatever it costs. Next Year in JERUSALEM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

“Gaining a Heart of Wisdom”

16th Annual APMF Conference



March 29-31, 2018
Baguio City, Philippines
Speaker: Marwin Kramer
www.apmfinc.com

Venue and Duration

The venue of the 16th APMF Conference in the Philippines will be at the **Gestdan Centrum in Baguio City**. It is located at **#80 Bokawkan Rd. corner Upper P. Burgos St., Baguio City, Philippines**

The conference will be from **Thursday, March 29, 2018 to Saturday, March 31, 2018**. Registration starts at 1:00 PM on March 29, 2018 and the conference proper begins at 3:00 PM. We will also be having a Pesach Seder on the evening of March 30.

Conference Fees

The Conference fee is **PHP 2,100**. Fees include a PM Snack on March 29 and AM Snack, Lunch, PM Snack, and Dinner on March 30 and 31 as well as the Conference Kit. A conference registration fee of PHP600.00 will be charged for those who would like to attend but will not avail of the meals.

The Conference fee will be paid on arrival at the Registration Desk at the venue.

Registration and Contact Information

To register, please e-mail or message the names of those attending (as you would like placed on the conference ID cards) from your congregation/community/church.

For further inquiries you may contact the 2018 APMC Seretariat at rachel.angiwan@gmail.com. You can also visit the event page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1420405111420343>.

Each time we have gone to Israel, we always made it a priority to pray at the Kotel, also called the Western Wall, or the "Wailing Wall," as the British called it. This wall was constructed under the reign of Herod I as a retaining wall for the Temple Mount. This retaining wall was needed to support the greatly expanded Temple¹ located on the Temple Mount. Herod was responsible for so much of this expansion of the Temple that eventually it came to be called "Herod's Temple," in contrast to Solomon's Temple, which was destroyed by the Babylonians.

In my humble opinion, the Kotel is one of the most "anointed" places in the world. As we pray there, the **Ruakh** (Spirit) of God seems to reach out and grab you. You can experience His Spirit anywhere in the world or even in outer space. American astronauts in orbit around the earth and on the moon couldn't resist quoting scripture with great emotion. However, it seems that the stones of the Kotel are alive with the Spirit.

Above the Wall, on the Temple Mount (Har HaBayit) are two mosques: the Dome of the Rock and the El-Aqsa Mosque, which the Muslims constructed on the Temple Mount, primarily because this is a Jewish holy site, to show the superiority of Islam. In recent decades, Arabs began to deny any Jewish connection to Jerusalem, claiming it as a holy city in Islam. However, Jerusalem is mentioned by name 669 times in the Tanakh (O.T.), and dozens of times in the Newer Testament. Jerusalem is also mentioned in the daily Jewish prayers found in every **siddur** (Jewish prayer book), as well as the expression, "Next year in Jerusalem," which is generally said near the conclusion of the Passover seder. Jerusalem is not mentioned even once in the Muslim Quran.

The Temple Mount was under Jordanian occupation from 1948 to 1967. However, it was liberated when the Israeli army captured it during the Six-Day War of 1967. An alliance of Arab nations, led by President Gamel Abdul Nasser of Egypt, threatened to destroy Israel, making the land red with Jewish blood, and forcing the surviving Jews into the Mediterranean Sea. Much to their dismay, Israel won the war. Israel also gained much land, including the cherished Temple Mount.

After the Temple Mount fell back into Jewish hands, there was a small Jewish prayer hall erected on the Temple Mount. However, soon after Israel conquered the Temple Mount, General Moshe Dayan gave religious sovereignty over the Temple Mount to the Muslim Wakf, and Moshe Dayan actually forbade Jews from praying on the Temple Mount, although Dayan felt that Jews should be allowed to visit there. In actuality, Jews are greatly restricted from ascending to the Temple Mount. Only Muslims are allowed to pray at this site, which biblically is the holiest site in Judaism. Curiously, Israel continued the same policies prohibiting Jewish prayer on the Mount that were instituted by the Jordanian occupation from 1948 to 1967.

We were privileged to go to the Kotel on Simchat Torah in 1994. Earlier, during Sukkot, the Kotel was overwhelmed with visitors. However, on Simchat Torah that year, the Kotel was amazingly uncrowded. We had missed the earlier large celebrations at the Kotel. However, it was nice to be at the Kotel without being jostled by many others. It was great! On the downside, the Muslims began to blast their prayers with electronic loud speakers from the minarets on the Temple Mount. The noise seemed to be directed to the Jewish worshippers down below. Amazingly, this was permitted by the Israeli authorities. However, I doubt that there is anything in the Quran that requires Muslims to blast their prayers using recordings and electronic loud speakers. Imagine what would happen if Jews were to blast their prayers at Muslims using loud speakers!

At that time, I could really sense the evil power of Islam. President Obama famously said that these Islamic prayers were among the sweetest sounds that he had ever heard. That might be true for a Muslim, but not to my ears. I am not anti-Arab. However, I believe that Islam is a satanic stronghold. I also know that HaSatan has no love for Arabs or anybody else. The first victims of Islam are the Muslims themselves. I pray that God would cause Islam to release its ugly grip on Muslims throughout the world.

Another thing we like to do when in Jerusalem is to go to the Temple Institute. The Temple Institute makes no secret of the fact that they are looking forward to the rebuilding of the **Beit HaMikdash** (Temple). When you go to the Temple Institute, you get to see the various implements, vestments, and clothing

Rebuilding the Temple

Rav Richard
'Aharon'
Chaimberlin

¹ Many synagogues are called "temples." However, this is not biblical. There can only be one Temple, which would be on the Temple Mount.

for the **cohenim** (priests) and Levites that would be required for Temple worship. They even constructed the Temple menorah, which is built entirely of hammered gold, weighing about 99 pounds. It is on public display not far from the Kotel, but encased in thick Plexiglas. One thing that they apparently are not working on is the Ark of the Covenant. Former Chief Rabbi Goren of blessed memory claimed to know where it is located. If true, I hope that he passed this information on to others!

The Rebuilt Temple in Prophecy

Yeshua foretold the destruction of what came to be called Herod's Temple (Matt. 24:1-2). Rav Sha'ul (Paul) apparently looked ahead to the rebuilt Temple. He wrote:

¹ Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, and *by* our gathering together to Him, ²that you be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Messiah is at hand. ³Let no one deceive you in any way: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the Temple of God, showing himself as being God.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

The clear sense of the above passage is that Yeshua is not going to return until after the anti-Messiah (anti-Christ, if you prefer) takes his seat in the Temple of God displaying himself as being God. This requires a rebuilt Temple. Young Levites and cohenim are already being trained in the Temple rituals and sacrifices. Although most secular Jews would cringe at the notion of animal sacrifices being restored on the Temple Mount, it is likely to happen. For instance, small religious Jewish political parties often get concessions in the **Knesset** (Israeli parliament) as the price for joining a political coalition. These political coalitions are always needed because Israel is ever able to have a political party win at least 61 of the 120 seats in the Knesset.

However, many Orthodox Jews are also opposed to the rebuilding of the Temple before Messiah comes. On the other hand... most Orthodox Jews were also opposed to the re-birth of Israel prior to the rise of Nazism in the 1930s. It is entirely possible that most Orthodox Jews will also change their opinion regarding the Temple, and support the building of

the Temple **before** Messiah returns. There are also some Jews who believe that the Third Temple will not be built by human hands, but will descend complete from the heavens.

It was primarily secular Jewish Zionists who did most of the early work to form the foundation for the nation of Israel in the early 1900s. Then came the Holocaust, and then came the political reality of Israel becoming a nation in 1948. Thereafter, most Orthodox Jews became enthusiastic supporters of the nation of Israel. (Some weird Chassidic ["Ultra-Orthodox"] sects such as the Satmar and Naturei Carta remain opposed to Israel, although most other Chassidic sects now support Israel.)

The prophet Daniel (7:25) tells us that "he (anti-Messiah?) will speak out against the Most High, and wear down the saints (lit., "the holy ones") of the Most High, and think to change times and laws. And they (the "saints") shall be given into his hand for a **time, times, and half a time** (3.5 years according to most translators)." This is contrary to the Pre-Tribulation myth, that the Believers will be "raptured" out of here before the anti-Messiah makes his appearance. Rev. 13:5-7 also tells us that the anti-Messiah will make war against the 'saints' for 42 months, which is 3.5 years.

Daniel 9:27 also tells us that "he will make a firm covenant with many for one week (of years), but in the middle of the week, he will cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make desolate, even until the consummation, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate." This prophecy may have a dual fulfillment. However, it seems that the anti-Messiah will sign a seven-year treaty, but will break it half way through, after only 3.5 years, bringing to an end the Temple sacrifices and offerings. Of course, for the Temple sacrifices to cease, there must be a Third Temple.

The Problems of Rebuilding the Temple

The rebuilt Temple will be located on the Temple Mount, as were the First and Second Temples. There is the sticky problem of two mosques located up there. The Islamic world wouldn't look too kindly upon Jews knocking down any mosques, although of course they have no problem knocking down churches and synagogues. The Mosque of the Dome is now considered the third holiest site in Islam.

There are potential ways around this problem. We can always pray for an earthquake on the Temple Mount, can't we? However, another possibility is to build the Third Temple on

the Temple Mount without disturbing the existing mosques up there. According to archeologist Ashe Kaufman, the Holy of Holies was located nowhere near either of the mosques. According to Revelation 11:1-2, it seems apparent that at least part of the Temple Mount will be given into the hands of the Gentiles for 42 months (3.5 years). The Temple could be rebuilt without knocking down any mosques.

However, one slight problem is that Israel foolishly gave sovereignty over to the Temple Mount to the Muslims. The Arabs aren't too eager to give up any sovereignty to the Jews over this sacred plot of land, also called Mount Moriah, where Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac.

I suspect that the Pope might provide a solution to this problem. The Catholic Church finally came to grips with the existence of the Jewish state, and has had formal diplomatic relations with Israel since the 1990s. Some wonder what diplomatic deals might have been made to cause the Vatican to overcome the theological hurdle of recognizing the Jews back in the Land, just as foretold by the prophets. The Vatican holds title to many pieces of property in Israel, and wants to continue holding onto the titles. Perhaps the Vatican also struck a deal, whereby the Jews would be permitted to someday rebuild the Temple.

We don't know when construction of the Third Temple will begin. However, once construction has begun, it could be completed rather quickly with modern machinery. The measurements for this future Temple are readily available. One only needs to read Ezekiel chapters 40-42 for the measurements. The so-called Tribulation Temple and Millennial Temple could be the same building. The Hasmoneans cleansed the defiled Temple in 162 BCE, built a new altar, and were again able to resume Temple worship. This scenario could be repeated in the future.

In order for a rebuilt Temple to occur, there is also the need for a rebuilt Temple to occur, there is also the need for a **parah adumah** ("red heifer"), as described in Numbers 19. According to Talmud, even if just two white hairs or two black hairs are on the red heifer, it is disqualified from being slaughtered to produce the ashes for ceremonial cleansing and purification for those who go to the Temple. There have been times when such a creature was born. Then the calf was carefully protected (by the Moo-sad?). However, as the calves got older, a few white or black hairs appeared rendering them unfit. The search continues!

The rebuilding of the Temple might cause a crisis in theology for many Christians. There will be sacrifices for sin offerings in the Temple, mentioned in Ezekiel 42:13; 43:19,22,25, 45:17, etc. I don't have all the answers. However, it is better for us to get our theology in line with Scripture, not to make Scripture to agree with our theology. For those who have accepted Yeshua as Messiah and Savior, there is no need for any sin offerings.

When you go to the Temple Mount, you can look to the east, and see the Eastern Gate, which is blocked up with large blocks of stone, and an Islamic cemetery in front of it. This was the work of Suleiman the Magnificent, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, 1520-1566. He had the Eastern Gate blocked up, as he was aware that the Jews expect the Messiah to enter through the Eastern Gate, as indicated in Eze-



kiel 43:1. However, in blocking the gate, he fulfilled the prophecy of Ezekiel 44:1-2 whereby the Eastern Gate would be shut, and that no one would enter it. Then in Ezekiel 46:1-2, we read that "the prince" (Yeshua?) will enter the Eastern Gate. Having the Eastern Gate blocked will pose no problem for Yeshua!

The rebuilt Temple will usher in a new age, whereby water shall exit from the Temple to the east, causing the so-called "Dead Sea" to come to life again, with "very many fish" according to Ezekiel 47:8-10.

Deuteronomy 16:16 tells us of the three pilgrimage feasts. Currently, it isn't easy getting to the Kotel or the Temple Mount. However, Yisroel Katz (Israel's Minister of Transportation) recently publicly announced the soon construction of a high speed light rail connecting Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and the Kotel. Millions of Jews could be coming to the Temple Mount even before the Temple is built! Yisroel Katz said, "As a cohen ("priest"), I have a special connection to the holy site. In front of my eyes, I constantly see the words, **Prepare the way, prepare the way.**"

In the Scriptures, there are many messiahs that we can read about. Anyone who was **anointed** (Hebrew: *Mashakh*) with oil such as a cohen (priest), prophet, or king was a **mashiakh** (an anointed one). However, there can only be **one HaMashiakh** (the Messiah). There have also been many anti-messiahs (anti-Christ), and there will probably be more, before one arrives who will become known as the anti-Messiah (anti-Christ): "... just as you have heard that anti-Messiah is coming, even now many anti-messiahs have arisen." (1 John 2:18)

Many times in history, Christians have encountered what they felt was the anti-Christ. I remember Henry Kissinger, Prince

Charles, and others, who were thought to be the anti-Christ. Christians then awaited expectantly for the real Christ (Messiah) to make his reappearance. The concept that the Messiah

had already come, and will come again, is normally thought of as a Christian concept. You might be surprised to find that it is also an Orthodox

Jewish concept. The **Machzor L'Yom Kippur** (Prayer Book for the Day of

Atonement), 1928, pages 287-288, published

by the Hebrew Publishing Company contains an interesting Musaf prayer called "Az Milifnei B'reisheet" (the initial words to the prayer, meaning,

"Before He created anything." Here is the prayer in English and Hebrew:

The Anti-Messiah

Rav Richard
'Aharon'
Chaimberlin

אז מלפני בראשית. ננה ויגון השית: תלפיות מרום
מראשון. תבן מרם כל עם ולשון: שכנו עץ שם להשרות.
שונים להדרין בנרבי ישרות: רשע אם האדים. רחצו והקבו
הקדים: קצף אם קצף באמתו. קדוש לא יעיר כל המחו:
צפתנו בבצענו עד עתה. צורנו עלינו לא געתה: פנה מנו
משים צדקנו. פלצנו ואין מי לצדקנו: עונותינו ועול פשענו.
עומם והוא מחוקל כפשענו: סובל על שכם הפאתנו.
סליחה מצא לעונותינו: נרפא לנו בהבורתו. נצח בריה
הדשה ית לבראתו: היו מחוג העלהו. משעיר הדלהו:
להשמיענו בחר הלכנו. שנית ביד יגון:

Before he created any thing, he established his dwelling (the temple). The lofty armoury he established from the beginning, before any people or language. He counselled to suffer his divine presence to rest there, that those who err may be guided into the path of rectitude. Though their wickedness be flagrant, yet hath he caused *repentance* to precede it, when he said, "Wash ye, cleanse yourselves."

Though he should be exceedingly angry with his people, yet will the holy *One* not awaken all his wrath. We have hitherto been cut off through our evil deeds, yet hast thou, O our Rock, not brought consummation on us. Our righteous anointed is departed from us: honor hath seized us, and we have none to justify us. He hath borne the yoke of our iniquities, and our transgression, and is wounded because of our transgression. He beareth our sins on his shoulder, that he may find pardon for our iniquities. We shall be healed by his wound, at the time that the Eternal will create him (the Messiah) as a new creature. O bring him up from the circle of the earth. Raise him up from Seir, to assemble us the second time on Mount Lebanon, by the hand of Yinnon (Messiah.)

This prayer is now missing in most Machzorim (Holy Day prayer books) for Yom Kippur being published today. The Hebrew Publishing Company preserved this prayer in their early editions of this Machzor.

This ancient prayer recognizes a Messiah (Anointed One) who came the first time "bearing the yoke of our iniquities, and our transgression." Also, "We shall be healed by his wound." This sounds amazingly like Isaiah 53:5: "But he was wounded because of our transgressions; He was crushed because of our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed." (This is a direct quote from **The Holy Scriptures**, published by the Jewish Publication Society in 1917 and 1956 in Philadelphia)

We believe that Yeshua is the Jewish Messiah. He came 2000 years ago, fulfilling the prophecies in Isaiah 53, as well as the prayer on the preceding page from the Machzor. He will someday be recognized as the Messiah by the nation of Israel, as prophesied in Zechariah 12:10. Upon his return, He will set up the Messianic Kingdom, and reign throughout the world. At that time, "The Torah (Law or Instruction) shall go forth from Zion, and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem," as prophesied by Isaiah 2:3. Peace shall reign throughout the world, as prophesied in the next verse.

A counterfeit Messiah is also coming. Like anything counterfeit, he will initially be a realistic imitation of the real thing. And as we learned from 1 John 2:18, there have been **many** anti-messiahs. We can read about two false messiahs (Theudas and Judas of Galilee) in Acts 5:36-37, which Josephus also wrote about. A very famous false messiah is **Bar Kochba**. He led a rebellion against the Romans, with an armed combat beginning in 132 CE, resulting in about 1,300,000 of Israel's two million people being killed or dying of starvation or disease, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 13:8. He was murdered by the Romans in 135 CE, which concluded that awful war. There was also **Shabbetai Tzvi**, who was accepted by many Jews as the Messiah in the 1600s. He was imprisoned by the Sultan of Turkey, and given the choice of conversion to Islam or death. He chose conversion to Islam, and thousands of his followers also converted, beginning the strange Judeo-Islamic sect call the Donmeh, still in existence today.

Daniel 9:27 describes a false messiah who will produce a seven-year peace treaty with Israel and the surrounding nations, but like the Islamic prophet Mohammed, will break the treaty when it is convenient to do so. Cur-

ously, the Oslo "Peace" Accords were signed in 1993. This was also supposed to be a 7-year process, culminating in genuine peace. Of course, recent history tells us that at the end of the 7-year process, Arafat unleashed what came to be known as the Oslo War in 2000, the worst period of **intifada** ("uprising") that Israel has ever experienced.

Spotting False Prophets & Messiahs

Christians are fond of quoting references from the older Testament that foretell the birth, death, and resurrection of Yeshua, such as Micah 5:1-2, Psalm 22, and Isaiah 53, especially when witnessing to Jewish people. **We heartily approve!** However, I would like to add some verses from Exodus and Deuteronomy to the list. These verses further clarify qualifications about the prophesied Messiah, and are also a warning about **false** prophets and messiahs.

Exodus 24:4 tells us that "Moshe (Moses) wrote down **all** the words of YHWH, and **all** the ordinances." Rabbinic Judaism teaches that there was a written Torah which was given to Moses, as well as an Oral Law which was passed down through the generations until it is finally written down as the Talmud. However, Exodus 24:4 confirms the non-existence of any "Oral Law" being given to Moshe.

Deuteronomy 4:1-2 tells us: "Now therefore hearken, O Israel, to the statutes and to the judgments, which I teach you, to **do them**, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving to you. You shall not **add** to the word which I command you, neither shall you **take away** from it, that you may **keep the mitzvot** (commandments) of the YHWH your God which I command you."

Regrettably, both Jews and Christians often ignore these above instructions. Rabbinic Judaism adds Talmud to the word commanded by Adonai. Young men in the yeshivas tend to spend far more time studying Talmud than the written Torah. That is **adding** to the Word. Meanwhile, Christians usually add Dispensational Theology to the mix, in which most of the "Old Testament" commandments have been done away with, thereby **taking away** from the instructions given by Moshe. When quoting Scripture, we have heard Christians respond dismissively, "Well, that's Old Testament," as if to say, it doesn't matter today.

Another important passage is Deuteronomy 13:1-5 in Jewish Bibles. Christian Bibles, unfortunately, divide the chapters differently. Therefore, in Christian Bibles, the passage I am re-

ferring to is Deuteronomy 12:32 to 13:4:

Whatsoever I command you, observe to do it: you shall not **add** nor **take away** from it. If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, "Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them," you shall not hearken to the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for YHWH your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after YHWH your God, and fear Him, and keep his commandments, and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him, and cleave to Him.

And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he has spoken to turn *you* away from YHWH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to seduce you out of the way which the LORD your God commanded you to walk in. So shall you put the evil away from the midst of you.

That's a lot to chew on, but it is really quite simple. Moshe is warning us against any prophet (or false messiah!) who preaches or teaches against keeping the mitzvot (commandments) given to us by God. If indeed Jesus preached against the commandments, then He would have been a false prophet. Even if the prophecies of such a prophet came true, we are not to follow such a prophet. And even if this prophet or dreamer of dreams produced signs and wonders, we are not to follow such a prophet. Therefore, Jews throughout the centuries who rejected the Jesus who did away with Torah were correct in doing so. These Jews had been presented with a counterfeit Jesus.

In fact, there are many different Jesuses in the world. The Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, Catholics, Protestants, even Muslims and New Age people, all believe in a Jesus of some sort. It is important to ask: Is this the Jesus of the Bible? In 2 Corinthians 11:4, Rav Sha'ul warns us not to follow "another Jesus, whom we have not preached" or "a different gospel which you have not accepted." In other words, there are counterfeits out there. They are not all necessarily the Jesus of the Bible. If Jesus had in fact preached against Shabbat, the dietary laws, the Holy Days, etc., then He would **not** have been the prophesied Messiah. He

would have been an anti-Messiah.

There will indeed be a future anti-Christ, or anti-Messiah, as I like to call him. He will initially ingratiate himself to the Jewish people. Daniel 9:26-27 tells us that there will be a "prince" coming that will "destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary (the rebuilt Temple)." This prince will also "make a firm covenant with the many for one seven, but in the middle of the seven he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering..." In other words, there will be a seven year peace treaty which he will break half way through, after 3.5 years. Daniel 7:25 tells us that "He will speak out against the Most High, and he will intend to make alterations in **times** and in **law**, and they (the "saints") will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time (three and a half years.)" This is confirmed in Revelation 13:5.

"Anti-M" will make alterations in times and in law, perhaps even changing the seven-day week, something that has never been done before. However, the Christian church has also made alterations in times and in law, changing the Sabbath to Sunday, exchanging the biblical Holy Days for pagan holidays, suitably "Christianized" with new meanings, and of course eliminating the dietary laws of Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14.

These changes are totally contrary to the instructions that Yeshua gave to us in Matthew 5:17-19: "Think **not** that I have come to destroy the Torah or the prophets: I have not come to destroy, but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle shall in any way pass from the law, until all be fulfilled. ¹⁹Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." The genuine pro-Torah Yeshua is pro-Torah. The anti-Torah Jesus is an anti-christ - although certainly **not** the anti-christ.

1 John 2:3-6 uses much stronger language: "And by this we know that we have come to know Him, **if** we keep his mitzvot (commandments). The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does **not** keep his mitzvot, is a **liar**, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we now that we are in Him: The one who says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same manner as He walked." Taken literally, this means that those who claim to know Jesus but don't keep the commandments are liars. Ouch! **π**

Some Messianic teachers dogmatically insist that Yeshua's "Last Supper" was not a Passover meal, but a Passover meal that Yeshua shared with His disciples.

THE LAST SUPPER

Passover, or a Pre-Passover Meal?

make ready for us. And His disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as He had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. And in the evening He cometh with the twelve" (Mark 14:12-17).

I have been told that one popular Messianic teacher has said that anyone who thinks that the Last Supper was a Passover meal is stupid. If believing that the Last Supper was a Passover meal means a person is stupid, then you can call me stupid. But you're also going to have to call Matthew, Mark, and Luke stupid, because they all called that final meal "Passover." Yeshua also called it "Passover," so I guess you'll have to call Him stupid too.

"Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat.' And they said unto Him, 'Where wilt Thou that we prepare?' And He said unto them, 'Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you,

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

Here are the plain statements of Scripture. Notice how many times the meal is called Passover:

"Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Yeshua, saying unto Him, 'Where wilt Thou that we prepare for Thee to eat the passover?' And He said, 'Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with My disciples.' And the disciples did as Yeshua had appointed them; and they made ready the passover. Now when the even was come, He sat down with the twelve" (Matt. 26:17-20).

bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in. And ye shall say unto the good man of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guest-chamber where I shall eat the passover with My disciples?' And he shall show you a large upper room furnished: there make ready. And they went, and found as He had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. And when the hour was come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. And He said, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer" (Luke 22:7-10).

"And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover,¹ His disciples said unto Him, Where wilt Thou that we go and prepare that Thou mayest eat the passover? And He sendeth forth two of His disciples, and saith unto them, 'Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.' And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the good man of the house, 'The Master saith, Where is the guest-chamber, where I shall eat the passover with My disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there

Twelve times the Bible calls the Last Supper "passover," and five of those twelve times the word "passover" came from the mouth of our Lord. Why do some teachers reject the plain meaning of the text and dogmatically insist that the Last Supper was *not* Passover?

One reason they believe that the Last Supper could not possibly have been a Passover meal is because of the "bread" that Yeshua broke that night.

"If it was a Passover meal, there would have to be unleavened bread. There could be no leavened bread at the table," they say. This is true.

"The Greek word for unleavened bread is *azumos* (αζυμος)," they say. This is true.

"But the New Testament calls the bread at the Last Supper *artos* (αρος)," they say. This is true.

"And the word *artos* refers only to *leavened* bread," they say. This is **false**.

The Greek word *artos* simply means "bread," whether leavened or unleavened, just like our English word "bread." As a matter of fact, unleavened bread is called *artos* several places in the Septuagint, the pre-Christian

¹ The Passover lamb. Also, when scripture talks about eating the passover, (as in Exodus 12:43 and Mark 14:14) it is a reference to eating the Passover lamb. Today, there are no sacrifices of Passover lambs, which could only be done when the Temple was standing, per Deut. 16:1-2. Likewise, "killing" the Passover (as in Luke 22:7) is a reference to killing the Passover lamb. **RAC**

Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. In Leviticus 2:4 "unleavened bread" (Hebrew *challot matzot*) is *artos azumos* (αρτος αζυμος).

In Leviticus 8: 25 (8:26 in Masoretic Text) "unleavened bread" (Hebrew *matzot*) is *arton* (αρτον αζυμων).

In Numbers 6:15 "a basket of unleavened bread of fine flour" (Hebrew *sal matzot solet chalo*) is *kakoun azumon semilaleos artous* (κακουν αζυμον σεμιλαλεως αρτους).

In Numbers 6:19 "one unleavened loaf" (Hebrew *challat matzah*) is *arton ena azumon* (αρτον ενα αζυμων).

In Deuteronomy 16:3 "unleavened bread, the bread of affliction" (Hebrew *matzot lechem oni*) is *azuma artion kakoseos* (αζυμα αρτον κακωσησ).

(Like all Greek nouns, the words *artos* and *azumos* have various endings because Greek is an inflected language. Noun endings are determined by the case of the word, i.e., how the word functions in the sentence, whether as subject, possessive, direct or indirect object.)

In all the above examples, the word *artos* is modified by the word "unleavened," *azuma*. Someone looking for a reason to deny that the Last Supper was Passover might suspect that maybe *artos* by itself, without the word "unleavened," always means leavened bread. But such is not the case. In Luke 24:30 unleavened bread is called simply *artos*, without the word *azumos*. Luke describes the discovery of the empty tomb on Sunday morning after the Resurrection, followed by Yeshua's appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, which took place on "that same day," i.e., on the first day of the week. When Yeshua and the two disciples reached the village, it was "towards evening." On this Sunday evening, about 24 hours after the Resurrection, Yeshua blessed and broke bread called simply *artos*. This is the same Greek word which some teachers claim refers only to leavened bread. But Yeshua would not bless and break leavened bread on the evening immediately after His Resurrection, because this day was in the middle of the seven-day feast of unleavened bread, when leavened bread could not be eaten. The disciples on the road to Emmaus said "today is the third day since these things were done." Regardless of what you think the phrase "these things" refers to, regardless of where you want to start counting to arrive at "the third day," you are going to end up somewhere in the middle of the week of unleavened bread, when the only *artos*/bread that Yeshua would bless and break would be unleavened *artos*. So the claim that

the Last Supper could not be Passover because *artos* always means *leavened* bread falls flat - unless you want to believe that Yeshua blessed and broke leavened bread in the midst of the week of unleavened bread.

A second reason, and probably the main reason, that some teachers claim the Last Supper was not Passover is because of a single puzzling verse in John's Gospel. John describes the Last Supper and the events that followed: Yeshua's words to His disciples after the supper (ch. 14-16), His prayer to the Father (ch. 17), His betrayal and arrest in the garden (ch. 18). Yeshua was taken first to Annas, then to Caiaphas. Peter's third denial of Yeshua happened at this point, and the cock crowed. Then comes the puzzling verse:

"Then led they Yeshua from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover" (John 18:28).

This verse makes it appear that all these events - the Last Supper, the betrayal and arrest, Yeshua's interrogation by the high priest, Peter's denial - all took place *before* the Passover meal was eaten. They led Yeshua to the hall of judgment while "it was early," right after the cock crowed. If the passover had already been eaten the evening before, then how could these Jewish leaders have been worried about being disqualified from eating the passover due to being defiled by entering the Roman judgment hall? Hadn't they already eaten it the evening before, when Yeshua and His disciples did? Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell us that Yeshua and His disciples ate the passover (that is, the Passover lamb) the evening before all these things, but John seems to be saying that all these events took place before the passover was eaten.

There is an answer to this puzzle, but first let me share a testimony from my own experience that is relevant to this puzzle.

At the end of the Passover Seder, it is customary to close with the words "Next year in Jerusalem!" This expresses hope that your next Passover celebration will be held in Jerusalem. Well, my very *first* Passover celebration was in Jerusalem, in 1976, when I attended a Messianic Jewish Passover Seder.

My wife and I lived in Israel a full year, then returned to America for a short visit before returning and taking with us a group of five other young people we recruited to go with us to work on a kibbutz for six months. During the two months when we were between trips to Israel, I was asked to speak at

our local fellowship group. It was not a Messianic group, but since it was the Passover season, I thought it would be a good time to share some basic stuff that I had learned about seeing Christ in the Passover.

I had been following Yeshua for only about five years at that time, but even then I tried to be as thorough in my study and research and preparation as I knew how to be, with the study helps I had available to me. So in my preparation to teach about Passover, I carefully read the four accounts of the Last Supper in the four Gospels. When I read John 18:28, I was very puzzled. I could see that Matthew, Mark, and Luke all three clearly and plainly called the Last Supper "passover." But John appeared to be clearly and plainly saying that the passover had not yet been eaten, because these Jewish leaders were afraid of getting defiled and thereby being disqualified from eating the passover. And I knew enough about Passover to know that the Jews did not have the option to just pick any old day they wanted. I knew enough about Passover to know that God had told them to do it on the 14th day of the first month at evening. So I knew that Yeshua would not eat the passover a day earlier than His Father said to. If He was just eating a pre-Passover meal, He would not

have called it "passover," because it would not have been the passover.

I was very puzzled. I read and reread all four accounts, looking for something to explain what seemed to me to be a glaring contradiction. I checked the few scholarly resources I had access to, but found no answer. One source acknowledged the apparent contradiction and discussed various theories that scholars have proposed to explain it. But that source said that none of those theories proposed by scholars were feasible, and explained why not.

So I was left with an apparent contradiction that I could not explain. But this did not shake my faith in the Bible, not in the least. I knew then, as I know now, that *apparent* contradictions in the Bible only *appear* to be contradictions. They are apparent but not real. Just because I do not have an explanation does not mean that there is no feasible way to explain it. It just means that I lack the information that can explain it.

So I set it on the back burner. I resolved to not let it trouble me. I continued to trust that God's Word is true. If the Lord wanted me to understand how to explain this apparent contradiction, then He would have to bring me the information that I needed. continued p 12 →

Artwork by Duncan Ainsworth, N.C.

לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה

בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם

L'SHANAH HABA'AH

B'RUSHALAYIM

(NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM)



AND FOR ALL THINGS, O LORD,
OUR GOD, WE THANK YOU AND WE
BLESS YOU. MAY YOUR NAME
BE BLESSED IN THE MOUTHS OF ALL
LIVING THINGS ALWAYS, FOREVER
AND EVER. IT IS WRITTEN: YOU SHALL
EAT AND BE SATISFIED, AND YOU SHALL
BLESS THE LORD, YOUR GOD, FOR THE GOOD
LAND THAT HE HAS GIVEN YOU!
BLESSED ARE YOU, O LORD, FOR THE
LAND AND FOR NOURISHMENT.



About seven or eight years later, the piece of information I needed came to me. I was listening to Sid Roth's Messianic Jewish radio broadcast. Sid was talking about Passover, and mentioned that in New Testament times, the Jews disagreed about which night to eat the passover. The days on God calendar do not begin at midnight, as on our secular calendar. The new day begins at evening, as in Genesis when "the evening and the morning were the first day." So when the Bible says to do Passover on the evening of the 14th day of the month, that can be ambiguous. Does it mean the evening when the 14th is *starting*, or the evening as the 14th is *ending*? The Jews in New Testament times did not agree, so one group did it as the 14th was starting, and the others did it as the 14th was ending. Passover lambs were sacrificed at the Temple to accommodate both groups. This arrangement made it possible for Yeshua to eat the passover when the 14th was beginning, and it resulted in His crucifixion taking place while lambs were being sacrificed at the Temple at the very same time that He was being sacrificed as the Lamb of God just a short distance from the Temple.

After I heard this, I wrote a letter to Sid Roth and asked him if this was a documented historical fact or just a theory that someone came up with to try to explain John 18:28. Sid wrote back and told me that he got the information from Dan Juster, a well-known Messianic Jewish teacher. So I wrote to Dan Juster and asked him about it. I told Dan that if it was a historical fact and not just a theory, I wanted to know the source so that the information could be verified. Dan wrote back to me and gave me the source. I filed Dan's letter with my study notes and research papers. That was in the mid-1980s, around 30 years ago. Unfortunately, I lost it somewhere during one of our moves, and I don't remember what the source was. If you want to know the source, you will have to seek it yourself.

After reading all this, if you still want to believe that the Last Supper was not passover, that's okay with me. I won't feel insulted. And I certainly won't call you stupid. I would just ask the same courtesy from you. If you disagree with me and with Matthew and Mark and Luke, please don't say that we're stupid. Just say that you respectfully disagree with us.

Let me close this article with a rant. As Paul says, "Would to God you could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me" (2 Cor. 11:1). So bear with me. I really don't get upset if someone says I'm stupid.

Being a pastor gives a man a pretty thick skin, so I'm not easily offended. But I do get annoyed when prominent teachers say or imply that anyone who respectfully disagrees with their pet doctrines is stupid, especially when their pet doctrine is not about something weighty and when their pet doctrine cannot be proven with absolute certainty. Whether or not the Last Supper was passover is not a weighty question. But arrogant, know-it-all teachers saying or implying that people are stupid if they disagree with their un-provable pet doctrines *is* a weighty matter.

"I say again, let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little" (2 Cor. 11:16). I do not claim to be the smartest or the most knowledgeable Bible teacher out there. There are scholars and teachers out there whose knowledge and brilliance dwarfs mine. But having said that, let me say that in the Messianic Movement there are some teachers who have no business being teachers in the Body of Messiah.

As I said, I am not the smartest or the most knowledgeable teacher out there, but I do know a bit more than some of these immature, arrogant, wanna-be Torah teachers who sow strife and contention in the Messianic Movement. I'm not infallible. But I have been diligently studying the Scriptures and seeking the Lord in prayer for over 40 years. I started long before some of these youngsters were even in diapers, spiritually speaking. And before some of them were even in diapers literally speaking. (What were *you* doing in the 1970s, youngster?) This does not mean that I can never be wrong, but it does mean that I have some wisdom and understanding that comes with age and experience. And I'm certainly not the only Messianic teacher who has been studying and teaching the Scriptures for over four decades. There are other mature Messianic teachers out there, some who know more than I do.

Some of the youngsters have good things to share, and I encourage young men to humbly share what the Lord shows you. "Let no man despise thy youth" (1 Tim. 4:12). Just don't let yourself be distracted from the weightier matters and don't let yourself be turned into one of those rude, bombastic, know-it-all teachers who obnoxiously insist that you agree with their pet doctrines without offering you any solid scholarly proof...

Okay, end of rant! Peace! Have a Happy Passover - even if you disagree with me about the Last Supper!

In B'Midbar (Numbers) chapter 13, HaShem¹ commands Moshe to send out spies to spy out the Promised Land. One man from each of the Twelve Tribes is chosen for this expedition, therefore, twelve men in total. For the tribe of Judah, a fellow named Caleb (Kalev) is chosen. As you may remember, there were only two spies (Joshua and Caleb) who gave a positive report, saying that the Israelites should go into the Land, and ten spies who warned the people against going into the Land:

²⁷And they told him (Moses), and said, "We came to the land where you sent us, and surely it flows with milk and honey; and this *is* the fruit of it. ²⁸Nevertheless the people *are* strong that dwell in the land, and the cities *are* walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the sons of Anak there. ²⁹The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan."

³⁰And Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." ³¹But the men that went up with him said, "We be not able to go up against the people; for they *are* stronger than we."

³²And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature. ³³And there we saw the **giants**, the sons of Anak, *who come* from the Nephilim, and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight." (Numbers 13:27-33)

The ten spies who gave the bad report were wrong. So of course the two spies (Joshua and Caleb) who gave the good report were right. The majority isn't always right. The best man (or woman) doesn't always win the elections. Also, truth is also **not** decided by majority opinion. If you believe in Yeshua and observe Shabbat, celebrate the Holy Days, and avoid the unclean meats, many Christians might try to tell you that you are doing it all wrong. They might tell you to observe Sunday, and even celebrate holidays with pagan origins, such as Easter instead of Passover. They could

point to over a billion Christians and the Sabbaths and holidays that they observe, as evidence that you are wrong. You might try to tell them that truth is not decided by majority opinion. You could even give them many Bible verses to support your beliefs. However, don't be too surprised if they dismiss your beliefs and proof texts.

In truth, the ten spies with the bad report were correct in many of the things they observed, although it seems that they stretched the truth a bit. There were, indeed, "giants" in the Land. However, to say that the Israelites were as grasshoppers by comparison is an extreme exaggeration. Og, king of Bashan, had a bed that was 9 cubits long (about 14 feet).² However, I would assume that the bed was oversized. He wasn't 14 feet tall, perhaps a more moderate 11 feet.

The sons of Anak (Num. 13:28) are again mentioned as Anakim in Deut. 2:10-11, and 2:21. The Rabbis tell us that the Anakim were giants with long necks. The word "anak" in modern Hebrew means "necklace." The Anakim, as well as other giants such as the Rephaim and the famed Goliath were descendants of the Nephilim. The Nephilim³ were the result of the "sons of God" (fallen angels) cohabiting with the daughters of men.⁴ The result of these relationships were the "mighty men of old, men of renown," as mentioned in Gen. 6:4. The Nephilim were destroyed in Noah's Flood. However, it is apparent that such things continued after the Flood. Goliath might have been among the last of the giants. Jude 6 tells us that the "angels who did not keep their own domain" are now being "kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day." They will apparently be released in the future.

Caleb the Kenizzite

You might be wondering about the strange title of this article: "Was Caleb a Goy?" The word **goy** originally meant **nation**, as in Genesis 12:2, where God promises to make Abraham into a great **nation (goy)**. However, eventually the term **goy** was transformed to mean **Gentile**, as in Isaiah 11:10; 42:1,6; 49:6, etc.

² D'varim (Deuteronomy) 3:11.

³ Nephilim literally means "fallen ones." They were in fact giants, which is how the KJV translates "Nephilim."

⁴ B'reisheet (Genesis) 6:2-4.

¹ "The Name (of God)"

was Caleb
a Goy?

Richard
'Aharon'
Chamberlin

We read in Numbers 13:6 that Caleb was from the tribe of Judah. That's **very** Jewish! However, if you go to Numbers 32:12, we find that Caleb is described as the son of Jephunneh, the **Kenizzite**." In Joshua 14:14, we read again that Caleb is descended from Jephunneh the Kenizzite.

We first discover the Kenizzites in Genesis 15:18. The Kenizzites were among the inhabitants of the land promised to the descendants of Abraham. Curiously, Caleb was descended from some of the original inhabitants of Canaan. Yet in Numbers 13, he is one of the twelve spies to scout out the land for the Israelites to conquer. To find out the origins of the Kenizzites, we go to Genesis 36:2-4 and 36:11. The Kenizzites were descended from Esau, brother of Jacob. Esau also fathered other nations, such as the Amalekites. Other descendants of Esau were called Edomites, who were often mortal enemies of the Israelites.

This is all well and good. However, how can a Kenizzite be listed in Numbers 13:6 as being "from the tribe of Judah"? For the answer to that question, we must go to Exodus 12:38. We learn that it wasn't just Israelites that left Egypt in that exodus. "And a mixed multitude also went up with them, along with flocks and herds, a very large number of livestock."

Who was in this "mixed multitude"? The Bible doesn't tell us. It might include some Egyptians, as well as others who might have gone to Egypt to escape famine or for a better life. There were probably others who were slaves of the Egyptians who also left with the Israelites. Your guess is as good as mine.

However, it is worth noting that when they arrived at the Promised Land, it was divided among the Twelve Tribes. There was no separate section of land for the "tribe of mixed multitude." That is because the "mixed multitude" were adopted into the various Twelve Tribes. They became part of the nation of Israel. This is why a Kenizzite like Caleb could be chosen "from the tribe of Judah," as stated in Numbers 13:6.

I believe that most of the "mixed multitude" converted to worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, even though many believe that some of this "mixed multitude" created many problems for Israel. The Rabbis blame the "mixed multitude" for causing much dissent, and being a source of rebellion against Moses. They are also blamed for provoking the sin of the Golden Calf in Exodus 32, although there is no Biblical evidence for that. However, any criticism of the "mixed multitude" should be tempered with the understanding that they

were from a wide background of pagan religions. We as new believers in Yeshua didn't always live right, and even today we fall short. So perhaps we should offer them some slack.

The "mixed multitude" were not the only **goyim** (Gentiles) to attach themselves to Israel. Ruth became a **ger** (proselyte) when she declared to Naomi, "Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried."⁵

In Esther 8:17b, we read, "And many among the peoples of the land became Jews, for the fear of the Jews had fallen upon them." This might not be the best motivation for converting to Judaism. However, we are grateful to those who chose to become Jews. And we pray that those who choose to become Jews in this day and time will also accept Yeshua as their Jewish Messiah.

When the Torah was written down, Moses had to make provision for the "mixed multitude" that came out of Egypt. Therefore, it is written: "¹⁵One ordinance *shall be both* for you of the congregation, and also for the stranger that sojourns *with you*, an ordinance forever in your generations: as you *are*, so shall the stranger be before YHWH. ¹⁶One Law and one manner shall be for you, and for the **ger** (alien or proselyte) that sojourns with you (Numbers 15:15-16)." There isn't one Torah for the Jews and a separate one for the Gentiles.

In Romans 11:17-21, we read that the Gentile believers should be grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree. Unfortunately, for many centuries, Christians have been trying to graft Jewish believers into a Christian tree, which unfortunately has been compromised by various pagan holidays and theologies.

That great gathering on Shavuot ("Pentecost") in Acts 2 gave birth to what is today called Messianic Judaism. The people at this gathering were "both Jews and **proselytes** (gentile converts to Judaism)." Acts 2:10.

In Ephesians 2:11-13, we read, "¹¹Therefore remember, that you *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹²that at that time you were without Messiah, being aliens from the citizenship⁶ of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, hav-

⁵ Ruth 1:16-17.

⁶ The Greek word is **politeia**, which really means citizenship, not commonwealth, as it is translated in most English translations. This is the only place in the NT where **politeia** is incorrectly translated as "commonwealth."

ing no hope, and without God in the world.
¹³But now in Messiah Yeshua, you who sometimes were far off are made near by the blood of Messiah." As adopted citizens of Israel, it behooves us to obey the laws of Israel, just as new citizens of the USA are expected to obey American laws.

In more recent times, it is postulated by many that between 740 and 920 CE,⁷ the Khazar royalty of Khazaria converted to Judaism. After that, many Khazars within the kingdom also converted to Judaism. You can read about it in Wikipedia and many other sources. I personally believe it happened. However, I doubt that their descendants are more than a small percentage of modern Jews.

Caleb the Dog?

No, Caleb was definitely **not** a dog! However, his name without the Hebrew vowel pointings is spelled exactly the same as the Hebrew word for **dog**, which is כלב.

The Hebrew word for **dog** is pronounced **kelev**, which is very close in pronunciation to **Kalev**, which is Caleb's name in the original Hebrew. Dogs often don't get very good press in the Bible, as in 2 Peter 2:22: "A dog returns to its vomit," when referring to those who come to the knowledge of Yeshua and later depart from the faith. Yochanan, in describing the New Jerusalem, said, "Outside are the **dogs** and sorcerers and the immoral persons, and the murderers and the idolaters and everyone who practices lying (Revelation 22:15)." In this context, the **dogs** are male (homosexual) prostitutes. A derogatory term that was sometimes used for Gentiles was also **dogs**, as in Matthew 15:22-28 below:

²²And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, *you* Son of David; my daughter is severely demon possessed." ²³But He answered her not a word. And his **talmidim** (disciples) came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away; for she cries after us." ²⁴But He answered and said, "I am sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵Then she came and worshipped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" ²⁶But He answered and said, "It is not good

to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to **dogs**." ²⁷And she said, "True, Lord: yet even the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Yeshua answered and said to her, "O woman, great *is* your faith: it shall be done to you, even as you desire." And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Yeshua truly tested the faith of this Canaanite woman when He called her a dog. However, she accepted this term and used it to demonstrate her faith in Yeshua. She was richly rewarded for this great faith when her daughter was delivered from demon possession.

Caleb, true to his canine name, was very loyal to the people who adopted him into Israel, even spying against his people according to the flesh, that is, the pagan inhabitants of Canaan. Dogs do disgusting things. However, they are also very loyal to their human masters, even sometimes sacrificing their own lives to save their masters in dire circumstances. Dogs can be very fearless. This is also a

characteristic that Caleb had. Instead of fearing the powerful and tall people of Canaan, Caleb said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are able to overcome it (Numbers 13:30)."

However, Caleb's voice was only one of two (the other being Joshua) against the other ten spies. The Israelites noted that there were ten spies opposed to entering the Land, and only two in favor. To the dismay of Moses, the Israelite nation went with the majority opinion. Caleb's loyalty to Israel was not appreciated. In Numbers 14:10, we see that the people said to "stone them with stones."

Ultimately, of the generation of men over the age of twenty who departed Egypt, only Caleb and Joshua entered the Holy Land. All of the rest of those men perished in the wilderness. Because of Caleb's faithfulness, Joshua blessed Caleb by giving him the city of **Chevron** (spelled **Hebron** in English Bibles), "because he (Caleb) wholly followed the Lord God (Joshua 14:13-14)." As a result, Caleb prevailed over all of his Israelite brothers, with the exception of Joshua, who also entered the Promised Land. We can all learn the lesson of Caleb, to 'wholly' follow the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to live for Him.

As a result of the rebellion against Moses, Joshua, and Caleb, the Israelites would wander in the wilderness for forty years.

⁷ "Common Era," equivalent to A.D.

A relatively new phenomenon has emerged on the Middle East scene in the form of Jews standing up for persecuted Christians. It's a true wonder, bearing in mind the shocking history of Jewish persecution at the hands of the 'church' over the centuries. But it is also no doubt a warm response to the growing worldwide support for Israel among Christian people, especially in Africa.

And so, keen to build on this developing friendship, the Israeli government has just hosted an unprecedented media summit in Jerusalem for Christian journalists from around the world.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu used the occasion to speak up for embattled Christians in Iran and neighbouring Syria. "Christians today have been lashed for sipping wine during prayer services," he said, "brutally tortured for doing nothing more than practicing their faith. Some world leaders are willing to ignore this oppression and seek to appease Iran, but I am not one of them."

Yes, even much of the Western church is silent on the issue, apparently indifferent to their suffering. Canon Andrew White, known as the 'Vicar of Baghdad' and also speaking in Jerusalem, asked why, adding: "Here we see Jews standing with us, but where is the Church?" White saw much of his large congregation murdered in the crisis that followed the invasion of Iraq, and thousands of Christians have been forced to flee in the face of the ISIS advance.

Does this weak response to the plight of persecuted Christians reflect the flabbiness of our faith? Do we simply fail to comprehend what it must be like because we are so comfortable and thus unable to identify with what suffering for Christ means? ... We are not even willing to stand up for what we believe – for the gospel and the truth of the Bible – in case we should be arrested for 'hate speech' or 'homophobia'.

While some indeed have spoken out, and paid dearly for it, the rest of us have been intimidated into silence as we retreat into our holy huddles. But if we can't stand the low heat now, how will we fare when the temperature is turned up and we are called to endure the kind of persecution Jesus predicted for his followers?

"Be on your guard," he warned. "You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues... You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved (Mt. 10:17,22)." Many Christians remained silent while Jews were hauled off to the gas chambers and, although now somewhat more secure in their own state, they are still in grave danger, and we mustn't fail

them this time. Yet they are prepared to help us!

It's time to forsake cowardice and take on the sort of courage which Christians in some parts of the world are having to exhibit in bucket loads. Take the believers in Iran, for example, to which Mr. Netanyahu drew the media's attention. Despite the danger of following Jesus there,

20 Iranian Christians recently nailed their colours to the mast in a mass baptism. "I've been waiting for this moment for nearly nine years," said one convert. "This was my wish before I die," said another. Christianity is growing there by leaps and bounds amid reports of Muslims encountering Jesus through dreams and visions. "We have been praying for years that Iranian people believe in Yeshua (Hebrew for Jesus) and get baptized. Now this dream is coming true," said a convert whose brother was murdered for his faith in 1994.

Another highly dangerous place to be a Christian is North Korea, where believers are actually meeting in holes in the ground, just as the faith heroes of old had done (Hebrews 11.38).

A missionary friend of mine sometimes travels to a part of Africa that is equally dangerous, infested as it is by the Al Shabaab terror organization. As a result, some Christians are forced to sleep in the forest! But my friend was determined to bring comfort to them with his inspiring teaching skills, so he made his way there despite Foreign Office warnings to avoid the region, and the fact he could not even be covered by travel insurance for that part of his journey. On top of that, he nearly died from an infection he picked up on his last visit to the area! That takes courage, but he said it was worth it just to see the sheer joy on the faces of his brothers so happy and encouraged by his visit.

I conclude with the heartwarming story of Israeli tennis player Dudi Sela who, due to the courage of his religious convictions, turned down the chance of reaching the semi-finals of an ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) Tour event. Just eight minutes into the deciding set, he realized it was almost sunset, which marked the beginning of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement (the holiest day of the year for Jews). So the 32-year-old informed the umpire of his decision to retire and left the court...Unfortunately for Dudi, his quarter-final dash went to three sets and couldn't be finished in time.

The Day of Atonement, when Jews seek forgiveness for sins committed over the past year, is ultimately fulfilled by the coming of Yeshua, their Messiah, who atoned for our sins through his death on the cross as the perfect Lamb of God. (Isaiah 53.6; 1 John 2.2)

Jews Speak Up For Christians

by **Charles Gardner**
www.IsraelToday.co.il

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Matityahu 24:29: Immediately **after** the Tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the **Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great **sound of a shofar ("trumpet"),** and they shall **gather together his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

There are many who believe in a "Pre-Tribulation" Rapture. It's a comforting theology. It would be nice if it were true. Gee, we will all out of here before the really bad times get here! However, this theory, despite its overwhelming popularity, simply isn't true. Matthew 24:29 tells us of the events that will occur **after** the Tribulation of those days." Among the events that will occur will be the return of the Son of man "coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Finally, in verse 31, we read about the "sound of the shofar" and the gathering of the elect, which sounds a lot like the "Rapture" to me!

In 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, we read, "Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last shofar. For the shofar (trumpet) will sound, and the dead shall be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable much put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality (NAS)."

Although the term "Rapture" does not appear in the Bible in this context, I do believe in the concept of the Rapture as it is taught in many congregations. However, it will occur **after** the Tribulation of those days," which is contrary to what is usually taught in Christianity. Unfortunately, truth isn't decided by majority opinion. The majority is often wrong, as when the Twelve Spies came back after spying out the Promised Land. Ten came back with the report that it would not be possible, because there were "giants" in the land, and that the cities were highly fortified.¹ Only two,

Joshua and Caleb, believed that the Israelites should go into the Promised Land, and that the Israelites would be victorious.

Likewise today, there are many teaching "bad theology" when they preach a "Pre-Trib" Rapture. There have also been many throughout the ages who have wrongfully prophesied the return of Jesus or the "Rapture." They ended up bringing embarrassment upon themselves and their followers.

In verse 29, we read of other things taking place after the Tribulation. We read that the sun shall be darkened. This could mean an apparent darkening. For instance, even scientists talk about sunset and sunrise. However, the sun isn't literally setting and rising. This is only what "apparently" happening. Today, we all know that the earth is revolving around the sun, and also rotating on its axis. As it does so, the sun **appears** to be setting and rising. After the sun sets, it gets dark. The sun can also be darkened after giant volcanic eruptions, such as when Krakatoa erupted in 1883 on one of the islands of Indonesia. The explosion was the equivalent to 200 megatons of TNT, or 13,000 times the power of the atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. Over 36,000 people died because of the eruption, earthquake, and the resulting tsunami. The eruptions produced clouds of dust that circled the earth, darkening much of the globe, and producing the "year of no summer" in many places, including Rochester NY where I live.

Another example of the sun being darkened would be a solar eclipse, when the moon passes between the earth and the sun. Matthew 24:29 also talks about the moon not giving its light, which is something that occurs when the earth passes between the moon and the sun. "Prophets" sometimes get all excited about these naturally occurring events. They may **occasionally** be prophetically significant. However, usually nothing prophetically significant happens.

A more extreme example of the sun being darkened would be a literal darkening of the sun. This sometimes happens after a star greatly expands into a "Super Nova," becoming immensely huge, and then collapsing upon itself, sometimes becoming what is known as a brown dwarf.

This same verse also talks about "stars" falling from the sky. This might be a reference

The Glorious Return of Messiah Yeshua

Rav Richard
"Aharon"
Chaimberlin

Mat. 24:29-51

¹ B'midbar (Numbers) 13:28-33.

to meteors, which are often called "shooting stars" or "falling stars," even though most of us know that they are not literally stars. Our sun is a star, with a diameter over a thousand times larger than the diameter of the earth. And the sun is just a moderate-sized star. There are other stars in our galaxy that make our sun look absolutely puny. Obviously, these are not literal stars falling to earth.

The Bible also refers to angelic beings as being stars, as when Job was being chastised by God in Job 38, when HaShem describes the creation of Planet Earth, "when the morning **stars** sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy (38:7)." Stars obviously don't sing. Another reference to stars being angelic beings is in Revelation 12:4a: "And his tail swept away a third of the **stars** of heaven, and threw them to the earth." This is a reference to HaSatan's rebellion in Heaven against YHWH as also described in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, when one-third of the angels joined HaSatan in his rebellion against God.

Matthew 24:30 also says that "all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the **Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**" Apparently not everyone will be happy with the return of Yeshua. There are many in nominally "Christian" countries who no longer believe in a literal return of Yeshua. Also, they may be looking for a totally different type of Savior, one who has been "ethnically cleansed" of his "Jewishness." Muslims will be **very** unhappy!

When Yeshua returns, He is first of all returning to reign and rule from Jerusalem, to His own people. In order for that to happen, the Jews will have to be back in their own land, and will have to be in possession of Jerusalem. Any prophecies of the return of Yeshua prior to 1948 should have been known to be false, because Israel was not yet a nation until May 1948. And any prophecies of Jesus returning prior to 1967 should also have been known to be false, because the Old City of Jerusalem² had been conquered by Jordan during Israel's war of independence in 1948, along with the so-called West Bank (biblical Judea and Samaria). In the Six-Day War of June 1967, Israel recaptured Judea and Samaria, as well as the Golan Heights, Gaza, and the entire Sinai Peninsula. However, of great prophetic

significance, Israel also conquered the Old City of Jerusalem. The most important part of the Old City was Har HaBayit ("Mountain of the House," that is, the Temple Mount) as well as the Western ("Wailing") Wall, where Jews went to pray for centuries until it was lost to the Jordanian army in 1967. The Old City is also called "East Jerusalem." It should be noted that Israel did not "occupy" East Jerusalem or the West Bank; Israel **liberated** these areas from Arab control. Judea and Samaria (the so-called "West Bank") is the biblical heartland, where Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and many of their descendants lived for many centuries, although most other Jews had been expelled and scattered throughout the world.

There is still one more very important event that must occur before the return of Yeshua: The rebuilding of the **Beit HaMikdash** (the Holy Temple). The reconstruction of this Temple is described in Ezekiel chapters 40 to 48. It is also mentioned in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4:

¹Now we beseech you, brethren, by the **coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah**, and *by* our **gathering together unto Him**,² that you be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Messiah is at hand. ³**Let no man deceive you** by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that **man of sin**³ be revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the **Temple** of God, displaying himself as being God.

Apparently, even in the First Century, there were people expecting Yeshua to return at that time. Yeshua's talmidim⁴ were apparently also expecting the very soon return of Yeshua. In Acts 1:6, they asked the resurrected Yeshua, "Lord, is it at that time you are restoring the Kingdom to Israel?" They would have been heartbroken to find that they would have to wait a couple thousand years. Yeshua returned to Heaven, but He will indeed return someday.

There are still some remaining pieces of the puzzle that must be filled in. In the above verses from Thessalonians, Rav Sha'ul (Paul) tells us about the "**coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah**, and *by* our **gathering together to Him.**" This is a reference to the return of Yeshua as well as to the Rapture.

² In the late 1800s, there was also a newer city of Jerusalem built around the Old City of Jerusalem. Jordan captured the Old City during Israel's War of Independence in 1948. The Old City (Biblical Jerusalem) was recaptured by Israel in 1967.

³ This is the anti-Messiah, commonly called the anti-Christ.

⁴ "Disciples."

Then Sha'ul tells them to **not** be deceived. Before this blessed event occurs, there will be a great falling away. Then the anti-Messiah will make his appearance in the Temple of God displaying himself as being God. Obviously, in order for that to happen, there must be a rebuilt Temple.

The First Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE.⁵ The Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. The Third Temple has not been rebuilt yet. However, when it is rebuilt, you will know that the return of Yeshua the Messiah is soon... but not yet! There must also be this "son of perdition" that makes his appearance in the Temple of God displaying himself as being God. The Scriptures are so very clear about this.

Parable of the Fig Tree

As we work our way through Matthew 24, we read about the Parable of the Fig Tree. Decades ago, many considered the fig tree to be symbolic of Israel. Therefore, many became excited by Matt. 24:32-34: "Now learn a parable of the **fig tree**; When its branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near.³³ So likewise you, when you shall see all these things, know that He is near, *even* at the door.³⁴ Truly I say to you, This **generation** shall not pass, until all these things be fulfilled."

Israel became a nation in 1948. A biblical generation is generally 40 years. Therefore, many Christians were expecting Jesus to return by 1988. Of course, it didn't happen. There were two things wrong with the understanding of this parable. First of all, the fig tree is not mentioned in the Bible as a symbol of Israel. The usual symbol for Israel is the Olive Tree, as in Romans 11:17-24. Secondly, it is the Greek word "**genea**" that is translated "generation." I don't read Greek. However, Strong's Concordance #G1074 translates this word as "generation, age, nation, or time."

Basically, Yeshua was simply telling us to pay attention to signs of the times as we would with agricultural products. These verses simply mean that when the fig tree puts forth its leaves, then summer is near! There is no prophetic significance to these verses. Then Yeshua continues with these words:

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.³⁶ But of that day and hour no man knows, no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

In other words, even Yeshua didn't know the

day and time of his return! The only one who knew was the Father! Yet, many so-called prophets throughout the ages claimed to know the exact date, and misled many. However, we can look at the signs: The rebirth of Israel in 1948 and the reuniting of Jerusalem in 1967. These are signs of the impending return of Yeshua. However, two other signs must be fulfilled: The rebuilding of the Temple, and the appearance of the anti-Messiah (anti-Christ). When these things occur, we will know that the time for the return of Yeshua is very short. Here are some additional signs:

But as the days of Noah *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.³⁸ For as in the days that were before the Flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,³⁹ and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.⁴⁰ Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.⁴¹ Two *women shall be* grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Some of the above things mentioned are so very common that they could hardly be considered "signs" of the coming return. People have been eating, drinking, and marrying throughout human history! However, as in the days of Noah, many will be caught by surprise. According to the Talmud, I read that before the Great Flood, men were marrying men. I don't know the Talmudic reference, or if there really is such a Talmudic reference. However, this would be significant if true. Homosexuality was common among the Greeks and Romans, as well as other nations of old. However, there was no homosexual **marriage** among the Greeks and Romans. It is only in very recent times that there are again homosexual marriages, beginning with the Netherlands in the year 2000, and then spreading to many other nations since then.

Matthew 24:29-41 tells us of one being taken, and another left behind in different situations. This seems to correlate to the Parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. Not all Believers will be ready for the return of Yeshua. Only half will be ready.

Be Ready!

The concluding verses of this chapter tell us to be ready for Yeshua's return, regardless of when it takes place. None of us know when our last day will be. If you suddenly die, will you be ready for Yeshua's return?

⁵ "Before Common Era," equivalent to B.C.

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HaShem¹ promised Abraham that his descendants would be so numerous that they could not be counted for multitude.² However, it all got off to a rather slow start. Sarah was barren for several decades, finally giving birth to Isaac. Then Rebecca (the wife of Isaac) was barren for two decades before finally becoming pregnant with two twin boys, when Isaac was sixty years old.

The twin boys did not get along with each other. Even in the womb, we read, "And the children **struggled** together within her³..." Actually, that's not the best translation. The **shoresh** (root word) for the word "struggled" is רָוַן

(**rotz**), which means **run**. That sounds like a strange thing to say, that the twins were "running" in the womb. Therefore, translators put in the more "logical" term - "struggled." To make sense of this bizarre wording, the Rabbis tell us that whenever Rebecca passed the Torah academy of Shem, Isaac **ran**, struggling to go forth from the womb. And whenever Rebecca passed by a temple of idol worship, Esau **ran** and struggled to go forth.⁴ I find this to be a rather fanciful story. However, I don't have any better explanation for the rather strange terminology in this verse.

Esau (**Eisav**) was born with a hairy body. Therefore, he was named "Hairy," that is, **Eisav**. Jacob (Ya'akov) was grasping Eisav by the heel (**Akeiv**, which is the root word for the name **Ya'akov**) when Esau was coming forth from the womb. The same Hebrew spelling (עִקֵּב) with different pointings is pronounced **Akov**, meaning "deceitful." Both pronunciations are relevant, as either or both would be appropriate root words for Ya'akov. Jacob grasped Esau by the **heel** and Jacob was occasionally **deceitful**.

The Scriptures spend a lot of time with Abraham, and also for Jacob, the grandson of Abraham. However, the Scriptures spend much less time with Isaac. **Isaac reminds me of Abraham Mendelssohn**. As a youth, he was always called "the son of Moses Mendelssohn," the famous Jewish scholar. Abraham Mendelssohn eventually became a successful banker. However, by that time, his son Felix Mendelssohn had become a very successful composer, so at that time Abraham Mendelssohn was

known as "the father of Felix Mendelssohn." Instead of rejoicing about his illustrious father and son, he resented them, as it seemed he himself got so little respect.

The Abraham Kind of Faith

I'm getting ahead of myself. The twin boys - Jacob and Esau - were "struggling" (or **running**) in the womb, which disturbed Rebecca.

Genesis 25:22 tells us, "So she went to inquire of YHWH." She didn't simply stay at home and pray for a reason for the "struggle" in the womb. Instead, she "went" someplace. The Rabbis tell us that she went to inquire from a prophet called a "seer," or **ro'eh**, as we see it done in 1 Samuel 9:9.

Rav Richard
'Aharon'
Chamberlin

We have met people who seem to have the need for God to talk them all the time. In the Scriptures, God spoke very rarely to the Patriarchs and Matriarchs of the faith. I worry about people who are always seeking "direct revelation" with God. **They are vulnerable to lying spirits who can mislead them.** Those who seek direct revelation all the time eventually don't feel so much of a need for the Scriptures. After all, "God is speaking directly with me!" The **primary** method in which God communicates with us is through His Word. I am not opposed to direct revelation, and seek it myself on occasion. But this must remain a secondary means of revelation.

We don't know who Rebecca went to when she inquired of YHWH about the situation in the womb. However, she was successful in getting an answer. "And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples shall be separated from your body. And one people shall be stronger than the other, and the older shall serve the younger."⁵

In other words, even though Jacob was the younger (by several minutes), it would be the older son, Esau, who would serve the younger son, Jacob. However, Jacob was a conniver. I don't believe it was necessary for him to be a conniver. I believe God is able to bring about the fulfillment of prophecy without the help of Jacob, or his mother. However, we learn in Genesis 25 that Jacob purchased the birthright from Esau with a bowl of reddish stew.

As with his father Abraham,⁶ there was a famine in the Land, causing Isaac to go to the land of the Philistines. HaShem warned him **not** to go to Egypt. He was reminded of the promise of the Land that was promised to

¹ "The Name" (of God).

² Bereisheet (Genesis) 15:5.

³ Genesis 25:22.

⁴ Interlinear Chumash, Artsroll, Brooklyn, p.136.

⁵ Genesis 25:23.

⁶ Genesis 12:10-20

Abraham a generation earlier in Genesis 15:18-20. God also promised that he would multiply Isaac's descendants "as the stars of heaven." "And by your descendants, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed."⁷ And it has happened! The entire **world** has been blessed by the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even those who hate Jews have been blessed. Abraham spread the message of One God. Muslims are monotheists because of Abraham. Unfortunately, the one god that they worship is Allah,⁸ not the God that we worship. However, even anti-Semitic Muslims also benefit from many discoveries and inventions that Jews have made in science, medicine, cell phones, computers, etc. And Yeshua is Jewish!

I have heard of Christians who would say something like, "I want the **Abraham kind of faith**, in which Genesis 15:6 says, 'And he believed in the LORD, and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.'"

This verse is often ripped out of context. The implication is that Abraham lived before the Torah was given, and so he only had to have faith, and this faith made him righteous.

That is partially right. Faith came first. However, the works followed thereafter. In the same way, we don't keep God's commandments to "get saved." Torah is God's instructions for those who are already redeemed.

Likewise, Abraham demonstrated his faith by walking in obedience to God. In Genesis 17, Abraham and all of the men in his household were circumcised. This isn't a big deal for a baby.⁹ However, for a 99-year-old man, it is fairly major surgery.

Why did God promise to multiply Isaac's descendants and give him the Land? It was "because Abraham listened to My voice, and kept my **mishmeret** (**charge** or **safeguards**), My **mitzvot** (commandments), My **chukot** (statutes or decrees), and My **Torot** (instructions or teachings)." *Genesis 26:5.*

People often assume that the Torah was unknown before Moshe climbed that mountain and came down with the tablets of the Law. However, we see that Abraham was very much aware of many of God's instructions, as we see in the verse above. And if we want the "Abraham kind of faith," then we should follow his

example and obey God's instructions in Torah.

Hebrews chapter 11 is often called the "Hall of Faith," as we read about all of these great men and women of the Bible. However, as you read through this chapter, you will find that every one of them **did** great things as a result of their faith. Abraham **obeyed** God, going out to a land that he had never been to before, living as an alien in the land of promise, dwelling in tents. In faith, Sarah conceived and bore Isaac, when she was 90 years old! By faith, Abraham offered up Isaac as a sacrifice, believing that God would raise him from the dead. *Hebrews 11:8-12; 17-19.*

And this is the kind of faith that Isaac also had. And simply having faith, and walking in obedience, does **not** mean that there would not be problems, difficulties, and potholes on the way. In hot desert lands, having a well was a necessity, not a luxury. Isaac was able to have various wells dug, only to have them confiscated by the Philistines. Eventually, Isaac moved back to Beersheba. This is where his father Abraham also lived. Abraham also had problems with wells, when the servants of Abimelech kept seizing wells that Abraham had dug. Finally, Abraham dug a well in Beersheba (**Beir Sheva**), a name that has two meanings. Abraham made a covenant with Abimelech, offering a sacrifice of seven ewe lambs. **Beir** means "well." And **Sheva** normally means **seven**, referring to the seven lambs. However, Genesis 21:31 says, "Therefore he called the place Beir Sheva, because there the two of them took an **oath**." The normal word for "oath" is **shavua**, which can also mean "week" in other contexts. However, in this case, Beir Sheva can mean either "Well of the Seven" or "Well of the Oath."

Life for Isaac continued to be difficult because of his two quarrelsome sons. To add to the difficulties, Genesis 27:1 tells us that "his eyes were too dim to see." Despite the prophetic promise given to Jacob, Isaac wanted the Abrahamic promises to go to Esau. His reasoning wasn't very spiritual. He liked Esau, because he was a hunter and brought back the game that he liked to eat. Jacob, meanwhile, was a homebody, a 'Mama's boy,' not the kind of man that Isaac liked. Read about it in Genesis 27. Isaac sends Esau off to hunt for some game, bring it back and cook it, and then Isaac would give the blessing to Esau. However, Jacob and Rebecca were able to trick dear Dad, and get the blessing to Jacob. Like I said before, I don't believe it was necessary to do this conniving to get the promises already given to Jacob, but this is what happened.

⁷ Genesis 26:4.

⁸ The ancient Arabs worshipped 360 gods and goddesses. Allah was the moon god. Mohammed came along and told his followers to only worship Allah, not the other 359 gods.

⁹ I should qualify that one a bit. I got circumcised as a baby, and couldn't walk for a full year! (-:

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I was born in a Jewish family in New York but grew up in the Washington, DC, area from age one on. In the early years my family was secular, but as I approached Bar Mitzvah age, we joined a Conservative synagogue, moving to a Reform one a year and a half later, where I eventually made Bar Mitzvah. I came to faith in Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah in my senior year of high school through the influence of friends and a high school Christian group.

BELIEVING AS A JEW

At the time I assumed I was the only Jew who had ever believed this. No one told me Yeshua was Jewish; all his first followers were Jews or all the writers of the New Testament were Jews. I discovered the missing link the following year at college. There I met another Jewish believer who explained that we were Messianic Jews and showed through the Jewish Scriptures the many prophecies of the Messiah. Suddenly, everything made sense. I was a Jew who had found the Messiah. Unfortunately, this news was not good for my family, who reviled the idea, and sadly, years later disowned me. By the grace of God, this miraculously changed with a reconciliation with my father in December, 2013 and with my mother in May, 2014, four days before she died.

From college I went to law school and also did graduate studies in economics. After graduating, I took a position in the U.S. House of Representatives and the following year in the U.S. Senate. That same year I married my wife, Stacy. While I enjoyed the Congressional work, eventually becoming Chief Counsel to a U.S. Senate subcommittee, I still felt there was something more. That something more became entering the ministry. In 1988 I enrolled in a Messianic Jewish seminary in the Washington, DC area, completing my studies in 1990. In 1990 I was installed as Rabbi of Tikvat Israel Congregation in Richmond. Our congregation, Tikvat Israel, became one of the flagship congregations in the Messianic Jewish world. Shortly, after my family moved to Richmond, our then small congregation secured the usage of an historic synagogue building, eventually purchasing it in 1992. We became the first Messianic congregation to be housed in an original synagogue. In 2002 I was elected president of the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC), an international umbrella group of Messianic Jewish congregations. I served in that capacity for six years. During that time we made a significant impact on the nation of Israel.

ISRAEL TOUR

In the summer of 2003, in the middle of the Palestinian Intifada when tourism to Israel precipi-

tously dropped, the UMJC brought the largest tour to Israel for the entire year. Our coming at such a difficult time caused two of the Israeli newspapers to write positive stories about our visit - the first time Messianic Jews in Israel had received positive coverage. Following that event, as president of the UMJC, I was invited to Israel at the request of a member of the Israeli parliament (Knesset) to assist in raising money for humanitarian needs in Israel. This was again the first time a Messianic

Jewish organization joined forces with the Israeli government. I was invited to speak to an Israeli military base as a Messianic Jewish leader. In 2007 through our connections we invited another Knesset member to speak at the UMJC international conference in Chicago. This was the first time, and to this point the only time, a current Knesset member has spoken to a Messianic Jewish organization.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Approximately, eight years ago my wife and I began to discuss and pray about a possible relocation to Israel. We began to consider this for a couple of reasons: 1) The center of world Jewry is shifting to Israel. This has not been the case for 2000 years. In the most recent Jewish census, the largest Jewish community in the world is now in Israel. At the same time, the center of Messianic Judaism also seems to be making a similar shift. Modern Messianic Judaism's roots are in the United States, but with the rapid growth of the movement in Israel, this is gradually changing. As president of the UMJC I made mention of this numerous times. Much of the growth of Messianic Judaism in Israel has come from young American Messianic Jews immigrating there. We could see ourselves there, assisting the community, as we've done in the U.S. 2) Our three daughters have immigrated there as well, and so we began to question the Lord as to our moving there. Without belaboring the point, I felt the Lord indicate to me where we were to live when on a trip in 2003. It was confirmed in the summer of 2008, and in December, 2011, we moved to Israel.

LIFE IN ISRAEL

In Israel, we live in the north, and I lead a small chavurah (home fellowship) called Adonai Shamah Congregation. In addition, I have been asked to teach parts of my Jewish history course to different leadership groups in the country. However, my primary work is that of a Messianic Jewish lawyer. My goal is to assist the growing Messianic Jewish community in Israel both legally and politically. My wife, Stacy, teaches piano, guitar and English.

Rabbi
Jamie
Cowen

by Rabbi Jamie Cowen
jamielowministries.com

Although Jews are usually described as the descendants of "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob," there is nearly as much information in the Bible about Joseph as there is about Abraham. There is a relatively small amount of Scripture devoted to Isaac. Joseph happens to be a very significant person in the Bible, as well as a great source for inspirational stories, both for children and adults.

We generally read through the **Tanakh** (O.T.) using the Torah-Haftora portions that are on the Jewish calendars. Joseph wasn't perfect. However, more than almost anyone else in Scripture, Joseph had much in common with Yeshua. Unlike many other men of the Bible, Joseph comes through as someone who often had difficult moral choices, yet always tried to do the right thing, even if it resulted in *tsuris*¹ for himself.

One of Joseph's problems was that his father, Jacob, favored him above his brothers, creating instant problems of jealousy and even hatred. Another problem was that he had these prophetic dreams. It might not have been so bad, except that in these dreams Joseph was generally exalted over his brothers. Again, it might not have been so bad to have the dreams if he had kept them to himself, but he blabbed them to his brothers, which only intensified the anger and jealousy.

You all know the story: Joseph went to check up on how his brothers were doing. They threw him into a pit, with intentions to kill him, then decided to sell him instead. "Then there passed by Midianite merchantmen, and they pulled Joseph up out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for 20 shekels of silver, and they brought Joseph into Egypt."²

This is a somewhat confusing passage. Was Joseph sold to Midianites or Ishmaelites? The Book of Jasher helps to clear this up a bit. This is one of the "forgotten" books mentioned in

Joshua 10:13 and 2 Samuel 1:18.³ According to Jasher 42, the Midianites pulled Joseph out of the pit, intending to make him their servant. Joseph's brothers caught the Midianites with Joseph, and demanded a payment of 20 shekels. They paid the amount demanded, and proceeded on their way. Then the Midianites met a band of Ishmaelites, and sold Joseph to them for 20 shekels. The Ishmaelites brought Joseph into Egypt and sold him to Potiphar.

As you know, Joseph's brothers killed a goat, and smeared the blood on Joseph's robe, as evidence to give to Jacob that Joseph was killed by a wild beast. This was only the beginning of a period which could be called "The Time of Joe's Woes." Things were going well for Joseph in Potiphar's household. The only problem was that Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph. What I mean is, she really wanted him. Joseph refused her advances, and tried to escape from the temptation. Unfortunately, in his haste to escape, Potiphar's wife grabbed hold of his garment. She started screaming that he had tried to rape her, and she had his garment in her hand as evidence! This was the **second** time that one of Joseph's garments was used as false evidence about him.

It would have been far simpler to give into temptation. The world might have forgiven him, but Joseph knew that he would have to answer to YHWH if he had sinned with Potiphar's wife. Instead, he was thrown into prison for a crime he didn't commit.

Joseph did quite well in prison, eventually becoming in charge of all the other prisoners, under the supervision of the chief jailer. Eventually Pharaoh got mad at his cupbearer and baker, and had them cast into prison. They each had a prophetic dream, which they could not interpret. They told Joseph their dreams. He

JOSEPH and YESHUA

Richard
'Aharon'
Chamberlin



¹ Yiddish for "problems, troubles, misery."

² *Beresheet* (Genesis) 37:28.

³ I happen to have a copy of it. We cannot be sure this is the same Book of Jasher referred to in the Scriptures, but it does contain many of the midrashim (Rabbinic stories) that are included in Talmud and other places.

gave them both accurate interpretations, which was good news for the cupbearer, but bad news for the baker. The cupbearer promised to remember Joseph to Pharaoh, but like many well-intentioned people, he forgot. Joseph languished in prison for two more years.

One day, Pharaoh had a prophetic dream, but could not interpret it. Suddenly the cupbearer remembered Joseph! Joseph was brought from prison, and interpreted Pharaoh's dream, which predicted 7 years of bountiful harvest and 7 years of famine. Joseph advised Pharaoh to store up grain during the good years to ensure having grain for the bad years. Right away, Pharaoh had Joseph promoted. Joseph was made the Prime Minister of all Egypt!



Joseph: A Forerunner of Messiah

It is interesting that the sections about Joseph are read in the month of December, the time of year in which Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. Our readers are fully aware that Yeshua was not born on December 25. Any good encyclopedia, including even the Catholic Encyclopedia, will verify that the December 25 date came to Christianity from "Saturnalia." Another holiday celebrated on the same day is *Natalis Solis Invicti*, or the "Birth of the Unconquered Sun." Both were pagan holidays. The most likely date for the birth of Messiah is early October, perhaps coinciding with Sukkot (Tabernacles). However, it is interesting to note that the **conception** of Yeshua may have occurred during Hanukkah, which usually occurs in late December. Many of the traditions associated with Christmas came to Christianity from paganism.

Yeshua was initially rejected by his brethren according to the flesh. Yeshua was also falsely accused, punished – crucified – for things He didn't do. Likewise, Joseph was rejected by his brethren according to the flesh, and later punished for crimes he didn't do.

For the most part, the "Bride" of Messiah is Gentile. Sure, there is a small percentage of Jewish believers. But the overwhelming majority of those who believe in the Jewish Messiah happen to be Gentiles. Likewise, Joseph had a Gentile bride.

Joseph began serving as Prime Minister at the age of 30, the same age Yeshua was when

he began his ministry.⁴ Joseph was Number Two man in the kingdom, next to Pharaoh. Likewise, Yeshua is Number Two in his Father's kingdom. Quoting Yeshua, "My Father is greater than I."⁵

Years later, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to purchase grain, because of famine in Canaan. They had to go to Egypt's Prime Minister. Joseph now had a Gentile name

(Zaphenath-paneah), an Egyptian wife, Egyptian clothing, and he spoke fluent Egyptian. Joseph purposely chose to conceal his identity, to see what was in the hearts of his brothers. Needless to say, his brothers did not recognize him.⁶ Likewise with Yeshua: At

his first coming, his brethren according to the flesh (for the most part) did not recognize him as being the Messiah. Also like Joseph, Yeshua was given a Gentile name by the Gentiles ("Jesus").

Joseph eventually found that his brothers had great remorse over what they had done to him. At this time, he sent all the Egyptians out of the room, so that he could be alone with his brothers. Then he wept loudly, and announced to his brothers that he was indeed Joseph. In similar manner, I believe that a day is coming when true believers will be "raptured" out of here, at a future *Rosh HaShanah*, or Feast of Trumpets. Several days later, on Yom Kippur, Yeshua will reveal himself to His people – the Jews – as the Messiah.⁷ HaShem has designed it so that there won't be Gentile believers to say to the Jews, "See, I told you so." It will be just Yeshua and the Jews, just as Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers only after the Egyptians were asked to leave.⁸ n



⁴ Beresheet 41:46; Luke 3:23.

⁵ *Yochanan* (John) 14:28b. See also John 5:19, 30; 1 Cor. 11:3.

⁶ Beresheet 42:8.

⁷ *Zechariah* 12:10

⁸ I can't take credit for this idea. I "stole" it from William Lowe, a really great scholar and friend who passed away several years ago.

It's time to end the propaganda myth that Jerusalem is holy to Muslims.

Jerusalem was the capital of the Jewish nation under King David and other Jewish kings for hundreds of years. The U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 stated: "In 1996, the State of Israel will celebrate the 3,000th anniversary of the Jewish presence in Jerusalem since King David's entry."

Jerusalem was never the capital of any other nation. After the Arab conquest of Israel in 716 CE, the Arabs made **Ramla** their capital – **not** Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is the Jewish people's holiest city. Jerusalem's Old City (in the eastern portion of Jerusalem, the real Jerusalem) contains the millennia old Jewish quarter and Judaism's holiest site, the Temple Mount where the First and Second Jewish Temples stood, long before the birth of Islam. And eastern Jerusalem also contains the world's oldest and largest (3,000 years-old) Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives. (Eastern Jerusalem is the real Jerusalem throughout Biblical and human history; Western Jerusalem was built in recent years.)

Jerusalem is mentioned almost 700 times in the Torah, the Jewish holy books. Jerusalem is **never** mentioned in the Koran – not even once. Throughout the millennia, Jews always pray *for* Jerusalem 20 times each day, remember Jerusalem in holiday and wedding ceremonies, and pray facing Jerusalem. By contrast, Muslims pray facing Mecca...

Muslims make their pilgrimages to Mecca; while Jewish pilgrimages are to Jerusalem. One of the five pillars of Islam (the five obligatory fundamental Muslim practices) is the "Hajj" pilgrimage to the Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The Torah commands the Jewish people to make pilgrimages to the Temple in Jerusalem three times each year, on Judaism's three pilgrimage festivals (Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot).

Jews have lived in Jerusalem throughout the millennia. Since at least the mid-1800s, the majority of the people living in Jerusalem were Jews. Theodore Herzl wrote in his diary about his arrival in Jerusalem on the evening of October 31, 1898: "The streets were alive with Jews sauntering in the moonlight." The 1907 prestigious Baedekers' Travel Guide reported that at that time, Jerusalem had 40,000 Jews; 13,000 Christians and 7,000 Muslims.

In an attempt to create an Islamic religious connection to Jerusalem, Muslims point to Koran and *hadith* passages referring to Muhammad's **dream** (not an actual event) of journeying to heaven on his steed Buraq from "Al Aqsa" – the "farthest mosque." However, the "farthest

mosque" could not possibly have meant Jerusalem because the Koran refers to Palestine as the "nearest" place, and Jerusalem was a central crossroads in the Middle East – not a "farthest" place. Moreover, Jerusalem's eventual "Al Aqsa Mosque" was built long *after* the Koran and the Hadith were written. The mosque was named "Al Aqsa" after the fact, to create a myth about the location of Mohammed's dream. During Mohammed's day, Jerusalem was ruled by Byzantine Christians, and a Byzantine Christian church stood on the Temple Mount.

So little did Jerusalem mean to the Muslim Ottomans that, during the First World War, they abandoned it to the British without a fight and even contemplated entirely destroying the city before leaving it.

In 1948, six Arab nations invaded Israel, and Jordan captured and illegally occupied the eastern portion of Jerusalem for 19 years (1948-1967). During Jordan's illegal occupation, Jordan demolished 58 Jewish synagogues, killed or expelled the Jews, pillaged tombstones of the 3,000-years-old Mount of Olives Jewish cemetery to line latrines and build roads, denied Jews access to their holiest religious sites, and harshly discriminated against Christians and churches. Jordan prohibited Christian churches and communities from buying land or opening new schools, required Christian schools to teach the Koran, and refused to allow Christian holidays.

Under Jordanian Arab Muslim rule, Jerusalem became a small isolated town. Arabs abandoned Jerusalem and moved to Amman. Significantly, neither the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)'s original National Charter (drafted in 1964, during Jordanian Muslim rule), nor the PLO's 1968 National Charter, nor the Fatah (Arafat's terrorist group) Constitution even mention Jerusalem, let alone call for its establishment as a Palestinian Arab capital!

During Jordan's 19-year illegal occupation of Jerusalem, Jordan also kept its capital in Amman, built Jordan's first university in Amman, as well as the King's numerous residences, and made its Friday prayer radio broadcasts from Amman – not from Jerusalem. Arab leaders did not even bother visiting Jerusalem (with the brief exception of King Hussein). Jordan allowed eastern Jerusalem to fall into disrepair – to become a slum, with virtually no water or plumbing or electricity. This is not how an Islamic nation would treat a city that was **really** holy to Islam...

It's only by the reunification of Jerusalem under Israeli rule since 1967 that the city has been revitalized, enjoyed stunning growth, and finally enjoys full freedom of religion and access to holy sites for people of **every** faith...

Jerusalem Was Never Holy to Muslims

by **Mort Klein**,
President, Zionist
Organization of
America.
www.zoa.org

The atmosphere was electric as General Edmund Allenby dismounted his horse in humility, removed his hat in reverence, and entered the walls of the Old City through the Jaffa Gate, which hadn't been in use for many years.

Six hundred and seventy-three years of Muslim rule were over. Iconic footage shows Jewish people welcoming the general as if he was some kind of messiah, and the Land was never the same again.

As time went on, Britain's ardor for a Jewish state quickly cooled, but the story of how this particular moment came about is one of breathtaking wonder.

Jerusalem's 400 Years Of Bondage

After other Muslim (and Crusader) conquests had come and gone, the Turkish Ottomans conquered and ruled over Jerusalem from 1517 to 1917 — in what was then called Palestine for exactly 400 years. In the Bible, 400 years seems to be a bit of a byword for slavery and oppression — 400 years of Canaanite sin stored up for wrath, 400 years of slavery in Egypt ... and here we have 400 years of Ottoman rule.

The building of churches and synagogues was outlawed, church bells were forbidden; non-Muslims (dhimmis) had to pay the jizya² tax. But most catastrophically of all, in 1915 the call had gone out to wipe out every Christian in the Empire. The Armenian Genocide included not only Armenians but also Catholics and Greek Orthodox Christians. One-and-a-half-million were murdered, and many more suffered horrifically before making their escape.

God's Strategy Given In Isaiah 31

As the Turks were allied with Germany in the First World War, the British found themselves fighting against the fading Ottoman Empire in the Middle East. General Allenby was charged with liberating Jerusalem and had expressed concern to his superiors about the magnitude and sensitivity of the task before him.

He had been ordered to take the city without firing on the people or the city. How on earth was it to be done? "Pray," the answer came from above, which perhaps did not seem to be very helpful at the time. But Allenby did pray.

Allenby had come across the work of Bible scholar, Dr. H. Aldersmith, who had been

studying the prophecies regarding Israel. Aldersmith explained in his book from 1898, "Fullness of the Nations," that he believed Jerusalem would be delivered by Great Britain in 1917. He had become convinced from Isaiah 31:4-5 that the UK would have a part to play in the restoration of Jerusalem, and that it would be accomplished by some kind of flying machine.

"... So will the Lord of hosts come down to wage war on Mount Zion and on its hill." Like flying birds so the Lord of hosts will protect Jerusalem. He will protect and deliver it: He will pass over and rescue it. (Isaiah 31:4b-5)

Aldersmith had arrived at this idea even before the Wright brothers took their first flight in 1903—airplanes had not even been invented. But fourteen years later in 1917 airplanes were being used (but not commonly), and most people had never seen one. This man's conviction about Isaiah 31 was Allenby's inspiration. He would fly planes over Jerusalem, and drop notes written in Arabic saying, "Surrender the city! Allenby."

An Arab Proverb

There was an Arab saying that, "The Turks will not leave Jerusalem until the river Nile flows in Palestine and the prophet expels them from the city."

Remarkably enough, events conspired to bring these two highly unlikely things to pass. British troops were stationed in Egypt in the years leading up to these events, and Lieutenant General Sir Archibald Murray gained authorization to build a pipeline to pump fresh Nile water and a railway to supply their troops. By 1917, the water had arrived, along with the troops, in Palestine. Most bizarre, the River Nile was flowing in Palestine.

Secondly, Allenby airdropped notes that when written in Arabic, looked like this: "Surrender the city! Al Nabi," which means "The Prophet." After the mysterious flying objects sent messages from Allenby ("Al Nabi,") many of the Turks immediately fled the evening of December 8, 1917. All through the night, Turkish troops were fleeing Jerusalem.

By early morning, December 9, all had gone, and the Mayor of Jerusalem with a small party came under a white flag to surrender the keys of the city. The formal surrender was accepted by General O'Shea, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief. Jerusalem was delivered and not a shot was fired.

General Allenby officially accepted the sur-

Jerusalem, 1917

As Foretold In The Bible

by **One For Israel**

Reprint from:
www.maozisrael.org

² This was like a "protection tax" required of non-Muslims living among Muslims.

render at David's Tower by the Jaffa Gate two days later, and a proclamation was read in seven languages, telling the people they could go quietly and undisturbed about their ordinary business, and all their holy places would be respected.

The Prophet Haggai Points To A Date

So the evening of December 8th through the day of December 9th was a critical and historical time. In the Jewish calendar, from sunset December 8th through to sunset December 9th that year fell on the 24th of the Jewish month of Kislev. What is so special about the 24th Kislev?

To find the answer, we need to go back many hundreds of years to the prophet Haggai. Kislev is the ninth month of the Jewish calendar, and if we read the second chapter of Haggai, a prophet who was ministering during the building of the Second Temple, we notice that he highlights that very date three times. Haggai is receiving the word from the Lord on that date, 24th Kislev, and tells us to "consider" that date, or to pay careful attention to it in Haggai 2:10, 18, and again in verse 20.

The context of the chapter is mainly surrounding the issue of the Temple, of holiness and defilement, and of blessing for his people. God reminds us of his power over all the nations, and his total sovereignty. He can shake the nations whenever he chooses. He promises blessing for the people of Israel and draws our attention quite pointedly to that particular date—the 24th of Kislev. "But from this day on," writes Haggai, "I will bless you."

Some believe that the Feast of Dedication, Hanukkah, has its roots in this chapter, since it surrounds the issue of rededicating the Temple. Perhaps this date was significant to the Jewish people even before the Maccabees overthrew the Greeks and cast out their idols from the Temple in 167 BCE.

The End Of Muslim Rule

Either way, the idea of removing that which is against the God of Israel from his holy place resonates throughout the ages at this very time in the Jewish calendar. Is it a coincidence that the Muslim authorities raised a white flag in Jerusalem, the city that God calls "Mine"? Jerusalem on the 24th of Kislev, (Dec. 9, 1917) was liberated, ending Islamic rule.

Moreover, even further back than Haggai, Daniel 12:12 also prophesied that there would be blessing for Jerusalem after "1335 days." As one of the British officers was amazed to realize, the Islamic year in 1917 was 1335, since the Muslim (lunar) calendar started in 622. Keen observers of prophecy such as Dr. H. Aldersmith had already put the pieces together, and were expecting redemption and blessing for Jerusalem in 1917. The 1335 years were up. "Blessed is he," writes Daniel, "who waits and arrives at 1,335 days."

After 1335 years of Islam, the city of Jerusalem was delivered by the British using airplanes that "hovered like birds" on 24th Kislev in 1917.

WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM



WORLD WAR I WAR PLANE

Trump Recognizes Jerusalem As Capital of Israel, Will Move US Embassy

<https://worldisraelnews.com>

Trump officially declared recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, vowing to relocate the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

by World Israel News Staff

"After more than two decades of waivers, we are no closer to a lasting peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. It would be folly to assume that repeating the exact same formula would now produce a different or better result. Therefore, I have determined that it is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel," President Donald Trump stated Wednesday in his long-anticipated speech.

"Today, Jerusalem is the seat of the modern Israeli government. It is the home of the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, as well as the Israeli Supreme Court. It is the location of the official residences of the Prime Minister and the President. It is the headquarters of many government ministries.

'Recognition of reality'

"Jerusalem is the capital the Jewish people established in ancient times," Trump said. "Today Jerusalem is the seat of Israel's government."

"Today, we finally acknowledged the obvious, that Jerusalem is Israel's capital. This is nothing more than a recognition of reality. It is also the right thing to do," he stated.

"That is why, consistent with the Jerusalem Embassy Act, I am also directing the State Department to begin preparations to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This will immediately begin the process of hiring architects, engineers, and planners do that a new embassy, when completed, will be a magnificent tribute to peace," he added.

Boundaries subject to final status negotiations

The president also stressed his commitment to achieving an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement that would benefit both sides. "The specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in the holy city are subject to final status negotiations," he said.

"The time has come to rethink strategy with an open mind," Trump continued, noting the lack of progress in achieving peace over the last 20 years.

"We want an agreement that is a great deal

for the Israelis and a great deal for the Palestinians," he said. "The United States would support a two state solution if agreed to by both sides."

Editor's Note: We are very grateful to our president for his righteous stand in recognizing Israel's historic and Biblical capital. **RAC**

Pray for the Israeli Soldiers

by **Bezalel Fixler**, survivor of Transnistria Death Camp. Translated from Yiddish.
www.JewishPress.com

I was in Israel when the Second Intifada was at its peak. Palestinian terrorists were on a rampage. The land was in the grip of a wave of suicide bombings. Jewish blood ran like water.

Living in America, can we possibly imagine what it means to leave our homes not knowing if we will ever return? Can we imagine what it feels like to be a mother calling her child on a cell phone and getting no answer? Can we comprehend the anxiety, the emotional pain, of this mother?

Can we fathom what it means to see, with our own eyes, sweet Jewish children blown to pieces? To look upon innocent young people crippled for life? One has to be a Jeremiah in order to properly describe these cataclysmic scenarios.

Today, although acts of terrorism still occur all too frequently, there is no full-blown intifada. But don't dare think for one moment that our enemies are turning away from their murderous path. Don't dare believe, even in your most optimistic flights of fancy, that Hamas, Hizbullah, Islamic State, Islamic Jihad, et al, have given up on their goal of destroying Israel.

No, it is not to such bloodthirsty jackals that we look to understand why terrorist incidents in Israel have significantly decreased since the early 2000s. We look, rather, to the Heaven-appointed messengers who protect the land and the people of Israel with the help of HaShem: the courageous soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces.

◆ Who is it who stands guard at the *Kotel*, at Rachel's Tomb, at the cave of *Machpelah* twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year, if not the Jewish soldier, the messenger of the All-Merciful?

◆ Who is it who puts his body on the line watching over and enabling his Jewish brothers and sisters to pour out their hearts at the graves of their forefathers, if not our brave Jewish warrior?

◆ Who is it who defends the entire land with great loyalty and immense self-sacrifice, making every effort to prevent the return to a time when blown-up restaurants and burnt-out buses were daily occurrences, if not the dear Jewish youngster in the uniform of the IDF?

UNESCO Chief Strongly Defends Jewish Historical Link To Jerusalem At WJC Assembly In New York

www.WorldJewishCongress.org

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) Director General Irina Bokova pledged on April 24 to defend the rightful links of all three monotheistic religions to Jerusalem, declaring in a speech to the World Jewish Congress' 15th Plenary Assembly in New York that the "recognition, use and respect" for the names of the holy sites in the city is "paramount."

"The Al Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram al-Sharif, the sacred shrine of the Muslims, is also the Har Habayit – or Temple Mount – the holiest place in Judaism, whose Western Wall is revered by millions across the world, a few steps away from the Saint Sepulchre and the Mount of Olives holy to the Christians," Bokova said. "The outstanding universal value of Jerusalem, and the reason why it was inscribed on the World Heritage list, lies in this synthesis, which is an appeal for dialogue not confrontation."

"To deny, conceal, or erase any of the Jewish, Christian or Muslim traditions runs counter to the reasons that justified its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list," Bokova told the delegates.

In her address to the World Jewish Congress, Bokova also launched a new policy guide for educators on teaching about the Holocaust, genocides and mass atrocities. She described the guide as an important tool to promote education and the history of genocide as a tool for peace.

"With this innovative and one of a kind policy guide, UNESCO speaks to the next generation of leaders, of teachers, of citizens around the world. We must empower future generations with the lessons from the Holocaust, equip our children and grandchildren with the tools they need to vanquish intolerance and hate, bigotry and anti-Semitism, racism and prejudice."

"Education about the Holocaust and preventing genocide" is the first step in a series of projects conducted in partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and with the support of the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Bokova was introduced by Alexander Oscar, the president of the Organization of Jews in Bulgaria Shalom, who thanked her for her commitment to the Jewish community.

"It's Jewish"

Author Unknown

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Dave Angiwan Dave@APMFinC.com www.APMFinC.com

We Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem! Psalm 122:6

APMF Position on the "Lord's Supper & Lord's Day"

With thanks to my Greek-English Interlinear NT footnote, I was alerted to the fact that "Lord's" day and "Lord's" supper are not proper translations of the Greek adjective, *kuriakos* which comes from *kurios* = lord. (*Note that *kuriakos* is an adjective, for which no exact English equivalent is available.) The only two occurrences are in 1 Cor 11:20 and Rev 1:10, at which the Interlinear translates "imperial day." Interesting! This "imperial day" was probably a holiday on the Roman calendar but assumed or made to be a Sunday to claim, wrongly, that Yeshua told John to make this "change."

"Lord's" is a possessive noun, not an adjective as in the text, so why translate it as a noun?? Rather than try to find some adjectival approximation, like imperial for *kuriakos*, it was an opportunity to push the church agenda for Sunday observance instead of Saturday Shabbat mandated by Commandment #4, and a Lord's Supper to replace the Passover Seder! How did this agenda come to be? It began slowly about 150 years after Yeshua when some of the Gentile part of the Messianic Communities in the NT began to turn anti-Jewish. Btw, there is no "church" in the NT. Church comes from the noun *Kuriakon*, a pagan temple in NT times, not *Ekklesia*! This resulted in the Replacement "Theology" by Constantine at the Council of Nice in AD/CE 325 making the observance of Passover "highly criminal" in the empire, "a most unworthy thing...to follow the custom of the Jews...the vilest of mankind." "Let us then have nothing in common with the most hostile rabble of the Jews. We have received another method (pagan?!) from the Saviour." Read all this anti-Semitism for yourself in Eusabius' Ecclesiastical History! Btw, I did not learn this in church or graduate school but only later when I got back to basics and did further reading and study.

What is this "another method" that Constantine is claiming that Replaces the Hebrew Bible and its prescribed Way of Life? It is a return to the pagan practices that supposedly new Gentile believers had repudiated. These are found in Acts 15:19-21 as James, the half-brother of Yeshua and moderator sums up the meeting: "Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of

the Gentiles who turn to God (by requiring circumcision), but should write to them to abstain from (1) the things polluted by idols, (2) and from sexual immorality, and (3) from what has been strangled, and (4) from blood. For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues." This is said to pure pagans who have professed trust in Yeshua: "We expect that you have stopped these pagan practices so that now you must go to the synagogue every Shabbat to learn more from the Bible on how to live in this new life." God-Fearers stopped pagan practices long ago.

Since we pioneered Bible translation and teaching to pagan tribal people in Banaue, Ifugao, the Philippines who still sacrificed animals to the spirits, and further study of ancient pagan religious practices, these four prohibitions are very clear. As the pagan came to worship his or her chosen fertility god or goddess, he or she brought an animal for sacrifice. The pagan priest would offer the animal and then kill it and save the blood or strangle the animal with the blood still inside. The worshipper ate the meat and drank the blood, or sometimes the priest would sell the meat in the market and give the worshipper some bread, and maybe mix the blood with wine or give the worshipper straight wine. This is **eating their god or goddess** thereby obtaining the powers of their chosen god or goddess. This is the **pagan Eucharist** that the now official Roman Catholic Church under Constantine returned to as their "another method" **to Replace the biblical Passover!!** Then the worshipper would have homo- or heterosexual relations with the young female or male prostitutes who served their god or goddess, a duty required of every devotee for a specified period of time. Babies produced were usually left in a desolate place to die.

At the time of the Reformation, some like Luther continued the RC Eucharist. Others saw the paganism of it and decided to make a symbolic "Lord's Supper" instead, continuing as a Sacrament or Ordinance requiring a clergyman to administer.... and still Replacing the Passover Seder. This is still the practice of every church that I know of. We in APMF observe only the **Moedim or Appointed Times** of Lev 23 when God says He will meet with His people: a weekly Shabbat meeting on Saturday and the 7 Annual Appointments of Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Pentecost, Blowing of Trumpets, Day of Propitiation and Tabernacles. You are invited to join us, especially to see "Messiah in the Passover."

Shalom ~

You probably heard that Bibi (Netanyahu) was in Bogotá, Colombia. What you didn't know was that the Messianic Pastor - Raul Rubio - was invited to the red carpet ceremony to welcome him! This is a significant step for the Messianic movement. Joyce Dike,
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Editor's Note: We had the great privilege to attend the Yovel Congregation in Bogotá in February 2017. This is one of several Messianic congregations in Colombia. Miriam (my wife) is from Colombia, so this was a double pleasure for us. We were impressed with the Shabbat services there. They have excellent liturgical and music services, as well as great teaching from Raul Rubio, with many dedicated people in the congregation, which meets in a large hall filled to overflowing, with closed circuit televisions so all could see the services taking place on the bima.

Messianic Pastor Raul Rubio has an excellent relationship with the local Jewish community in Colombia, including with the Gran Rabino (Chief Rabbi) of Bogotá Alfredo Goldsmith, as well as the Israeli embassy staff in Colombia. This is probably the only Messianic congregation in the world with great relations with the non-Messianic Jewish community. Each year, they have a pro-Israel conference which is attended by prominent members of the Colombian Jewish community, as well as members from the Israeli consulate in Bogotá. And in 2017, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Pastor Rubio at a red carpet reception! Some Messianic leaders from North America have been to the Yovel Congregation, such as Rav Itzhak Shapira, who leads Ahavat Ammi, a Messianic congregation in Texas. He led a Shavuot outreach in Bogotá two years ago, and delivered a Torah scroll to Yovel.

Many of our readers may be aware of Colombia because of all the news about political violence and the drug cartel violence in Colombia years ago. I assure you that Colombia is now a very safe place to visit. Perhaps you can go someday! You can go to www.youtube.com and plug "Yovel Colombia"

to learn more about this remarkable congregation, or go to this website:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfcbPHfUiaQ



GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS

The Bad News is that your condition is terminal. **You are going to die.** You are infected with Sin, a disease that infects and kills every single person who lives on this planet. And after you die, you will stand before your Maker and give an account of what you did or did not do about your sinful condition.

If you do nothing, and just let Sin take its course in your life, you will suffer eternal judgment in a place the Bible calls the lake of fire.

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

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

Source: www.gatesofeden.org

Rick & Miriam ~

My thoughts and prayers are with you always. Use my offering wherever needed. You ministry blesses so many in various walks and seasons of life.

I have been reading your commentary on Revelation, and have learned so much!

Pat Henderson, Florida

Shalom Rick & Miriam ~

Thank you for all that you do for those behind bars with your literature. It was a blessing to me when I was behind bars. I got the latest issue last night, and had to put it aside, or I'd stay up all night and read the entire thing.

I made parole, and am now at the pre-release facility. I'm paroling to my grandparents cattle farm, so my work there will be just that - work! I wasn't raised with any religious background, but I think my grandparents are Methodists. I'd like to continue being Torah-observant, honoring Shabbat. I hope to find a Messianic kehilah that I can attend when I get out of the pre-release facility.

Christopher Burkett, TEXAS

Rabbi Richard ~

Toda raba for the work you do in obedience to HaShem! The word sent forth does not return void, and one day you will be astonished to learn of the many lights you have lit and the coals you have fanned to a burning fire for Messiah! Enclosed is a small offering.

Rav David Boyer, Rhode Island

Editor's Note: David is one of the elders of Tents of Jacob, a Messianic congregation in Warwick RI, listed in our directory on p. 62. He also sends out studies on the weekly parashot.

Hi Rick & Miriam ~

Thank you both for all you do. You could never know how much of a blessing **Petah Tikvah** was to me when I was in prison. I served a few years for what I did, and was willing to pay for what I did.

Rick Meserve, MICHIGAN

Shalom Aleichem Rick & Miriam ~

Please use the enclosed check for prisoners. I am sending this in honor and memory of my husband David, who passes away on September 4th, 2017. Please pray for me to have wisdom in all areas of my life.

Cheryl Guy, SOUTH CAROLINA

Dear Richard & Miriam ~

We continue to teach about the biblical holidays and their relevance to us as believers in Yeshua. One of my favorites is Simchat Torah. How empty the NT was without the connections to the original scriptures. How long we went, knowing something was missing, but didn't know what it was. We sought and we found. We praise Him for you folks, because you continue to teach us more and more.

Stan & Barbara Litchfield, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Greetings Rav Chaimberlin ~

I was one of the faithful sheep under the teaching of Rav Michael Everage at Greensville Correctional. I miss him and Bro. John a lot. All he did was create a hunger that can't be quenched. This new prison has nothing to do with Judaism or Messianic Judaism. There are no Shabbat services. I refuse to allow HaSatan to claim victory in this separation. They want to push me to the Protestant services. I will have to continue on this path alone with your help.

Jamar Summers, Pocahontas VA

Shalom Brother & Sister Chaimberlin

Thank you for the 5778 Jewish calendar. It is inspiring and a blessing. And thank you for accepting me despite my tattoos. I regret that I haven't been able to contribute to **Petah Tikvah**. I understand how much work y'all put in for us prisoners. I have enclosed 4 stamps.

I was across the street in a car with others when the crime was taking place, not at the scene of the crime. My first lawyer led to a plea bargain, and told me I was not going to win, due to me being a gang member and being in the vicinity of the crime. After sentencing, I discovered that there were videos showing me in the car at the time of the crime from surveillance cameras being held in the DA case files that could have proved my innocence, but were withheld as evidence. Thus far, I have been incarcerated for 10 years for a crime I didn't do. With more funding, my attorney is convinced that it will prove innocence beyond a reasonable doubt.

If you are unable to help, I understand. But please allow me to learn from **Petah Tikvah** until I am released. I am grateful that while in prison, I have come to the knowledge of Yeshua HaMashiach. Perhaps if I had not been sentenced, I might have died in disgrace. I now identify with Israel and will die advocating for Israel. Francisco Benavidez, Navasota TX

Editor's Note: In the early 1990s, we began sending subscriptions to prisoners. We would hear from inmates who claimed that they were innocent, but court-appointed attorneys coerced them to plead guilty, because their case would be impossible to win. Or a prosecutor would deliberately withhold evidence that would have exonerated them. At first, I doubted such claims, but as time went by, we began hearing reports about innocent men and women that had spent many years behind bars for crimes they did not commit, and then were found innocent. I have learned that without a caring attorney, innocent people often go to prison. Meanwhile, if someone has large financial resources, he can (and often does) get away with murder. As someone familiar with his case, I believe Francisco is innocent of the charges that landed him in prison.

Hello Rick ~

We give away Scriptures to Jewish people completely free of charge. We now have bilingual New Testaments available in Hebrew-English, Spanish, and Russian, all hard cover. We also have some Tanakhim available. Thank you so much for all your help in getting the Word of God out. ("So shall my word be that goeth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isaiah 55:11.)

Kermit Burgess; Hebrew Scriptures
PO Box 915; Culloden WV 25510

Editor's Note: We very much appreciate Kermit Burgess and his generosity in providing bilingual Scriptures free to Jewish people. Many inmates have written to him and received these beautifully done bilingual Newer Testaments. The hard back covers are gorgeous, and the Hebrew fonts are very clear. Regretfully, some prisoners have not been able to receive them because some prisons won't allow hard cover books into the prisons. Perhaps some day Kermit might be able to obtain some soft cover Newer Testaments. Perhaps...

Shalom Chaverim ~

Thanks for another adventure in fascinating reading. You've covered so many areas of concern and interest that one cannot possibly comment on them all. I guess that this 86-year-old codger still has lots to learn. And learning comes from the pages of **Petah Tikvah**.

The Martin Luther revelation was a real eye-opener, and helps explain why anti-Semitism never seems to disappear.

Also very revealing was the piece about Mohammed and Islam's sex slaves. Modern-day Islamists are simply following in the footsteps of their esteemed founder. Escaping girls and women validate this ugly practice.

One of my most enjoyable indulgences is reading all those letters to the editor. I always recognize at least two of the writers.

References were made to the pagan origins of some religious customs and observances, such as Christmas trees. These were accommodations to those switching from paganism.

We are in agreement that the Islamic Jihad element is a threat to the entire world. Christians and other non-Muslims are being persecuted and even executed as infidels. Surely it is time for peaceful, law-abiding Muslims to rid their faith of those who are ruthless and de-

structive. Thanks again for an enlightening read.

Sid Kleiner, President

Beth Tikvah Jewish Prisoner Outreach
40188 Winterview Dr, Naples FL 34109

Ph: 239-566-7702 BTJPO@comcast.net

Editor's Note: Sid and I have a very close working relationship with each other, as well as a good friendship. He provides various materials to Jewish inmates, including Messianic Jewish inmates, even though he himself is not a believer in Yeshua, at least not yet! He supplies kippas, Star of David necklaces, inexpensively, and now also supplies the **Tallit Katan**, which is a tallit that is generally worn under the shirt. This garment will enable its wearer

The Perfect Question

The commanding officer at a Russian military academy gave a lecture about potential problems and the military strategy to meet these problems. At the end of the lecture, he invited questions.

An officer stood up, and asked, "Will there be a Third World War?" and "Will Russia take part in it?" The general answered both questions in the affirmative. Another officer asked, "Who will be the main enemy?" The general replied, "All indications point to China." The audience was stunned!

Another officer remarked, "General, China has 1.4 billion people, and a very well-equipped military. Russia only has 138 million people. Can we win, or even survive?" The general answered, "Just think for a moment. In modern warfare, it isn't the quantity of the soldiers, but the quality of the military's capabilities. For example, in the Middle East, the tiny nation of Israel fought four major wars against over 100 million Arabs, and Israel was always victorious."

After another pause, an officer from the back of the auditorium asked, "Sir, do we have enough Jews to defeat China?"

to fulfill the mitzvah in Numbers 15:37-40.

Inmates interested in obtaining this Israeli-made **Tallit Katan** can write to Sid at the address on the left side of this page. Prisoners will need to send a chaplain's signed approval form with a donation of at least \$4 in stamps or money order. Let Sid know the size needed (small, medium, or large). Orders come from Israel, so it might take a few weeks before your order comes in. If your address changes, let Sid know. Sid is heavily subsidizing the cost so inmates can afford to have a tallit katan.

Sid is 86 years old and recently had surgery, and still recovering. So please be patient when communicating with him. Perhaps some of our readers might be interested in sending donations to help him with his prison ministry.

The following album is highly recommended to the readers of *Petah Tikvah*. It combines a love of Messiah Yeshua with an appreciation for Torah, set to the tunes of some of the greatest hit songs of the 1950s and 1960s. The songs on this CD sound like the original singers and musicians, but the words will inspire and encourage you. And they are fun! *Petah Tikvah* now has the copyright for this CD, so we have been able to reduce the price to only \$10 each, with no extra charge for shipping and handling. Make out your checks or money orders to *Petah Tikvah*. The lyrics for all of the songs are also included for each CD album. It is beautifully done.



What Happens When Faith and Fun Collide?

You get the Messianic Parody CD which mixes Biblical truth with humor. **NOT ONE JOT OR TITTLE** is meaningful, and occasionally hilarious. Who would have guessed that Gilligan's Island could also be the starting point for the Exodus, or that the theme to the Beverly Hillbillies helps contrast Jewish Sha'ul to the 'Christian' Paul. The remake of Rawhide will keep your Torah scroll rolling during the Simchat Torah service. Only \$10, free shipping.

We also recommend another excellent music parody album based on some more of the best songs of the 1950s and 1960s, called **THE SHLEPS**. They sound like the original artists, but the music is 'redeemed' with a good, pro-Torah message. And it is fun! Regretfully, it is no longer available for purchase on CD. However, it is still available for a free MP3 download at: WWW.THESHLEPS.COM

Vacation Rental Home in Israel

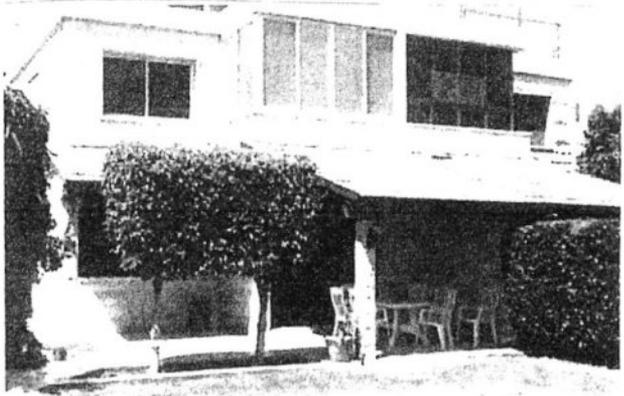
This spacious home in Israel overlooks Yam Kinneret – the Sea of Galilee! Rent it by the week or by the month. This beautiful house is located in T'varia (Tiberias) on the edge of the Switzerland Forest, overlooking the Kinneret from the west. For those who desire to experience living in the Land of HaShem, this home offers a relaxed and quiet atmosphere to simply enjoy the splendor of the Galilee. Sleeps 7, plus a crib for baby.

This home is within a
5-minute stroll of:

- Children's Playground
- Supermarket
- Jewish Community Center
- Shuk (outdoor market)
- Beautiful vistas of the
Switzerland Preserve
- Public Swimming Pool

**For more information,
please contact:**

Paul and Sherilyn Holman
graft9@embarqmail.com



Write a Letter to the Editor!

Petah Tikvah, 165 Doncaster Rd
Rochester NY 14623



Dearest Richard & Miriam ~

Shalom from Israel, with greetings, love, and deep appreciation for your needed ministry in my life. תודה רבה (Toda raba -Thank you very much!) I am ordering your commentaries on Hebrews, Revelation, and Acts.

Sara Shirel Grebe,

ISRAEL

**"As cold water
to a thirsty soul, so
is good news from
a distant land."
Proverbs 25:25**

For many years, I was able to worship at a Messianic synagogue locally. It closed down some years ago due to the Rabbi falling into deception and false teaching.

I still try to follow a Messianic lifestyle at home on my own, as I believe the Lord was telling me to come out of the established churches. I now rely on telephone fellowship with like-minded friends.

I must thank you for the commentary on **Revelation** which I received some time ago, but only now I can spend quality time in study. It is really interesting, and has answered many of my questions.

Today we have a day of prayer at a meeting in London for our Prime Minister and a call to repentance for this country for turning away from God's teachings in so many ways. I am unable to attend, but will join with them in spirit at home. Olive Sturges, **ENGLAND, UK**

Editor's Note: Many of our readers might be surprised to learn that Christian Zionism got its start with many British Christians in the late 1800s praying for the Jewish people to return to their home, in what was called Palestine at that time. This was at a time when most Jews were probably not in favor of the Jewish state being re-established! The Balfour Declaration of 1917 was a British document calling for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. At that time, the Jewish inhabitants called themselves Palestinians, whereas the Arab inhabitants called themselves Arabs or Syrians. Over a hundred years ago, most of the British were fervent Christians. Much has changed since then. However, the current Prime Minister of the UK, Theresa May, is a real friend of Israel.

Dear Rick ~

Thanks so much for the donation! Your magazine is a blessing. I especially liked the "punny jokes" and stories from Jewish Wit and Wisdom. And what a wide assortment of interesting information! As a result of your maga-

zine, we continue to receive faithful donations, as well as letters from inmates. What a blessing to see these guys growing in their faith and faithfulness! May the Lord bless you richly!

Sandy Shoshani, Be'ad Chaim

PO Box 2623, Jerusalem 9102601, ISRAEL

www.beadchaim.com

Editor's Note: Be'ad Chaim is a pro-life organization in Israel. They help Israelis in crisis pregnancies with help, supplies, and money so that they can carry their babies to full term, and continue helping them after the baby is born. Israel needs more Jews in the Land. What better way is there than with **internal** aliyah, allowing babies to be born in Israel? This is the most cost effective way of increasing the Jewish population in Israel. It is also a way of saving Jewish lives, the most vulnerable Jews in Israel. **RAC**

Shalom Rick ~

I had a discussion with someone yesterday about when a Biblical day starts. I know that in Judaism a day starts at sunset and ends at sunset 24 hours later. Are there any Biblical texts besides Lev. 16 that proves this reckoning? Ruth Abrams, **SURINAME**

OUR REPLY: It begins way back in Genesis chapter 1: "And there was evening and morning, day one..." etc. Each day, including Shabbat and all of the Holy Days, begins at sunset and ends at sunset 24 hours later. **RAC**

Shalom Dr. Richard & Sister Miriam ~

Many greetings from Ethiopia! May the God of Israel bless you abundantly for your unre-served spiritual and financial support.

I remember the day that I started correspondence with you. It was October 12, 2002. Thank you so much for your faithfulness for the past 15 years with the nourishing spiritual food that have helped me to grow in faith.

We are now reaping the spiritual seed that we sowed. The eyes of the Bete-Israelis¹ are being opened to truth. For many years, they were afraid to worship on Shabbat, due to persecution from Sunday Christians. We found a place to worship near their living area, and now they are not afraid to worship on Shabbat. We are in need of Messianic teaching materials and humbly request your beautiful calendar that helps us to keep the moedim.

Daniel Belay, PO Box 4941

Addis Ababa, **ETHIOPIA**

daniel_belay95@yahoo.com

¹ Black Jews in Ethiopia.

Shalom Rick ~

You and Miriam are great blessings to many. You have persisted in the battle to get the truth of Torah into the hearts and minds of people. We have entered a time in which truth is trampled upon and hated. May YHWH bless you both!

David Harrington, Nova Scotia, **CANADA**

Greetings in the mighty name of Yeshua

Thank you for sending the Messianic Jewish commentaries on the Books of Acts, Hebrews, and Revelation. I know very well that the cost of producing and sending them is high. However, I know that I will spiritually benefit from them.

We are a group of more than 40 people who are ardent followers of Yeshua, our Lord and Savior. We have much to learn and need your guidance. We are more than willing to play a pivotal role in spreading this newly found truth about Messianic Judaism. We may not be as conversant with Messianic Judaism as yourselves, but we are zealous and ready to share what we have learnt with others.

Albert Tembo, **MALAWI** (in SE Africa)

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

I am enclosing dollars for your God-given ministry to be used for our dear prisoners, along with much gratitude for all your hard work in producing your unique magazine, which is such a great help to all the readers of **P.T.** Paulette Davenport, **SCOTLAND, UK**

Shalom Rick & Miriam ~

We enjoy your magazine so much. It has been many years that we have been receiving it, and we ask that you continue to send it to us. You are very anointed in your teachings. They are some of the best. We really love you guys. We are wondering if you are still bringing tours to Israel. It has been a long time since we've met,

Ray & Sharon Sanders

For Zion's Sake; PO Box 1813

Jerusalem, **ISRAEL** 9101701

Editor's Comment: Ray and Sharon are the leaders of Christians for Israel, which is a charity organization doing many good deeds in aiding needy people in Israel. The nation of Israel today has a strong and vibrant economy. However, many are being left behind, and need help. The Sanders also publish an excellent magazine, **For Zion's Sake**. Write to them for a free sample copy.



Help Needed for Inmates to Receive Passover Supplies

Will you please help us provide a simple Passover gift to our brothers and sisters behind bars this year? Please join with Sabbath Keepers Fellowship by donating to our 2018 Passover Package Program. Each Passover Package contains one box of matzah, two 10-ounce bottles of grape juice, 1 packet of horseradish, and one Passover Haggadah. These are the very bare essentials necessary to observe a Scriptural Passover, and so much less than most of us will enjoy at our own Passover tables. Our brothers and sisters in prison are depending on you! Please mail your check to: Sabbath Keepers Fellowship; PO Box 972; Malakoff TX 75148 or make a donation through PayPal on our website at www.sabbathkeepersfellowship/skf_store.org



"Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us. Let us therefore celebrate the Feast, not with the chamezt (leavening) of wickedness, but with the matzah of truth." 1 Cor. 5:7-8.

Shalom Richard ~

We are having some really tough times at this Allred Unit in Texas. In 2012, another inmate and myself got up a petition and were able to get Sabbath services started here. We were told that volunteer chaplain Scott H. was a Messianic Jew. We talked with him, and he seemed for real. I asked him to volunteer for our Messianic services. The first couple of months went really well. He taught Torah, keeping Shabbat, and the Holy Days, and of course Yeshua.

Over time, his teaching started heading south. He began teaching that we didn't have to keep the Sabbath, that we could keep Wednesday if we wanted to, as long as we set aside one day each week. Then he started teaching that we don't have to keep Torah or the Holy Days, and that it's okay to eat pigs or whatever else we want to eat.

Our services are now like a Baptist church service. There are a few who side with Scott, and say that I am causing divisions. We are no longer able to gather for holy days, and our Shabbat services are over run with Sunday keepers who hate Torah. I want to get a Messianic Jewish service set up so we can worship the way we are supposed to do. We are Messianic Jews, not Lutherans or Baptists. Please help if you can.

Michael 'Doc' Weaver, Iowa Park TX

Our Comments: We have heard of similar things happening in other congregations. It is sad. We do what we can, but can do little other than pray. This is a local issue which must be handled locally. We hope to hear a good report about this situation in the future. **RAC**

Shalom ~

I'm happy that you are able to use the article "Martin Luther and His Lies" that I wrote. (See PT Oct-Dec 2017, p. 9.) I hope that this article will help open some minds to search history. Thank you for sharing the article with your readers. I pray that YHWH blesses your readers, as He does me each time I read **Petah Tikvah**.

Caleb Lussier, Otisville NY

Petah Tikvah ~

Shalom! I came across your PT magazines at our Sabbath services here at Telford. I'm in charge of our Messianic library, and have become a fan of your mags and the Reverend Twistruth cartoons! Thank you for staying true to YHWH's word and breaking down His holy word and providing access to your materials for us inmates.

Do you print anything in Spanish for our Messianic Spanish-speaking inmates? They come to

our library, but we have nothing in Spanish for them to learn and grow from.

Roland Alvarez, New Boston TX

Editor's Note: We only have one special edition of **Petah Tikvah** "en espanol." It is available for

3 postage stamps for each one. We

recognize a very real need for literature in Spanish, as there is a genuine Messianic Jewish revival happening in the Spanish speaking world.

There are also many Spanish speaking inmates in prison in the USA. We invite our readers to let

us know of good Messianic literature available at reasonable costs for Hispanic inmates, including things such as a sid-dur (prayer book) "en espanol."

Dear Richard ~

Blessings to you, your family, and your congregation! I have enclosed stamps for your calendar and for a donation. The Messianic group here would like to thank you for all the wonderful publications you produce and helping us with answers to our questions. It is difficult to be imprisoned, not having access to information needed to properly worship and live.

Kevin Todd, Otisville NY

Rav ~

I am a new member of the Messianic community here. A fellow brother loans me his **Petah Tikvah** and I truly enjoy it. It helps me understand things I haven't understood, and teaches me things I didn't know.

William Heffeman, South Bay FL

Petah Tikvah ~

I know what the Bible says about paying our tithes, especially Malachi 3:8-10, where God says that those who don't pay their tithes are robbing God! I have prayed, and God has put it on my heart to send my tithes to **Petah Tikvah**. It won't be much, but I must be obedient.

Robert Putle, Abilene TX

Dear P.T. ~

I am sending you a yahrtzeit gift in the name of Kathy Gaylor (1948 - 2004). She was the bashert ("soul mate") I never met in person. She was an Orthodox Jewish woman in a Nevada prison. She met her Mashiach after she was released. We "met" through mutual friends in Oregon. She went to meet Yeshua personally a few years after we began corresponding with each other. We had grown to love each other.

As always, I appreciate **Petah Tikvah**. I do not have a bird cage, but if I did, Polly would never see PT on her floor!

James Doyle, Bowling Green FL

"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

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Chamberlin ~

I am a member of the Messianic Community in Bristol FL. I came here from the Federal Prison in Otisville NY. I miss the brothers there. I enjoy a whole lot your commentaries on Acts and Hebrews, as well as my PT subscription and the PT calendar. I will be ordering the Revelation commentary in the future.

Joey Vega, Bristol FL

Bendicione de Yahweh

Toda raba por mandarme el calendario. Mi hermano Rodolfo Sosa estudiamos la Palabra y el hebreo. Nosotros tenemos el Tanak y el B'rit Hadashah en hebreo/espanol.

Javier Ruiz-Sanabria, Connell WA

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

finally realized it was Torah! I became a proselyte to Messianic Judaism. Then another inmate introduced me to your magazine. I absolutely love it! However, I was transferred out of that camp, so I no longer have access to my friend's **PT** magazines, so I am now requesting my own subscription. I am currently indigent. Kevin Broussard
Wewahitchka FL

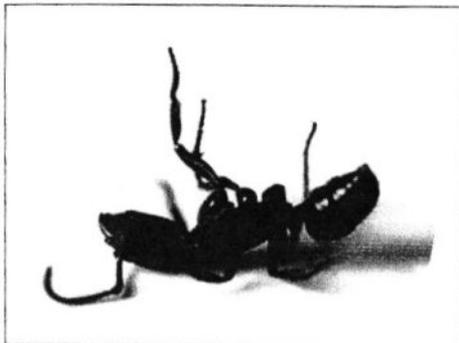
Dear Brethren at**Petah Tikvah ~**

Shalom and toda raba - Thank you, thank you, thank you! I received the calendar and back issue of

PT today! The enemy likes to play games with your lives, but our Father is faithful to meet our needs by Yahshua our Messiah!

I have enclosed a book of stamps to help another prisoner receive your publication. You are all in my prayers each day. I know our Father will continue to declare His living Word through your faithful ministry of hope and reconciliation. Please continue to encourage the body of Messiah in these last days.

L.W. Atkinson, Coalinga CA

The Ant

A man was walking along a path and happened to encounter an ant laying on its back with its legs extended upward. The man asked, "Little ant, why are you lying on your back with your legs pointed toward the sky?"

The ant replied, "I heard the sky was falling, so I am going to hold it up and save the world." The man roared with laughter, saying, "Silly ant. Those little legs of yours will not hold up the sky." The ant replied, "Aye, but I will do what I can."

None of us have the talents and abilities to save the world, but like this little ant, we must do what we can.

Dear Rick & Miriam ~

I was raised Catholic, but always felt a void in my spirit. I eventually found a full Gospel church that emphasized the Jewish roots of the faith, but something was still missing. When I came to prison, I learned about Messianic Judaism, and I

Shalom my beloved at Petah Tikvah ~

While incarcerated here in California, I came across your magazine. It was addressed to an inmate in Mississippi. I literally stumbled over it, where someone left it in front of the library door when it was closed. Anyway, I read it and loved it. I am a born-again believer in Yeshua, and have a craving to understand my Hebrew roots. There are also other brothers here who are seeking knowledge of Messianic Judaism. Please put me on your mail list. Baruch HaShem!

Dino Vindiola, Shafter CA

Shalom ~

I pray that my letter finds you both well. I happened to find **Petah Tikvah** on the bookshelf in my unit. I really liked the articles, particularly "Putting Away Childish Things" by Sean Killian. It is amazing how much prisoners complain these days, myself included, until I remember that being in prison is what I deserve for my transgressions against my Heavenly Father.

Your Jewish calendars are beautiful, and enable us to keep up with the Torah-Haftara readings and Biblical holidays. Thanks so much for providing all these materials to inmates at such a low cost. James Lee Jones, Las Animas CO



JEWISH BASICS

Music CDs and
Deluxe Lyric Booklets

melodies
are well suited for

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

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

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

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

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

MESSIANIC BOOKS

By M.M. Tauson

The Deep Things of God

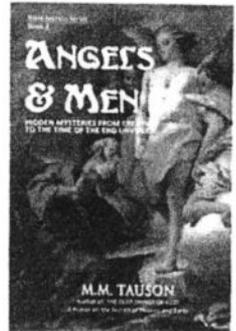
A Primer on the Secrets
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Angels & Men

Hidden Mysteries
from Creation to the Time
of the End Unveiled

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bayithashem@yahoo.com

Available at: Amazon.com

Dear Rick ~

I am an inmate here in Texas. I picked up a **Petah Tikvah** that someone had discarded. I enjoyed it very much, and wish to start receiving it myself. I have enclosed a money order for the subscription and an offering. I am a believer in my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ - not perfect, but trying daily. R.C. Smith, Palestine TX

Dear Rav Chaimberlin ~

The article you published by Caleb Lussier about Martin Luther is excellent! I had known that this "father of the Reformation" was anti-Semitic, but had no idea of the vituperative nature of his writings and how it influenced Hitler.

And thanks for giving my name to Rav Tivon Meir. He plans to visit me. I am really looking forward to meeting him! He said that you and he have been friends for many years. He sent me a book by Shira Sorko-Ram: **The Islamic Strategy to Conquer America**. Very eye-opening. I had no idea that Hillary Clinton's personal Muslim assistant is from such a radical Islam connected family, and was co-editor with her mother of a radical Muslim publication.

Last Shabbat I was allowed to attend the Jewish shul here. It was nice. I can attend 3 times. I plan to change my religious affiliation to Jewish. When listed as Protestant, I am not able to attend Sabbath observances or celebrate the Leviticus 23 festivals. The rabbi will likely ask me if I believe in Yeshua. He might not allow me to change my religious affiliation to Jewish when I tell him **Yes**. Curiously, Jews used to interpret Isaiah 53 to be speaking of the Messiah. Today, most believe it speaks of Israel.

Don Mason, Woodbourne NY

Shalom Rick & Miriam & PT family ~

I thank God for your ministry. You have all been a blessing. I have been so blessed and enlightened by your articles and all the research you do.

I have been a believer in Jesus (Yeshua) since 1986, and have been in the Messianic movement since 2014. What a difference it makes in understanding Scripture from a Messianic perspective! Your articles and commentaries have shown me to see the Scriptures in light of the Hebrew roots and Jewish customs, most of which come from the Torah.

We need more articles on how to celebrate the Feasts as Messianic believers. I raised my children under Western Christian beliefs with Easter, Christmas, and Sunday worship. Now I am sharing the Gospel from a more Eastern Messianic perspective, the best I can. It has been a challenging time. I am enclosing stamps for your Jewish Basics and Hebrews commentary. I have been so blessed with the Book of Acts MJ commentary. Louie Vargas, Avenal CA

"Take me off the mail list."

Dear Mr. Chaimberlin ~

Thank you for all you have done for me. The new **Petah Tikvah** is wonderful. However, I am being released from prison. Please hold my subscription until I send you my new address. You have made a huge impact in my life. You've shown me kindness, and always sent the things I asked for. Anthony Swanson, Crawfordville FL

Editor's Note: We very much appreciate knowing that this inmate is being released, and that he has let us know. It costs us \$2.21 for each **PT** that gets returned to us because the person addressed as moved and not given a forwarding address. Even when the post office has a forwarding address, the post office lets us know the new address, but also charges for that service.

Dear Rav Rick ~

I pray each day for Israel. We get very little news from Israel, which is another reason I love **Petah Tikvah**. I give thanks to HaShem for that first issue of **PT**. It has truly been a door of hope, letting the true light come in, and given me guidance. I had another birthday (71), so I am older than you! Thank you for all you do.

Doug Hawkins, Spruce Pine NC

Shalom Rav Chaimberlin ~

I pray this letter finds you and your lovely wife well! We are a Messianic community of 25 members plus myself. We are organized with 3 elders who are servant leaders in liaison with the chaplain. We have readers for the Torah, Haftarah, and B'rit Chadashah. I am one of the elders and also sound the shofar. I have wonderful family support from the Hawleys. We order our calendars from **Petah Tikvah**, as well as materials from **FFOZ**. Our beloved Sid Kleiner writes often. He shares materials with our indigent brothers. Toda raba for your years of service.

Steven Purvis, Raiford FL

Editor's Note: Steven mentioned Sid Kleiner. He has been a wonderful blessing. He is Jewish, but not (yet!) a believer in Yeshua. However, he has been a blessing to both Messianic and non-Messianic Jews who are incarcerated.

Rick & Miriam ~

Our little congregation meets each Sabbath. We are going to begin a study of the book of Hebrews, so I am sending stamps for this commentary as well as to re-up my subscription and for the **PT** calendar. Your magazine blesses all who read it. It also has news we don't see anywhere else.

Rod Tucker, Nashville NC

Report: Saudi Crown Prince Will 'Crush' Hezbollah With Israel:

The King of Saudi Arabia plans to step down and announce his son as his successor. The move is seen as the final step in 32-year-old Prince Mohammed Bin Salman's power grab, which began earlier in November with the arrests of more than 40 princes and government ministers in a corruption probe. The unnamed source said that King Salman will continue only as a ceremonial figurehead, handing over official leadership of the country to his son, often referred to as MBS. The high level source further said that once crowned king, the prince will shift his focus to Iran, Saudi Arabia's longtime regional rival. He will also enlist the help of the Israeli military to crush Hezbollah, Iran's proxy in Lebanon, according to the source.

"MBS is convinced that he has to hit Iran and Hezbollah. MBS's plan is to start the fire in Lebanon, but he's hoping to count on Israeli military backing. He has already promised Israel billions of dollars in direct financial aid if they agree," claimed the source. "MBS cannot confront Hezbollah in Lebanon without Israel. Plan B is to fight Hezbollah in Syria," added the source. The 32-year-old crown prince portrays himself as a liberal reformer. He recently announced that the ultra-conservative kingdom would adopt a moderate and open Islam. As for Israel, there have been several recent reports that Saudi Arabia and Israel are getting closer. (Arutz-7)

Blessings and Curses

In Genesis 12:3, God promises to bless those who bless the Jewish people and to curse those who curse His people. I look at Jewish history. Every nation and empire that has come against Israel or the Jewish people is a has-been or extinct nation or empire. Where are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Greece, Rome, Spain, the British Empire, or the USSR? Their glory has departed.

Look what is happening in the Muslim world today, which has descended into chaos. However, the situation can be turned around for any nation repents and decides to bless Israel and the Jewish people.

Zechariah 2:8 says, "For thus says the Lord of hosts (armies): After glory He has sent me against the nations which plunder you, for he who touches you touches the apple (pupil) of God's eye." I believe that this is one of the reasons that the Democrats had such difficulties in the 2016 elections. Obama and Hillary both treated Bibi with great disrespect. On Dec 6, President Trump recognized Jerusalem as being the capital of Israel has promised to move the embassy to Jerusalem. **Thank you, President Trump!** We pray that Trump will soon stop sending the \$400 million each year to the Palestinian Authority, which uses these funds to support terrorism and terrorist families. **RAC**

Russian Interference & Dirty Tricks

Many are upset about apparent Russian interference and dirty tricks in the USA elections in 2016. Such things are wrong and not to be tolerated.

However, according to a report by Stephen Dianan in the **Washington Times**, July 12, 2016, "The Obama administration sent **taxpayer money** to campaign to oust Netanyahu. The State Department paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayers grants to an Israeli group that used the money to build a campaign to oust Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in last year's Israeli parliamentary elections, a congressional investigation concluded Tuesday.

"Some \$350,000 was sent to OneVoice, ostensibly to support the group's efforts to back Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement negotiations. But OneVoice used the money to build a voter database, train activists and hire a political consulting firm with ties to President Obama's campaign — all of which set the stage for an anti-Netanyahu campaign, the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations said in a bipartisan staff report." This report has been verified in other media reports, and confirmed by Democratic Party members.

We had a Petah Tikvah tour to Israel in February 1996. By coincidence, President Bill Clinton went to Israel while we were there, creating huge problems with traffic with the required security as his motorcade made its way through Jerusalem. Bill Clinton actively campaigned for Shimon Peres and against Benjamin Netanyahu. Hillary Clinton has also treated Benjamin Netanyahu very disrespectably, publicly chewing him out venomously on network television in the USA when she was Secretary of State.

In both 1996 and 2016, Benjamin Netanyahu won the elections, **despite** American interference in the elections by Democratic presidents. I fully acknowledge that any Russian interference in American elections is wrong. However, it is **also** wrong for Democratic Party politicians in the United States to interfere in Israeli elections. As the Bible says, "You reap what you sow." I am not a fan of Donald Trump, and believe that the Republicans had better candidates than Trump in for the 2016 elections. But I also believe the Democratic Party got what it deserved, because of its interference in Israeli elections. Unfortunately, as the Democratic Party continues its swing farther to the Left, it is also becoming more unfriendly to Israel.

President Trump is indeed having problems with his administration. However, I also believe in the promises of Genesis 12:3 and others scattered throughout the Bible, that God will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel. I believe that many of Trump's problems will dissipate now that he has decided to bless Israel. **RAC**

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

I have just received my first copy of **Petah Tikvah** and the Hebrews Commentary. I am truly grateful for what you do for the Kingdom. I enjoy every aspect of the magazine. It's raw, real, and sound, a very useful tool for us in prison, especially since so few know about Messianic Judaism. We do know that it is **not** a branch or denomination of Christianity.

I have been a part of this divine movement for three years now. I am hungry for more of the culture and the heritage I claim. We need not be shy about the truth. I keep Jerusalem in my prayers.

Reuben Ingram, Midland TX

Prisoners can receive a free **Messianic Jewish Bible** by writing to: Messianic Jewish Family Bible Society, PO Box 221, Rome GA 30162. Contributions are also appreciated.

Shalom Petah Tikvah ~

I miss your publications! I had gotten out of touch, and I wish to re-enter the "door of hope." Please re-subscribe me. Cecil White, Lake City FL

Dear Rabbi Chaimberlin ~

Why would HaShem, our loving G-d, condemn His creation to eternal suffering in the lake of fire? Wouldn't it be more merciful to have annihilation, to simply cease to exist?

Oscar Zelaya, Chowchilla CA

OUR REPLY: Daniel 12:2 says, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but **others** to disgrace and everlasting contempt." Based on this verse, I believe that those judged righteous will enjoy eternal life, and others will suffer eternal damnation. However, the words **many** and **others** do not necessarily include **all** of humanity. Perhaps there are some who will merely be annihilated, as the writer above described.

Shalom Aleichem Rav Chaimberlin ~

I am renewing my subscription because **PT** is very educational, and a real eye-opener. I am reading the book of 1 Kings, and found the following months which do not appear on the Jewish calendar:

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Tu Be'Sh'vat: Jan. 31

Fast of Esther: Feb. 28

Purim: March 1

First day of Passover: March 31

Seventh day of Passover: April 6

Tu Be'Sh'vat is the "new year" for trees, but is not a holy day requiring a day off from secular work or activities. The Fast of Esther and Purim are also holidays, but not Holy Days requiring abstinence from work, etc. The first and seventh days of Pesach (Passover) are Holy Days. As with Shabbat, each Holy Day does the evening before. Therefore, the first day of Passover begins on March 30 at sunset, and ends at sunset 24 hours later on March 31.

Ziv (1 Kings 6:1,37); **Bul** (1 Kings 6:38); **Ethanim** (1 Kings 8:2). Kindly explain to me exactly what these months would be.

Bernard Phiri ben Avraham,
ZAMBIA

OUR REPLY: The first month was originally Tishrei (roughly late September to early October) on the Creation calendar, which was the calendar used by Noah, as in Genesis 7:11. The first Jewish calendar revision began with HaShem Himself in Exodus 12:2, where YHWH says, "This month (Aviv, now called Nissan) shall be the beginning of months to you."

The names of various months listed above by Mr. Avraham of Zambia, quoting 1 Kings 6 & 8, were names given to various months prior to the Babylonian Captivity. While in Babylon, the Jewish captives eventually assimilated quite well, and even adopted Babylonian names of the various months. Regrettably, at least one of the months (**Tammuz**) has somewhat pagan origins. In much the same way, most of the world, including Israel, has accepted the Gregorian calendar, using names which roughly correspond to the pronunciations used for the months in English-speaking countries.

Ziv (the second month - roughly late April to early May) is now called **Iyar** on today's Jewish calendars. **Bul** (the eleventh month - roughly late October to early November) is now called **Cheshvan**. **Ethanim** (the seventh month - roughly late September to early October) is now called **Tishrei**. Each month on the Biblical calendar begins with the New Moon, which very rarely coincide with the Gregorian calendar.

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

WWW.PETAHTIKVAH.COM

Using your computer, you can also set up single contributions or recurring electronic contributions from your checking or saving accounts to **Petah Tikvah**. You can cancel or change recurring contributions at any time.

Shalom Brother Richard ~

I am blessed to be in a facility with many followers of Yahshua. I find **Petah Tikvah** to be a valuable source of information and fellowship. I can only imagine how important it must be for someone in a facility without any Messianic believers to learn from and share their faith with. "Iron sharpens iron," right? (Proverbs 27:17)

I read the letter from Ms. April Rogers, who is both indigent and also the only Messianic inmate in her prison. Sometimes **PT** is the only light in a dark place - a door of hope to those with the least hope. I am enclosing stamps for her subscription and for a calendar for her as well as your commentary on Hebrews. I am also enclosing stamps for my subscription and for the 5778 calendar, as well as a donation.

James Gonzales, Las Animas CO



"I SOUND FUNNY? YEAH, I'M CALLING FROM MY CELL PHONE!"

Rick ~

I'm glad you received and liked the painting that I sent! I've been worried about the mail lately because of new restrictions. They now take all the incoming envelopes from the mail, and then give us the letters without the envelopes. Therefore, if someone writes to us, and we don't know the address, and it isn't in the body of the letter, we can't answer the letter! **Crazy!** Thank God I only have a year left. I am currently working on a guide for Messianic inmates on how to survive prison life. Bryan Picken, St Louis MI

Editor's Note: Bryan is the artist who does the cover art for **Petah Tikvah**. In some other prisons, they make copies of the letters, and destroy the original letters. Yep, crazy. **RAC**

Rav Richard & Miriam ~

Thank you for another beautiful and highly informative **Petah Tikvah**. I especially like the articles about the lies of Martin Luther and the piece about the original languages of the B'rit Chadashah (Newer Testament). That helped clear up the Hebrew/Greek debate we were having. As always, that issue of **PT** was devoured like a piece of choice meat. I would also like to give a word of gratitude to Rabbi **Sid Kleiner**. His organization has been diligently providing supplies to Jewish prisoners for more years than I can remember. Truly a **Tsadik**¹ among mere men. Stuart Cherubini, Orlando FL

Editor's Note: Rabbi Sid recently had surgery, and is on the mend. He is 88 years old. Please keep him in prayer. He does what he can do and then some. We all appreciate him very much!

Dear Petah Tikvah ~

I'm sending stamps for postage on another calendar. The calendar I had was destroyed by officers after they jumped me in cuffs. Yeah, I've gone through a lot lately.

Jonathan Beaudry, Milton FL

Editor's Note: Most guards are good, but who is going to protect inmates from wayward guards? The 5778 calendars for Sept 2017 to Sept 2018 will run out shortly after this issue of **PT** comes in the mail. The new 5779 calendars for Sept 2018 to Sept 2019 will be ready by the first of March 2018.

Petah Tikvah ~

There are many Christian residential programs all across the country for inmates who come out of prison. Are there any similar places for Messianic Jews to go to that are based on Torah and Messiah? Please help.

Christopher Brownlee, Robinson IL

Editor's Note: The reader above is looking for a Messianic half-way house. If anyone knows of such a thing, please let us know. Hopefully there might even be more! Your help is appreciated.

Shalom ~

In the last issue of **Petah Tikvah**, there was a letter from Guy Quam, a dear brother and friend. He played a large part in me coming into the Sabbath-keeping faith, and finally joining the Messianic community around 2010. It broke my heart to hear that he has fallen upon rough times. I'm enclosing stamps for his subscription. Thank you for the great work you do to send us hope and the word of Yisrael.

Odie Miles, Huntsville TX

¹ "Righteous man"

Palestinians are Furious After Saudi Arabia Downplays Importance of Jerusalem

Nov 29, 2017, www.IsraelToday.co.il

Proponents of the Palestinian cause have tried to inflate the position of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount in Islam, and thereby paint Israel's sovereignty in this city as an affront to their religion. But, a couple years ago, renowned Egyptian scholar and novelist Youssef Ziedan acknowledged in a series of television interviews that Jerusalem holds **no** religious significance for Muslims.

Today, it is common to hear that Jerusalem is Islam's third holiest city, being the location of the "Al Aqsa Mosque" referred to in the Koran. Ziedan said the whole thing is nonsense:

"The Al-Aqsa Mosque [in Jerusalem] did not exist back then, and the city was not called Al-Quds. It was called Aelia, and it had no mosques."

He is far from being alone in that position. In fact, a growing number of Saudis on social media have taken to using a [hashtag](#) that translates as "Riyadh is More Important Than Jerusalem."

It is a deliberate downplaying of the importance of Jerusalem from both religious and nationalist viewpoints, and it coincides with the oil-rich kingdom's warming relations with Israel. Saudis have grown increasingly frustrated with what they see as the Palestinian intransigent and treachery.

Palestinian rejection of Saudi efforts to bring the Israeli-Arab conflict to an equitable end has incensed many in Riyadh, as has Palestinian support for Iran's nuclear program and collaboration between Palestinian groups and Iran's Lebanese proxy, Hezbollah.

Like Israel, Saudi Arabia views Iran as an existential threat. Alienating Saudi Arabia in this manner threatens to lose the Palestinians the support of the Arab world's top powers.

And yet, we see their hearts continue to harden. In a backlash to the aforementioned Saudi hashtag, Palestinians on social media have started using a hashtag that translates as "Jerusalem is more important than the [Saudi] king."

If things continue down this path, a day could come when the Arab world's leading powers reject a Palestinian state even more than Israel does.

'We Have Ties With a Dozen Arab Countries.'

Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon says that Israel enjoys warm relations with many Arab countries despite the fact that these countries officially refuse to recognize Israel's existence. "We are talking about a dozen Islamic countries, including the Arab countries that understand the potential of relations with Israel. The State of Israel is not the regional

problem, it is the regional solution, so we are strengthening this cooperation."

Danon also said that USA Ambassador Nikki Haley has dramatically "changed the atmosphere" at the UN. "Saudi Arabia has been rumored to be particularly close with Israel due to the two countries common fear of Iran. The Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhabar reported last week that the Saudi government is weighing the possible normalization of relations with Israel ahead of a planned Middle East peace program by the Trump administration which aims to not only secure a final status agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, but lead to recognition of the Jewish state by the larger Arab world. (Arutz-7) Vision for Israel; PO Box 7265 Jerusalem, ISRAEL 9107301

Muslim Journalist Admits that Israel is Not an Occupying Power

www.IsraelToday.co.il & www.out-of-zion.com

Amid a quiet thawing of relations between Israel and more moderate Arab states, a leading Kuwaiti journalist this month sparked public outrage when he dared to get real about the Jewish state. Writer Abdullah Al-Hadlaq was taking part in a panel discussion on Kuwait's Alrai TV when he not only rejected the notion that Israel is an occupying power, but went so far as to accept the legitimacy of the Jews' return to their ancient homeland. He went on to heap praise on the advanced and progressive Jewish state, which puts to shame most of its Arab neighbors. In remarks translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), Al-Hadlaq said:

"When the State of Israel was established in 1948, there was no state called 'Palestine.' *"Like it or not, Israel is an independent sovereign state. It exists, and it has a seat at the United Nations, and most peace-loving and democratic countries recognize it. The group of states that do not recognize Israel are the countries of tyranny and oppression. "For example, North Korea does not recognize Israel, but this does nothing to detract from Israel or from the fact of its existence, whether we like it or not. The State of Israel has scientific centers and universities the likes of which even the oldest and most powerful Arab countries lack. So Israel is a state and not a terror organization. "There is no occupation. There is a people returning to its promised land. Are you aware that the history of the Israelites is ancient, predating Islam? Therefore, we Muslims must acknowledge that the Israelites have a right to that land, and that they have not plundered it." Pray that the world wakes up to this truth and stops supporting this international lie*

UN Passes 6 Anti-Israel Resolutions in 1 Day, Denies Israeli Ties to Jerusalem

By: JNS.org and worldisraelnews.com

The United Nations General Assembly passed six anti-Israel resolutions on Nov 30TH, including a measure denying Israeli ties to Jerusalem and its holy sites.

Approved in a 151-6 vote with 9 abstentions, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolution stated that "any actions taken by Israel, the occupying power, to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem are illegal and therefore null and void and have no validity whatsoever."

The resolution was similar to previous Jerusalem-related measures passed in recent years by the UN cultural body UNESCO, which omitted the name "Temple Mount" and only used the Muslim term for the holy site, "Haram al-Sharif."

The six countries that voted against Thursday's resolution were Canada, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, the U.S. and Israel. The nine countries that abstained were Australia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Honduras, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, South Sudan and Togo.

In addition to the Jerusalem measure, the General Assembly passed a resolution condemn-

ing Israel's control over the Golan Heights, calling the area Syrian territory and stating that Israeli "occupation" is a "a stumbling block in the way of achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region," despite the six-year-long civil war raging in Syria.

Further, the General Assembly passed a resolution calling on the UN to observe an "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People" annually on Nov. 29—the anniversary of UN Resolution 181, which called for the creation of a Jewish state in British Mandatory Palestine.

Other anti-Israel measures passed Thursday included resolutions titled "Committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people," "Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine" and "Special information program on the question of Palestine of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat." UN bodies have adopted 18 resolutions against Israel so far this year. (Pure anti-Semitism. **RAC**)

In condemning Thursday's resolutions, Israel's General Assembly delegate noted that the UN continues to "annually adopt biased resolutions and devote precious resources—almost \$6.5 million of its budget—to politicized bodies whose sole purpose [is] to attack and denounce Israel."

Editor's Note: Jerusalem was the capital of Israel over 1600 years before Mohammed started his religion, and is not mentioned in the Koran.



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

Free Speech is No Longer Free.

In fact, it costs thousands of dollars.

by David Horowitz,
HorowitzFreedomCenter.org

Every time I speak on our college campuses, I'm required to hire at least \$5,000 worth of personal security. This year's total (2017) is over \$60,000 and counting.

That's right. \$60,000 to give a handful of speeches at universities – because Antifa thugs light cars on fire, throw bricks at police officers and assault innocent bystanders when conservatives gather on campus.

Now I can think of a million better ways to spend \$60,000 and I'm sure you can, too. But the way I see it, I have two options: I can cancel my scheduled speeches and let the fascists, thugs, and left-wing academics win...

...or I can stand my ground and fight for free speech – and all of our values that are censored off of college campuses across the country. I don't have to tell you that we're living through some of the most polarized times our country has ever known.

Groups like Black Lives Matter (which, unfortunately, has become anti-Semitic and anti-Israel) and Antifa threaten more violence against innocent protesters and police officers unless we cave to their demands.

And if what happened when I spoke at the University of Houston is any indication – it's going to get far worse before it starts to get better. Because just the other day, 100 or so angry Students for Justice in Palestine supporters staged a walkout during my speech. They carried Palestinian flags and a sign stating "Black Lives Matter."

And they tried to shout me down, chanting, "David, we reject your presence on our campus" and "Zionists off our campus, Islamophobes: off our campus." Fortunately, things didn't turn violent this time. But after what happened at Berkeley earlier this year, we can't take any chances.

That's why we've set up the Free Speech on Campus Security Fund to cover the cost of security for me and other Freedom Center sponsored speakers without taking critical funds away from our programs. These speaking engagements are dangerous work, no doubt. But it's vital for the future of our country.

Without us putting our personal safety at risk to go on these hostile, "liberal" campuses, hundreds of thousands of young Americans will NEVER hear our viewpoint.

Editor's Note: David Horowitz was a radical leftist back in the 1960s and 1970s before he came to his senses. But because he was a leftist, he knows how they think. The Horowitz Freedom Center is a good antidote to the Leftist propaganda being promoted today. Horowitz has to pay for security for his rights to "free" speech.

Communications Minister Invites Saudi Mufti To Israel:

Communications Minister Ayoub Kara tweeted on 13 Nov 2017, that he welcomed comments by Saudi Arabia's most senior Islamic authority, Grand Mufti Abdulaziz Al al-Sheikh, in which the mufti had condemned war and the killing of Jews. Kara's tweet praised the mufti for saying that "Hamas is a terrorist organization that hurts the Palestinians and the al-Aksa Mosque protests are a form of demagoguery."

The Mufti has been an outspoken critic of extremism and terrorism. In October 2017 he welcomed the creation of a new center in Saudi Arabia's Medina called the King Salman Complex for the Prophet's Hadith. It aims to "eliminate fake and extremist texts and any texts that contradict the teachings of Islam and justify the committing of crimes, murders and terrorist acts." According to The National in the UAE, the Mufti said he hoped that people would study proper Islamic teachings, "to liberate people from the darkness of thought, the extremism and misinterpretation of the Koran." (Jerusalem Post)

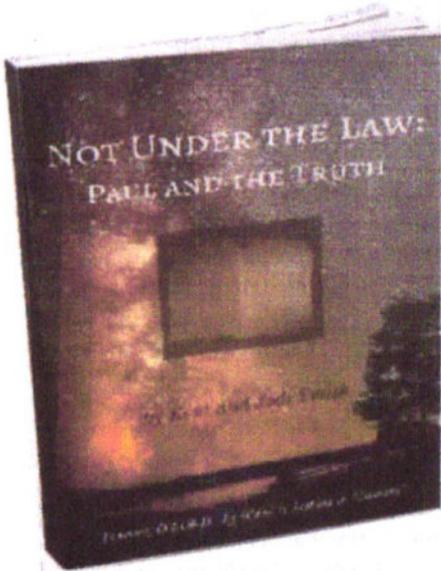
Vision for Israel; PO Box 7265
 Jerusalem, ISRAEL 9107301

Vision for Israel continues to impart comfort and provision for many of the nation's poor, including victims of terrorism and their families, the elderly, Holocaust survivors, children at risk, and entire households suffering from poverty. Please give at www.visionforisrael.com.

Palestinian Authority To Trump: Terror Payments Won't Stop:

Nabil Sha'ath, adviser to Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas, said that the PA would not give in to USA threats to stop the PA payments to terrorists and their families. "These are heroes and we are responsible for them and for their families," Sha'ath said, explaining the PA's approach to the security prisoners and their national commitment to them. Sha'ath said that the private bill promoted by the Israeli Knesset on the cessation of aid to the PA would have implications for Washington's role in the peace process.

It should be noted that most of the Arab prisoners are serving prison sentences for committing security offenses, including terrorist attacks, the dispatch of suicide bombers, murder, attempted murder, accomplice to murder, violent assault, and more. Every Arab prisoner is entitled to receive a monthly pension from the Palestinian Authority, the amount of which is directly proportional to the sentence, granting more money to the terrorists who committed the worst crimes and killed the most Israelis. The average monthly allowance of security prisoners is higher than the average wage for security forces. Israel and the USA view assistance to the imprisoned terrorists as an expression of direct support for terrorism.



Written in 2015, the 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, unclear 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.** Please include instructions so that we can comply with the prison's rules.

www.RockFoundationRanch.com Kent & Jodi Smith, 30504 CSAH 25, Grove City, MN 56243. (Recommended to our readers! RAC)

Israel Tourism Passes 3 Million Mark in 2017

Nov 9, 2017 **Yossi Aloni**
www.IsraelToday.co.il

Israel has had a record year for tourism. And on Nov 7th, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu showed his appreciation by surprising tourist number **3 million to arrive in 2017** with a personal welcome to the Jewish state. Ioana Isac, 31, and her partner, Mihai Georgescu, suspected nothing as they arrived at Ben Gurion Airport from their native **Romania**.

As the couple passed into the arrivals hall, they were greeted by an incredible scene: flowers, balloons, a red carpet and Tourism Minister Yariv Levin, who promptly whisked them away in a limousine to meet with Netanyahu at the Tower of David museum in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Netanyahu gave the couple a personal tour, as well as conveying the appreciation of all Israelis, whose economy leans so heavily on incoming tourism. Isac and Georgescu were also given an upgrade hotel suite, a deluxe visit to the Dead Sea, a helicopter tour of Israel and a private dinner with famed Israeli chef Nir Tzuk.

Editor's Note: Tourism continues to remain a very important part of the Israeli economy. It is also important for people to see first-hand the truth about Israel, as so many times people are exposed to false and misleading stories about Israel in the media. We recommend for people to save their money to visit Israel at least once in their lives. The Scriptures will come alive as you visit the places mentioned in the Bible. You will also see prophecy being fulfilled before your very eyes. **RAC**

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



Israeli Shekel Emerges As Worlds 2nd Strongest Currency:

The Israeli shekel is currently the world's second-strongest currency, according to a new report by the German global banking and financial services company Deutsche Bank. The report ranked China's yuan as the world's strongest currency. Deutsche Bank's strategic foreign currency analyst Dr. Gautam Kalani reported that during the past 12 months, the shekel has appreciated 6.1% against the currencies of Israel's main trading partners, such as the USA dollar, the British pound, the euro and the yen. (Algemeiner)

Modern Biblical Jews by David Lazarus

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www.IsraelToday.com PO Box 755, Jerusalem 91074, ISRAEL
 This is a full-color Israeli Messianic Jewish magazine. Excellent!

Karaite Jews are known in Israel as *Benei Mikra*, or Sons of the Scriptures. In Jerusalem, they pray daily in the oldest active synagogue in the world named "The House of Prayer of the Sons of the Scriptures," which has been in nearly continuous use since it was constructed in the 6th century CE.

Karaite Jews do not celebrate Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) like the rest of Judaism in the fall, but, like Messianic Jews, instead commemorate *Yom T'ruah*, the biblical Day of Trumpets, as instructed in Leviticus 23:24. Karaite Jews observe biblical kosher laws, but they eat meat and milk together, provided the meat was not the offspring of the animal that produced the milk, in accordance with Exodus 23:19. They celebrate the Jewish holidays, except Hanukkah, which is not in the Bible, and they hold daily prayer services with a Karaite *Siddur*, a prayer book containing prayers woven together from biblical verses.

These biblical Jews will pray when two or three are gathered together, rejecting a rabbinical requirement of at least 10 men for a *minyan*, or communal prayer. And they don't lay *tefillin*. Rather, like Messianic Jews, they interpret the commandment to bind God's word to one's arm and forehead to mean that we should act and think according to God's word.

Surprisingly, and like most Messianic Jews, Karaites believe in patrilineal descent, meaning a Jew is someone whose father is Jewish, since almost all Jewish descent in the Hebrew Bible is traced patrilineally. The Karaite motto, like that of the Bereans mentioned in the New Testament, is: "Search the Scriptures well, and do not rely on your own opinion."

Origin of the Karaite / Biblical Jews

Since the time of Moses, there has been a continuous movement of Jews who were dedicated to the observance of the original written Torah by its *peshat*, or face-value meaning. The Pharisee religious movement, however, argued that the Torah needed sages to explain it to the common people. They claimed that in addition to the written law, God gave Moses an "Oral Torah" which, along with its commentaries, has been compiled into a series of books collectively known as the *Talmud*. It is these oral laws that regulate all modern Jewish tradition. Karaites, like the Jewish disciples of Jesus, point out that an "Oral Torah" is never mentioned in Scripture, and, therefore, cannot be authoritative for Jewish life.

Modern Biblical Jews

During the Middle Ages, Karaite Jews made up as much as 40 percent of the total Jewish population in the world. But rabbinical Judaism rejected their face-value interpretation of Scripture, and it is that view that has since dominated the Jewish world. Today, there are only about 50,000 biblical Jews worldwide, with the largest communities residing in Israel and the United States. Smaller communities exist in Turkey (Istanbul), Europe, and China.

Meir Rekhavi, chancellor of the Karaite Jewish University in the USA, says that rabbinical Judaism has gone astray because it no longer adheres to the Hebrew Bible. A fascinating statement, given the fact that all arguments against the Messianic claims of Jesus come from rabbinic traditions developed *after* Christ.

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions-sponsored boycotts of Israeli academic institutions tarnish the integrity of any school that stands for academic freedom—the open-minded, tolerant exchange of ideas. Worse, **BDS** couches its lies and half-truths about Israel in human rights rhetoric meant to delegitimize the Jewish state.

What are the facts?

Academic freedom is a noble, spirited ideal at the heart of American higher education. Academic freedom thrives on a wide-ranging, respectful exchange of ideas in search of truth—even among people who passionately disagree. As such, it depends on unfettered communications that span national, linguistic and ideological borders. Conversely, anyone who attempts to limit the access of the academic community to ideas, research or scholars, no matter their origin or beliefs, is guilty of trampling this precious privilege. Indeed, the strategies and tactics of BDS movement have just such a subversive effect on academic freedom. BDS supporters attempt to censor speakers with whom they disagree, support their arguments with outright falsehoods, and seek to blacklist innocent people from Israeli academics because of their nationality. Finally, most egregiously, BDS uses a double standard to single out Israel, among all nations, for recrimination, which is, using the definition adopted by the U.S. State Department, anti-Semitic.

Does academic freedom support disrupting speakers we don't like?

BDS advocates have shouted down speeches by the Prime Minister of Israel Ehud Olmert, Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, Harvard Professor Alan Dershowitz and they routinely disrupt fellow students at Holocaust Memorial and other pro-Israel events on campus. Yet preventing speakers from delivering their messages not only violates the tolerant, respectful spirit of academic freedom, it also violates our core First Amendment guarantees of free speech.

Does academic freedom support telling lies or half-truths to argue our point?

Under the guise of human rights rhetoric calling for "liberation" of the Palestinian people and an end to Israeli "occupation," BDS proponents recite a litany of alleged Israeli crimes. Perhaps most outrageously, they accuse the Jewish state of apartheid—an outright lie that bears absolutely no relationship to the full democratic rights of Israel's Arab citizens or even to Palestinians living in the West Bank or Gaza. Likewise, to accuse Israel of "occupation" without mentioning that Israel has been the Jewish homeland for some 3,000 years or the suicide bombers and nearly

daily rocket attacks meant to destroy the Jewish state is intellectually dishonest. While free speech allows anyone to lie, outright mendacity is hardly a cornerstone of academic freedom.

Does academic freedom support severing our schools from international research and scholarly thought? BDS

advocates an academic boycott of

Israeli universities and, effectively, of the scholars who teach and conduct groundbreaking research there. By boycotting Israeli students and teachers, we deprive our own institutions of the kind of open collaboration that is key to academic freedom. To punish Israeli academics with pariah status simply because of their nationality, regardless of their politics, is unconscionable.

The double-standard, demonization and delegitimization BDS uses against Israel is anti-Semitic.

BDS advocates are quick to assert that "I'm not anti-Semitic, I'm just anti-Zionist." While academic freedom allows everyone to criticize Israel, just as one is free to criticize Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia or the United States. But BDS does not simply criticize Israel—rather, it demonizes it, calling it a Nazi regime. It attempts to delegitimize Israel by claiming it is occupying Arab territory, thus denying the right of the Jewish people to self-determination in their homeland. As Martin Luther King, Jr. has noted, "When people criticize Zionists, they mean Jews. You're talking anti-Semitism." Indeed to single out Israel among all nations for a boycott is a blatant double-standard . . . and that is by definition anti-Semitism.

If you support a robust atmosphere of academic freedom, in which all sides are heard and positions are vigorously and respectfully debated, you must oppose BDS's call for an academic and cultural boycott of Israel. In fact, BDS actions flatly contradict academic freedom, and its insistence on denying the self-determination of the Jewish people in Israel is overtly anti-Semitic. BDS, Academic Freedom and Anti-Semitism Academic boycotts of Israel advocated by BDS supporters not only strangle free expression, they also deny Jewish self-determination.

◆ This message is by **Facts and Logic About the Middle East**, PO Box 590359; San Francisco CA 94159. James Sinkinson - President, Gerardo Joffe - Founder and President Emeritus. www.factsandlogic.org

BDS, Academic Freedom, and Anti-Semitism

It's 1999, two days before Rosh Hashanah, and I can't think of anything positive to look forward to in the coming year. Rabbi Shalom Leverton is coming to see me with some supplies to celebrate the holiday. I know that he's going to try to lift my spirits. He's going to tell me what a beautiful soul I have or something like that.

Although I am eager to get my hands on some of the food he will be bringing, I am not too eager to be around this upbeat man. His unbending optimism is contagious, and today I don't feel like being happy.

At this point, I am 23 years old and I have been in prison for two years with eight years to go, serving a term for armed robbery. The rabbi is a member of the Aleph Institute, a program designed to reach Jews in prison and the military and help advocate for their religious rights. I am waiting for the officer to unlock my cell so I can go to the chapel and meet him.

Finally, 30 minutes past the appointed time, the officer comes and lets me out. He tells me that my "priest" is at the front gate, and they are waiting to hear from the administrator for approval on the items he brought. I am directed to go to the chapel and wait.

Walking the long corridors of the prison, I start to get angry, assuming they will not let him in. Or even worse, maybe they won't let the food in. Maybe the chaplain forgot to submit the special request to the administrator, and it would be too late to do so at this point. Maybe the officers were giving the rabbi a hard time.

Assuming all of these things and feeling as though I have no recourse, my eyes begin to burn with tears that I fight back. This is not a place to let people see me cry.

Suddenly, the door swings open and Rabbi Leverton is standing there with the biggest smile a person could muster. As if I am the only person in the world, he shouts out my nickname as loudly as he can: "Moel!" I am so happy to see him that I forget my tears and decide to forgive him his cheerfulness. I see he's empty-handed and I ask him if they denied the food. As I ask the question two guards step into the chapel, each carrying huge boxes. I should have known that nobody gives this rabbi a hard time. His very presence commands respect.

He brought me all of the traditional New Year foods along with a shofar, a holiday prayer book and a new Aleph calendar. Although I am wearing a happy face, he can tell that something is wrong. When he asks me about it, I let him know I'm feeling hopeless. I explain that I can't even fathom what eight more years will bring.

The rabbi looks at me and starts to compare me to an onion. He's saying something to the

effect that I am like its layers and that each time rot sets in, a layer is peeled and a newer fresher one is underneath. While he's saying this, all I can think is that onions stink.

The rabbi asks me if I know how to blow the shofar. I tell him that my father had taught me years ago. He hands it to me and I try to blow it. I don't do very well. He takes it from me and proceeds to blow the most beautiful sounds I've ever heard. I could hold back no longer. Without warning, the tears that threatened to start earlier begin to stream down, staining my cheeks. I am

reminded of walking with my father to shul to hear the shofar. It makes me realize how much I miss my family and they are missing me. My body is racked with sobs like a hysterical child.

After I collect myself, the rabbi explains to me that one of the sounds of the shofar, shevarim, represents the crying of the Jewish heart. He explains that we are crying for the missed opportunities of the past year, our misdeeds, repentance and, most importantly, the yearning to connect and grow. At the moment the shofar is blown, he says all the Jewish people are standing in front of our creator as one — no walls or barriers, and certainly no bars or barbed wire fences. My family and I will be together. I smile.

I begin feeling like a new person, cleansed of sorrow and grief, free of pain and the walls that surround me. I explain this by telling him how good it felt to cry. He then tells me that for now on, whenever I need to cry and can't, due to my environment, I should just let the shofar do the crying for me. He tells me to just close my eyes and remember what it sounded like, and I will feel the same way I feel right now. He gives me a hug and leaves. As he walks, out I think how much I love that man for his words, his kindness and especially his optimism.

On Rosh Hashanah that year, alone in the chapel, I prayed for forgiveness. I prayed for my family and I prayed to be a better person and a better Jew. I was not miserable, but I did feel lonely. Until I blew that shofar. Or at least until I tried to. I am sure that it didn't sound majestic or mystical, but to me, in my head, it sounded just the way the rabbi blew it two days earlier. Just like my father blew it for me so many years before.

I was not alone anymore. I was standing as one with my family, my friends, my people. I was connected, happy and free. It was at that point I knew that although there may be times that I would feel lonely, I would never be alone again.

Article submitted by Sid Kleiner

Jewish Prisoner Outreach

40188 Winterview Dr, Naples FL 34109

Ph. 239-566-7702 BTJPO@comcast.net

In Prison, But Not Alone Anymore

M. Treibitz, Sept 19,
2017 at *Jewish Journal*

Rabbi Daniel Zion, the late Chief Rabbi of Bulgaria, is one of Messianic Judaism's greatest heroes. The son of a yeshiva head, Daniel was selected to be Chief Rabbi of Bulgaria in the early years of World War II. It was during this period, he later explained, that Daniel had a revelation. "I was praying at sunrise and saw a vision of Yeshua the Messiah. I asked other rabbis what it meant.

They couldn't, or wouldn't say." Trying to understand the vision, he visited a Bulgarian Orthodox bishop who providentially encouraged the Chief Rabbi to focus on the Jewish heritage of Yeshua, and not the teachings of traditional Christianity.

Rabbi Daniel never joined a church, but continued living out his faith in Yeshua as an Orthodox Jew. Though his faith in the Messiah became well known, Daniel was able to maintain his position and even gain great respect as Chief Rabbi of Bulgaria.

Joseph Shulam, a Messianic Jewish pastor from Jerusalem whose mother and sister were members of Rabbi Daniel's synagogue in Bulgaria, tells the story:

"When Nazi Germany occupied Bulgaria, Rabbi Daniel Zion became the object of persecution and ridicule. He was publicly flogged in front of the Great Synagogue of Sofia. Rabbi Daniel walked upright before the fascists, and his only reaction was to call upon God. My own mother and sister were present during at least two of these occasions, and they retold this story many times. The entire experience had made them proud to be Jews. When there was talk of shipping the Jews to Germany, Rabbi Daniel wrote a letter to Boris, King of Bulgaria. Rabbi Daniel wrote that he'd had a vision of Yeshua telling him to warn the king against handing the Jews over to the Nazis. On the next day, the king left for Germany to meet with Hitler himself. King Boris stood his ground and did not submit to Nazi pressure to deliver the Jews of Bulgaria to the death camps of Poland and Germany.

"In 1949, Rabbi Daniel, along with most of the Bulgarian Jewish community, immigrated to Israel. In Israel, Daniel was immediately accepted as the Rabbi of the Bulgarian Jews. In 1954, Rabbi Samuel Toledano became Chief Rabbi of

Israel, and he invited Rabbi Daniel Zion to be a judge on the Rabbinical Court of Jerusalem. When the rumors started to fly that Rabbi Daniel Zion believed in Yeshua, Rabbi Toledano questioned him. Rabbi Daniel explained that he accepted Yeshua as the Messiah, but that he did not accept Christianity as

the true expression of the teachings and person of Yeshua. Rabbi Toledano said that he could live with that position, so long as Rabbi Daniel kept it to himself. When Rabbi Daniel said that he did not think such a message could be kept secret, Toledano was forced to take Rabbi Daniel before the Rabbinical Court. There, the other rabbis would decide his fate.

"Evidence of Rabbi Daniel's faith in Yeshua was presented in the form of four books he had written in Bulgarian regarding the Messiah. When given the opportunity to publicly defend himself, this is what Rabbi Daniel told his peers on the Rabbinical Court: 'I am poor and feeble, persecuted and vulnerable. Yeshua conquered me. I stand here alone in my faith; the whole world is against me. I give up all earthly honor for the sake of the Messiah.'

"The Rabbinical Court stripped Rabbi Daniel of his title, but the Bulgarian Jews continued to honor him as their rabbi. A Russian Jew who was one of the early Zionist settlers in Rishon LeZion, and who had also become a believer, provided Rabbi Daniel Zion with a building in the heart of Jaffa. In that new synagogue, Rabbi Daniel officiated until October 1973. Many Christians visited Rabbi Daniel Zion in his Jaffa home, and on occasion would even offer him large amounts of money for the use of his name in their own ministries. In every instance, Rabbi Daniel rejected their offers. He did not want to damage his witness to the people of Israel for a handful of dollars.

"When Rabbi Daniel Zion passed away in 1979 at the age of 96, the Bulgarian Jewish community in Israel gave him a funeral with full honors. His casket stood in the center of Jaffa with a military guard, and at noon was carried by foot all the way to the cemetery in Holon. He was buried as the Chief Rabbi of Bulgarian Jews who saved them from the Nazi Holocaust. May his name, and the name of his Messiah, be remembered in Israel."

The Rabbi Saves His People

by David Lazarus

www.IsraelToday.co.il

Call 1-866-854-1684 toll free for subscription to this full-color monthly Messianic Jewish magazine from Israel.



A Bible That Israelis Can Read

By Shira Sorko-Ram www.MaozIsrael.org
PO Box 535788, Grand Prairie TX 75053-5788

Did you know that in Hebrew there is only one version of the Bible that is universally accepted by the Jewish people?

There is no equivalent to the NIV, the New King James, or the New Living Bible. Israeli Messianic publishers have produced some fine children's Bibles, but there is one, and only one, authentic Biblical text in Hebrew.

The Jewish scribes of old were passionately devoted to not changing a single letter or connotation in the entire Old Testament as they wrote new manuscripts of the Bible by hand.

As a result, there are no mistakes, spelling or otherwise, that change the theology of the Bible. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947, the text copied 2000 years ago was found to be virtually the same as the text as we have it today. The differences were mostly consisting of human scribe copying errors that did not change the meaning of the text.

There's only one problem: Because the original text was written between 2500 and 3500 years ago, most Israelis today can't understand much of the Hebrew text. Too many words are no longer used or have different modern meanings.

For this reason, Maoz, in partnership with the Israel Bible Society, has begun a three-year project of producing a version of the English Narrated Bible in Chronological Order in Hebrew. This will be a Bible that Israelis will be able to read and understand!

The Scriptures themselves will, of course, be the original Hebrew text. But we will follow the Narrated Bible's beautifully-written explanatory introductions to each section in the text about to be read. Headings for every few verses will reinforce the focus of the chapters. And putting the Scriptures in chronological order greatly enhances the meaning of God's Word as the context becomes so much clearer.

Furthermore, each word no longer understood today will be noted at the end of the page in modern Hebrew. The project will take approximately three years to complete. This Hebrew Narrated Chronological Bible will open God's Word to multitudes of Israelis who have never before understood the Bible!

Editor's Note: Many people are shocked to discover that the Hebrew that is spoken today is not the same as the Hebrew spoken in Israel 2000 to 3000 years ago. Hebrew has evolved and changed because it is a living language, just as English has changed considerably since the time that Chaucer wrote *Canterbury Tales* a thousand years ago.

RAC

Why is there a Jewish month named after a Japanese car?



Yes, indeed. There is a Jewish month called Nissan. And no, it was **not** named after a Japanese car, although they both share the same name. The original Hebrew name for this month is **Aviv** (**Abib** in KJV). During the Babylonian Captivity, the Jewish people adopted the Assyrian-Babylonian name for this month. Regretfully, some other names of Jewish months today were also adopted in Babylon, such as the month of Tammuz, which is somewhat pagan. However, the Gentile calendars used around the world today also have pagan names for the days of the week. When Messiah returns, we will see the names of the days and months cleansed of paganism! The month of Nissan begins a bit early this year, beginning on March 17th. Here is what Wikipedia says about it:

Nisan or Nissan; Hebrew: ניסן

(*Nisan* Tiberian *Nīsān*) on the Assyrian calendar is the first month, and on the Hebrew calendar is the first month of the ecclesiastical year and the seventh month (eighth, in leap year) of the civil year. The name of the month is of Assyrian-Babylonian origin; in the Torah it is called the month of the *Aviv*. (Exodus 13:4

וַיִּקְרָא יְהוָה בְּחֹדֶשׁ הַיָּרֵבָב *b'ḥōdeš hā-āviv*) Assyrians today refer to the month as the "month of happiness." It is a spring month of 30 days. Nissan usually falls in March–April on the Gregorian calendar. In the Book of Esther in the Tanakh (O.T.), it is referred to as Nissan. Karaite Jews interpret it as referring to the month in which barley was ripening.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nisan

"Thus saith YHWH, 'Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you shall find rest for your souls.'" Jeremiah 6:16

Tens of Thousands of Christians from 80 countries march in Jerusalem

WORLD ISRAEL NEWS, October 11, 2017



More than 60,000 people from 80 countries participated in the annual Festival of Tabernacles parade in the Israeli capital, expressing love and support for the Jewish state and a united Jerusalem.

Tens of thousands of Christian supporters of Israel from around the world joined the 38th annual march through Jerusalem, organized by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ), on Sukkot, the festival of Tabernacles.

"The Feast of Tabernacles is always a wonderful foretaste of that future time when all peoples will come up to Jerusalem to celebrate Sukkot (Zech. 14:16)," ICEJ says on its website.

This year's celebration was unique, however, as Israel celebrates the 50th year of the reunification of Jerusalem during the 1967 Six Day War. For this reason, the march was "more exciting than ever," said Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat.

"Of all the sacred seasons that God commanded Israel to observe, the festival of Tabernacles has the strongest implications for the nations of the world... Sukkot was mandated by the Creator Himself to be a holiday for all the world," the Temple Institute explains.

Thousands of locals watched the parade, cheering as the enthusiastic visitors expressed solidarity with the Jewish state, shouting "Am Yisrael Chai (The People of Israel Live)," proclaiming the eternity of the Jewish nation.

It's Time to End U.S. Aid to Palestinian Terror

The United States continues to send \$400 million each year to the Palestinian Authority (PA), with President Trump continuing the same policies Obama had with the PA. The European Union sends \$300 million to the PA. It would be nice if this total of \$700 million were going to help the

Palestinian people, improve their economy, and actually invest in peace. However, of that \$700 million, they invest \$344 million for their terror payroll, which is 49% of the aid received from the USA and Europe. The PA pays \$158 million to terrorists sitting in Israeli jails, and \$183 million to family members of dead terrorists.

By subsidizing terrorism, the PA is encouraging terrorism. If a Palestinian Arab would like to provide financial aid to his family, the easiest way to do that is to commit acts of terrorism against Jews. They are further incentivized to kill as many as possible: The more horrendous the crime, the more that their families are rewarded. And in their perverse religious beliefs, they also each believe they will be rewarded with 72 virgins in heaven if they die as a **shachid** (martyr). They also receive a hero's welcome and burial. Many have streets, schools, and buildings named after them. In addition, the Palestinian Authority praises them on their radio and TV stations.

We hoped that President Trump would cease sending money to the Palestinian Authority after the election. We pray that Trump would also stop all further payments to UNRWA (United Nations Refugee Welfare Assistance). UNRWA was set up in 1948 to assist Arab refugees who left Israel in 1948 during Israel's War of Independence.

The new nation of Israel in 1948 begged the Arab inhabitants to stay. However, surrounding Arab armies demanded that Palestinian Arabs leave so that the Arab armies could massacre the Israeli inhabitants without harming any Arab citizens. Therefore, the Palestinian Arabs left, expecting to return home to take over the possessions of the Israelis after they were murdered. Instead, Israel won the war, and these Arabs had become refugees. Since that time, the population of these so-called refugees has grown to over 5 million, from 600,000 in 1948.

All other refugee populations in the 1940s have been integrated into various nations, including the Jewish Holocaust survivors of World War II, most of whom were taken into the new nation of Israel. However, the Arab nations refused to accept their fellow Arabs into their nations, keeping them in refugee camps, to multiply as bargaining chips to be used against Israel.

The Statistics Around Mass Incarceration Are Staggering:

- ◆ With just 4.4% of the world's population, the U.S. houses nearly 25% of the world's prisoners—over 2.2 million individuals, more than any other nation in the world. We house 30% of the world's population of incarcerated women.
- ◆ Over 2.7 million children have at least one parent in prison.

New UNRWA Textbooks For Palestinians Demonize Israel and Jews:

New schoolbooks used in UNRWA schools in Gaza and in Judea & Samaria display extreme anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiments, according to a study by Dr. Aaron Groiss released last week. According to the Palestinian schoolbooks, Jews have no rights whatsoever in the region but only "greedy ambitions." The books say that Jews have no holy places there - the Western Wall in Jerusalem, the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, and Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem are all presented as Muslim holy places threatened by Jews. The names "Israel" and "Tel Aviv" do not appear on maps at UNRWA schools. Peace is not advocated in UNRWA schools. Instead, the schoolbooks promote a violent struggle of liberation against Israel. A 2017 text describes a firebomb attack on an Israeli civilian bus as a "barbecue party." The researcher concludes that UNRWA is contributing to perpetuating the conflict. (J. Post)

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), with its \$1.3 billion budget (30% of which comes from USA taxpayers), actually perpetuates the refugee problem it was created to solve, while promoting Palestinian rejectionism and Jew hatred. The original 700,000 Palestinians leaving Israel have now been magically transformed into 5.5 million "refugees" registered with UNRWA, about half of all the Palestinians living in the world today. The "temporary" UN agency has developed into a bloated bureaucracy with a staff of 30,000, almost all of who are Palestinians (many are activists of Hamas, the Islamist terrorist group). Less than 5% of UNRWA's clients ever lived in Israel, but the agency's regulations state that all descendants of the original displaced persons shall retain their refugee rights in perpetuity. www.VisionForIsrael.com

Norwegians and Europe Now 'Experiencing the Same Fear as Israelis' Says Ministry:

"We see what is happening in Sweden, in Britain, and in France," said Norway's Minister of Immigration and Integration Sylvi Listhaug in a media interview. "We are experiencing now the fear that you have experienced for decades." One of the most popular politicians in Norway and member of the conservative-liberal Progress Party, Listhaug added that the nations of Europe "and their citizens need to understand the situation in Israel better, because of the terror attacks in Israel."

Norwegian conservative historian, Hanne Nabintu Herland, called her country "the most anti-Semitic in the West," but now it seems that the people of Norway are changing their views. In concern for the preservation of Norwegian culture in the face of a potential flood of immigrants, Herland often calls on her fellow country-

men to take their country back. "The Progress party has always been a supporter of Israel's need to protect themselves in a region where you are the only democracy," continued Minister Listhaug. "The conservative minister reduced the number of immigrants arriving to the shores of Norway from 30,000 in 2015 to 1,000 in 2017. Those who come are expected to adapt to the culture and norms of Norwegians: a people who drink alcohol, eat pork, and do not believe in veils. (Ynet) www.VisionForIsrael.com

Huma Abedin's Ties to the Muslim Brotherhood

Kenneth R. Timmerman <http://thehill.com>

Mrs. Clinton has sometimes referred to Huma Abedin as her "second daughter." Whether it was because of their close relationship or for some other reason, Mrs. Clinton had done much to further the Muslim Brotherhood agenda while Secretary of State.

As Secretary of State, she relentlessly pushed the overthrow of Libyan leader Moammar Qaddafi, a dire enemy of the Brotherhood, even when President Obama and his Secretary of Defense were reluctant to go to war.

Along with Obama, she pushed for the overthrow of Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak and his replacement by Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohammed Morsi. She pushed for direct U.S. involvement in the Syrian civil war, including the arming of Syrian rebels allied with al Qaeda.

As I reveal in my new book, she worked side by side with the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the umbrella group where 57 majority Muslim states pushed their agenda of imposing Sharia law on the non-Muslim world, to use hate crime laws in the United States to criminalize speech critical of Islam, in accordance with United Nations Resolution 16/18.

Their first victim in the United States was a Coptic Christian named Nakoula Bassilely Nakoula, the maker of the YouTube video Hillary and Obama blamed for Benghazi.

New Abedin emails released to Judicial Watch week show that Huma Abedin served as liaison between Clinton Foundation donors, including foreign governments, and the State Department. When foreign donors had difficulty in getting appointments with Mrs. Clinton through normal State Department channels, Clinton Foundation executive Douglas Band would email Huma Abedin, and poof! the doors would open as if by magic.

Donald Trump has criticized this as "pay for play." But it also raises questions as to whether Huma Abedin and Mrs. Clinton were in fact serving as unregistered agents for foreign powers who sought to impose their anti-freedom agenda on the United States.

The Eyes of Creation

By Frank Sherwin, M.A., Zoologist
 © 2007, Institute for Creation Research
 PO Box 2667, El Cajon CA 92021

Squares or cubes in the living world are both rare and strange, but there are species of bacteria that are both flat and box-shaped. A deadly Australian species of sea jelly (jellyfish or medusae) called the sea wasp (*Chironex fleckeri*) has the fascinating shape of a cube. Remarkably, these creatures—composed of 95% water—have multiple sets of eyes, including some which are human-like. Why would these creatures—supposedly so low on the evolutionary ladder—not only have several different kinds of multi-purpose eyes, but one set that is human-like? To say this is unexpected is an understatement.



God has designed the box jellyfish with eyes that not only see obstacles, but are also able to detect the size and color of objects, as well as a set to detect light intensity. The eyes work in harmony giving the box jelly “an extreme fish-eye view, so it’s watching almost the entire underwater world” according to evolutionist Anders Garm of Lund University in Sweden.¹

Does Darwinism explain the form and function of jellyfish? To begin with, evolutionists do not know even the origin of jellyfish: “The origin of the [jellyfish] and ctenophores is obscure . . .”² Furthermore,

they “explain” the amazing eye design by stating, “Millions of years of *evolution* have produced more than ten different animal vision systems, each perfectly tailored to suit the needs of its owner.”³ This is hardly a scientific explanation, of course. Creationists counter with, “God has designed more than ten different animal vision systems, each perfectly tailored to suit the needs of its owner.” Each of the preceding statements is as scientific—or religious—as the other.

Clearly, random genetic mutations do not begin to explain the origin or function of these incredible eyes. Evolutionist Paul Ehrlich of Stanford states—

Because mutations are random relative to need and because organisms generally fit well into their environments, mutations normally are either neutral or harmful; only very rarely are they helpful—just as a random change made by poking a screwdriver into the guts of your computer will rarely improve its performance.⁴

The structure and physiology of eyes, no matter where they’re found, are a window to creation!

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3. Than, K. 2005. Nature inspires design of new eyes. *LiveScience*. Nov. 18. http://www.livescience.com/animalworld/051118_animal_eyes.html.
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I came into my feminist destiny in 1967, both as an academic and as an activist. Our original feminist vision was radical and transformative. We believed in universal human rights. We envisioned multicultural diversity but we were not multicultural relativists. We called out misogyny when we saw it and did not exempt a rapist, a wife-beater, or a pedophile because he was poor (his victims were also usually poor); or a man of color (his victims were often people of color); or because he had an abused childhood (so had his victims).

Like other American radical feminists, I was active in the civil-rights and anti-war movements. Unlike other feminists, I had "once lived in a harem in Afghanistan." This is the opening line of my book, *An American Bride in Kabul*. Quite unexpectedly, I lived in a polygamous household in very posh *pardah*—which meant I was not allowed out without a male escort. Quite surprisingly, my father-in-law had three wives and 21 children—facts my Westernized husband failed to mention during our long American college courtship...

In the early to late 1970s, I delivered feminist speeches in Israel, began working with Israeli feminists; led a delegation of left-wing and feminist journalists to Israel; obtained signatures opposing the UN's "Zionism=racism" resolution; co-organized a press conference and then a legendary conference about feminism and anti-Semitism and about women and Judaism; co-founded the first feminist Passover Seder which we held in my Manhattan apartment—and created Jewish-feminist life-cycle events. I also worked with Muslim dissidents and artists from Israel, Egypt, Kuwait, Iran, Lebanon, etc. During this time, I published three more feminist books.

In 1981, I convened a panel at the annual meeting of the National Women's Studies Association in Storrs, Conn., about anti-Semitism and Feminism. For the second time, Aviva Cantor interviewed me for *Lilith* on this very subject. However, I did not become a professional Jew, I did not turn my Jewish identity or my concern about our survival, into a career or a calling...

I can tell you that anti-Semitism—Jew-hatred—is not new among feminists. I first encountered it in the early 1970s among radical feminists and lesbians and, together with Aviva Cantor and Cheryl Moch, immediately began exposing it.

However, a new and what I describe as a "faux feminism" has arisen in the last 30 years, a postmodern and postcolonial feminism that passionately condemns Christianity and Judaism as the greatest danger to women's rights but dares

not critique religiously supremacist Islam for this same reason; an intersectional "faux feminism" that condemns only Western imperialism and refuses to acknowledge the long history

Against Faux-Feminists Who Deny the Rights of Muslim Women & Jews

By Phyllis Chesler
The Israel Group · PO
Box 58009 · Sherman
Oaks, CA 91413 · USA

of Islamic imperialism, colonialism, slavery, anti-black racism, and religious and gender apartheid; a "faux feminism" that is far more concerned with the alleged occupation of Palestine than it is with the occupation of women's bodies, faces, minds, and genitalia worldwide—including those women who are being forcibly face-veiled, death-threatened, and honor killed in the disputed territories.

Women's studies associations, national feminist organizations—many feminist Jews—are not merely "politically correct"; they have become "Islamically correct." They are currently more concerned with the religious sanctity of head and face veiling than they are with FGM (female genital mutilation, falsely called female circumcision), forced face-veiling, honor-based violence, polygamy, child marriage, and honor killing in the West. Not only have faux feminists betrayed the Jews—in the name of anti-racism, they have also abandoned tribal and immigrant women of color—Muslims, Sikhs, and Hindus—to barbaric misogyny. Above all, they have abandoned the most heroic ex-Muslim, Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu feminist dissidents, both in the developing world and in the West.

And that's the tragedy—that so many Western feminists have become such conformists. They are no longer independent thinkers. Faux feminists have also been persuaded that Islam is a "race," not an ideology or a religion; that America's historic enslavement of black Africans, and South Africa's apartheid regime, is exactly the same as alleged Israeli discrimination against Arab Palestinians, including Jew-hating bomb makers and terrorists with blood on their hands. Fundamentalists are trying to destroy what feminists have accomplished.

Feminists in America exposed, condemned, and analyzed rape. We began rape-crisis counseling and changed the laws about rape. Today, Western professional feminists—our women's studies professors, politicians, journalists, human-rights activists—are **not** rescuing rape victims in Islamic communities, either in the Middle East or in the West. Feminists are too nervous about being called "Islamophobes," "racists," or "colonialists."

We may not be able to personally, physically, rescue the raped girls of ISIS or Boko Haram or those in refugee camps across Europe. But American feminists can fund those who do...

There was an Epic Moment at the 36th Session of the UN Human Rights Council on Wednesday, as heads turned and eyes bulged in stunned disbelief—especially in the PLO delegation — as a member of Hamas, Mosab Yousef, took the microphone to expose PLO lies, UN Watch reported.

"I take the floor on behalf of UN Watch," Yousef began, telling the council he was a member of Hamas who grew up in Ramallah, Samaria.

"I address my words to the Palestinian Authority, which claims to be the 'sole legitimate representative' of the Palestinian people," he continued. "I ask: where does your legitimacy come from? The Palestinian people did not elect you, and they did not appoint you to represent them. You are self-appointed."

"Your accountability is not to your own people," Yousef accused. "This is evidenced by your total violation of their human rights. In fact, the Palestinian individuals and their human development is the least of your concerns."

"You kidnap Palestinian students from campus and torture them in your jails. You torture your political rivals. The suffering of the Palestinian people is the outcome of your selfish political interests. You are the greatest enemy of the Palestinian people," he continued.

"If Israel did not exist, you would have no one to blame," he reasoned. "Take responsibility for the outcome of your own actions. You fan the flames of conflict to maintain your abusive power."

"Finally," he concluded, "you use this platform to mislead the international community, and to mislead Palestinian society, to believe that Israel is responsible for the problems that you create."

CNN reported back in 2010 that when Yousef was growing up he wanted to be a fighter, because that was expected of Arab children in the disputed territories, and because he was the eldest son of Hamas leader Sheikh Hassan Yousef. He was arrested by Israeli security at age 10, during the First Intifada, for throwing rocks at Israelis, and was later

arrested and jailed numerous times by Israel. In fact, he was widely considered his father's heir apparent in the Hamas organization.

UN Stunned as PLO's Lies are Exposed by Former Hamas Leader

by JNi Media



His doubts about Islam and Hamas began forming when he realized just how brutal Hamas was, and hated how Hamas was using the misery of Arab children and adults to achieve its goals.

Surprisingly, his views about Israel changed when he was interrogated by the clandestine police Shin Bet in 1996, with methods he considered humane, compared to Hamas' torture of suspected collaborators. Disgusted with Hamas, Yousef accepted a Shin Bet offer to become an informant within the Islamist terror group's leadership.

Yousef was considered the Shin Bet's most reliable source inside the Hamas leadership, earning the nickname "Green Prince." The intelligence he provided led to the exposure of a number of Hamas cells as well as the prevention of dozens of suicide bombings and assassination attempts inside Israel. He insists that he did not inform for money, but instead acted with ideological and religious motives, in order to save lives. He also claims he supplied intelligence on the condition that the exposed targets not be eliminated. His information has led to the detention of several key leaders, including Hamas leader Ibrahim Hamid, and PLO terrorist leader Marwan Barghouti. Yousef claims his information exposed a 2001 plot to assassinate Shimon Peres. In 2010, his former Shin Bet operator told the **Daily Telegraph**, "many people owe him their lives and don't even know it."

Jesus didn't come to Planet Earth to establish a new religion. He came to this planet to be the Messiah and Savior of the old religion: Judaism.



We were heartened to learn that a Philadelphia synagogue is offering an adult education course about anti-Semitism, a timeless scourge that every generation must combat. But why is the course seemingly prompted, as its website suggests, solely by Christian sources of Jew-hatred and August's despicable anti-Jewish events in Charlottesville — rather than July's equally despicable calls in two California mosques for Jews to be slaughtered, or even the continuous despicable Jew-hatred from Nation of Islam leaders?

Are Jew-hatred and threats from some Muslims in America less vile, less threatening and less problematic than the same actions from white supremacists? To some in the Jewish community: yes, apparently.

In a brief description of the course on the Society Hill Synagogue's website, these are among the questions posed: "What is the role of Christianity and the Church in anti-Semitism? How has anti-Semitism morphed over the centuries? In the shadow of Charlottesville we must ask, to what extent does anti-Semitism threaten the Jewish people in this country? Is it confined to isolated, albeit frightening and horrific, incidents? Is it a larger threat?"

While acts of anti-Semitism have been and continue to be perpetrated by some Christians, there seems to be a tendency by many Jews to brush aside, downplay or even ignore Jew-hatred from some Muslims motivated by aggressive mosques or interpretations of Islam.

The white supremacist rally in Charlottesville received tremendous media coverage, with video footage of torch-bearing neo-Nazis chanting "Jews will not replace us" and reports of armed goons menacing synagogue congregants. It was an example of the worst that America has to offer. But nobody who monitors Jew-hatred in America suspected that Klansmen and their ilk had moderated or disappeared.

Equally virulent Jew-hatred from some segments of Islam is under-reported and seldom condemned. Could it be that pre-emptive accusations of "Islamophobia" have put a chill on addressing Jew-hatred from that group? Or is there a misguided belief that Jew-hatred is exclusive to Christians? Some examples from this year:

- "The Prophet Muhammad says that the time will come, the Last Hour will not take place until the Muslims fight the Jews. We don't say if it is in Palestine or another place," said Sheikh Ammar Shahin from the pulpit of the Islamic Center of Davis, Calif., in July, according to a video obtained by the Middle East Media and Research Institute (MEMRI). A translation from MEMRI states that Shahin prayed, "Oh Allah, liberate the

Al-Aqsa mosque from the filth of the Jews. Oh Allah, destroy those who closed the Al-Aqsa mosque. Oh Allah, show us the black day that You inflict upon them, and the wonders of Your ability. Oh Allah, count them one by one and annihilate them down to the very last one. Do not spare any of them."

- That same day at the Islamic Center of Riverside, Calif., according to MEMRI, Sheikh Mahmoud Harmouh prayed, "Oh Allah, liberate the Al-Aqsa mosque and all the Muslim lands from the unjust tyrants and the occupiers. Oh Allah, destroy them, they are no match for You. Oh Allah, disperse them, and rend them asunder. Turn them into booty in the hands of the Muslims."

- In February, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan said in Detroit, "I want to disabuse the Jews today of the false claim that you are the chosen of God and that Israel or Palestine belongs to you. I want to disabuse you of that. I want to make it so clear. And I'm going to tell you about your future. You that think you have power to frighten and dominate the peoples of the world: I'm here to announce the end of your time."

- Asked sarcastically at an event in New Orleans in May why Farrakhan attacks Jews, the Nation of Islam's Ava Muhammad replied, "The only time the Jews have ever been present among us is to open their outposts, their retail stores to sell us damaged, cheap goods, marked up against the price...we will be free of this bloodsucking parasite so they will no longer be able to sell us alcohol, drugs, depraved sex and every other type of low-life thing that is keeping us from a hereafter."

We don't assume that these sentiments are representative of all or the majority of American Muslims. To the contrary, despite the prevalence of such views in Muslim-majority nations, we would hope that, as is the case with the vast majority of other Americans, anti-Semitism would be confined to a minority. But it is curious that one of the most influential pollsters in the country was reluctant to find out the answer to that question.

The Pew Research Center had an opportunity to shed some light on those legitimate concerns. Pew conducted a survey of American Muslims this year. It asked them many questions, but according to a copy of the questionnaire on its website, Pew did not ask about their attitudes toward Jews or Israel—despite the fact that the topic is a potential flashpoint. Yet earlier in the year, in another survey, Pew did ask people of other faiths to weigh in on Muslims...

ZOA Op-Ed About Anti-Semitism

By Steve Feldman, Lee Bender, and Kevin Ross

<https://zooa.org> (Zionist Organization of America)

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10

Some Christians think that if you break one commandment of God's Law, then you have broken all of them. In other words, if you disobey "Thou shalt not covet" by coveting your neighbor's house, that makes you guilty of breaking every other commandment of God.

But that is not what James is saying. Coveting your neighbor's house is a sin, but it does not make you guilty of adultery and murder.

James 2:10 simply means that one single transgression of one of God's laws will turn you into a law-breaker, even if you have kept all the other commandments. When James says that a person is "guilty of all," this means that the person is guilty of violating God's Law. In other words, coveting makes you guilty of violating God's Law just as much as stealing, adultery, or murder make you guilty of violating God's Law. Coveting does not make you guilty of stealing, adultery, and murder, but it makes you just as guilty of law-breaking as do these more serious sins.

Guilt is not measurable by degrees. A man cannot be "sort of guilty" or "75% guilty." Guilt is like pregnancy. A woman is either pregnant or not pregnant; a man is either guilty or not guilty.

Sins and punishments, unlike guilt, are measurable by degrees. Some people say things like "One sin is just as bad as any other sin; if you've committed one sin, you've

committed them all; all sins are equally bad," etc.

But the Bible teaches that there are degrees of sin. Yeshua said to Pilate, "he that delivered Me unto thee hath the greater sin" (John 19:11). He also spoke about "the weightier matters of the law" (Matt. 23:23) and "the least of the commandments" (Matt. 5:19). Some violations of the Torah are called "abominations," and others are not. There are even degrees of abominations. Yahweh showed Ezekiel the increasingly abominable abominations that Israel had committed. Three times He told Ezekiel, "Thou shalt see greater abominations than these" (Ezk. 8).

One way to determine how important a particular commandment is to God is by looking at how God reacts when that commandment is broken. What punishment does He prescribe?

Based on this, which is the greater sin, stealing or Sabbath-breaking? Most Christians would probably say stealing. But consider the punishments that God prescribed for these two sins. A thief is supposed to pay restitution to his victim - double, quadruple, or quintuple, depending on the situation. (See Exodus 22:1-4.) But for Sabbath-breakers, God prescribed the death penalty. (See Exodus 31:13ff.)

Apparently in God's eyes, Sabbath-breaking is a far worse sin than stealing. I suppose that's one reason I harp on it so much. Christians agree that stealing, adultery, and murder are sins, so I don't need to harp on those commandments. I long for the day when Christians agree that Sabbath-breaking is a serious sin. Then I won't have to harp on it anymore. *-Daniel Botkin*

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

Messianic Directory

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

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

Call 585-475-1188.

Messianic Family Fellowship, 11867 W Main St, Wolcott NY 14590. Call 315-879-4782.

messianicfamilyfellowship.com

◆ PENNSYLVANIA

Beit Torah. Merchant Square Mall, 1901 S 12th St Ste 212, Allentown PA. Call Shawn 484-515-0204 or Carl 484-408-4313. Shabbat service at 11 am.

Congregation of Yahshua Messiah. Cong. Leader: Bob Young. Shabbat services, 11 am.

Call 412-372-5173 for directions. pathwayoflight.org

◆ RHODE ISLAND

Tents of Jacob. PO Box 7572, Warwick RI 02886. Weekly newsletter with teachings on the parashah of the week is available. yochanon1633@yahoo.com

◆ TENNESSEE

www.MessianicLiturgv.com publishes both liturgical books and CDs. Call 813-477-2105 or JZG100@gmail.com

◆ TEXAS

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

◆ UTAH

Wild Branch Ministry. PO Box 97; Vernal UT 84078. Brad & Carol Scott. Call 435-789-3713. Great source for books, CDs, and DVDs. www.wildbranch.org

◆ WASHINGTON STATE

United Messianic Jewish Assembly, promoting a Messianic Torah centered life. 2914 S Latawah, Spokane WA 99203. Call 951-262-3659. WWW.UMJA.NET (The UMJA contact for inmates is **Petah Tikvah** in Rochester NY.)

◆ WISCONSIN

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



◆ CALIFORNIA

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

◆ COLORADO

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

◆ FLORIDA

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

Messianic Fellowship of Daytona Beach; 1351 Beville Rd, Daytona Beach FL 32119. Shabbat service at 10:30 am. Call 386-490-0718.

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

www.walkwitz.com/Roger

Mishkan Congregation. Rabbi Jerry Keyes. Shabbat services at 11 am. 6675 SE Maricamp Rd, Ocala FL 34472. Call 352-687-4434.

◆ GEORGIA

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

◆ ILLINOIS

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

◆ IOWA

Shalom Bible College, 4007 High St, West Des Moines IA 50265. Correspondence courses, including for inmates.

◆ NEBRASKA

Adat HaTikvat Tzion. Shabbat Services at 10 am at the SW Church of the Nazarene, 14808 Q St, Omaha NE. www.adat.org Call Rav Nate Seitelbach at 402-592-2404.

◆ NEW JERSEY

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

◆ NEW YORK

Ahavat Yahshua. Rav Tivon Meir. Shabbat Services: 10:30 am at 1763 Slaterville Rd (Rt. 79), Ithaca NY. PO Box 795, Burdett NY 14818.

Yahshua's Remnant, Endtime Ministry, PO Box 12806, Rochester NY 14612. Call 585-234-3529.

"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
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Gereja Kehilat Mesianik Indonesia (GKMI)

Pengkakuan KemenAg Kanwil DKI
KW.09.7/BAO1.1/149/2013

JAKARTA

Sat 5 pm. Sun 08 am.

Bintaro Messianic Congregation

Bumi Bintaro Permai D7-8

South Jakarta 12320.

Contact: Benyamin Obadyah

+62-21-7364258

Sat 10 am and 5 pm.

Shoresh Messianic Fellowship

Plaza Pasifik Bld A1/ 1,

4th Fl, Jl Raya Boulevard Barat

Kelapa Gading, North Jakarta

Contact: Benyamin Obadyah

+62-812-9912-430

CENTRAL JAVA

Sat 10 am

Purwokerto Messianic Congregation

Jl Jend Sudirman 883,

Purwokerto, Central Java

Contact: Bambang Rianto +62-8886657801

EAST JAVA

Sat 5 pm *Kehilat Mesianik Congregation*

JL Wonokromo 7/5, Mojosari,

Kab Mojokerto, East Java

Contact: Judo Nugroho +62-81913224624

SOUTH KALIMANTAN

Sat 10 am

Banjarmasin Messianic Congregation

Jl Pasar Baru 2, Banjarmasin,

South Kalimantan

Contact: Edy Purwanto +62-8125189517

NORTH SULAWESI

Sat 3 pm *Mesias Messianic Congregation*

Ring Road Tikela Jaga I, Kec Tambulu,

Minahasa, North Sulawesi.

Contact: John Kandores. 085240364116

Sat 10 am

Yerushalayim Messianic Congregation

Manado, North Sulawesi

Contact: Jeffrey Rualemba +62-89655471976

Sat 10 am *Netivyah Ministry*

Jl Garuda 37, Manado, North Sulawesi.

Contact: Oral Bollegraf. +62-853 98128567

PAPUA

Sat 10 am

El Shaddai Messianic Congregation

Jl Argapura Kanon, Jayapura, Papua

Contact: Sebelum Karubaba +62-81247562203

Sat 10 am

Migdal Eder Messianic Congregation

Jl Pasir Dua, Jayapura, Papua.

Contact: Benny Karubaba +62-812 47082149

KOREA

Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

R#301, 150-2 Nonhyungdong

Gangnamgu, Seoul Korea 135-82

Contact: Yehoshua Jo

yehoshuajo@msn.com, +82-10-5090-5821

JAPAN

Japan Messianic Fellowship

Erev Shabbat and Shabbat 10:00 AM

4-14-11 Midorigaoka, Taihaku-ku

Sendai-shi, Miyagi 982

Contact: Takashi Yokoyama

+81-22-285-9227, jmf-oej@bekkoame.ne.jp

Shalom Messianic Ekklesia

Shabbat Service from 13:00

R# 301,3-9-12 Shinmachi Kitaku

Tokyo, Japan 114-0012

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

www.shalom-messianic.org

NEW ZEALAND

Talmidei Yeshua New Zealand

Messianic Network of New Zealand

P.O. Box 512 Hastings 4122 NZ

Contact: talmidimnz@gmail.com

+64-9-846-8618, www.messianic.org.nz

Talmidei Yeshua Messianic Kehilah

Shabbat Service 10:30 AM

PO Box 44 118 Pt Chevalier

Auckland 1246 New Zealand

Contact: talmidimak@gmail.com

SINGAPORE

Blk 620 Bukit Batok Central #29-522

Singapore 650620

Contact: Song Lai Hee

+65-90027471 laihee@gmail.com

THAILAND

Bangkok Messianic House

Shabbat 10:30am
33/5 Soi Nai-Lert, Wireless Rd.
Bangkok 10330 Thailand
Contact: Nobuyuki Ito
+66-81-915-6154 nobunosuke77@gmail.com

DIASPORA APMF:

Calgary L'Chaim Bible Fellowship
Shabbat Service 4:00 PM
Bridlewood Ave. SW Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Contact: Louwell Ogbinar
+1 (403)-700-2131 loubinar@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINES

APMF OFFICERS

Dave Angiwan: dave@apmfinc.com
Joel Cruz: joel.cruz@pou.edu.ph
Ted Franco: ted_franco@yahoo.com
Amos Baucas: albaucas@hotmail.com
Mario Meneses: mmmlawoffices@yahoo.com

MEMBER OF APMF:

La Trinidad Bible Congregation
Shabbat Service 10:00 AM
Cruz, La Trinidad
PO Box 133, La Trinidad, Benguet 2601
Contact: Amos Baucas
+639283322201, lbaucas@yahoo.com

IN FELLOWSHIP WITH APMF:

Baguio City Messianic Community
Shabbat Service at 9:30AM
#7 Modesta St., Mines View, Baguio City 2600
Contact: Dave Angiwan: dave@apmfinc.com

Banaue Messianic Fellowship
3601 Banaue, Ifugao
Contact: Jose Sarol: +639219907536
butchsarol@gmail.com

Cebu Messianic Community
Shabbat Service 10:00AM, 1:00PM
Contact: Joel Cruz: +639228335327,
Imee Cruz: +639228512454

Pujada Messianic Community
Mati, Davao Oriental
Contact: Mark Pineda: +639183532549
Virgie Manalo +639227304096

Lupon Torah Community
Lupon, Davao Oriental
Contact: Bong Conte +639204906763

Talakag Messianic Fellowship
Talakag, Bukidnon

Contact: Solomon Buasag
+639182676335, vivsbuasag@yahoo.com

GREATER MANILA AREA:

Cainta Torah Community
Shabbat Service at 10:30 AM
Dayspring Academy, Sunset Drive
Brookside Subdivision, Cainta, Rizal 1900
Contact: Mario Meneses: +639178130009

Chesed V'Emeth Community
Shabbat Service 12:30 PM
Blk 11 Lot 36 Calendola Village
San Pedro, Laguna
Contact: Monette Guiruela +639206583847

Eagles Wings Congregations.
Friday 6:30PM and Saturday 9:30AM
#7 Saratoga St. Park Place Executive Village,
Cainta, Rizal
Contact: +6326555469, +639192348820
Also Saturday 9:00AM
#205 3rd St. San Juan Muzom, Taytay, Rizal
Contact: +6326528219, +639169380159
Also Saturday 9:00 AM
#450 L. Cerrero St. Bgy. Macamot,
Binangonan, Rizal
Contact: +639176282098

Emunah Torah Community
Shabbat Service 10:30AM
Contact: Christopher Madrid +639334449256

Metro Strata Learning Center
Shabbat Service 9:30AM
11th Floor 685 Nueve de Pebrero Ave.
Mandaluyong, Metro Manila
Contact: Tanggol Esquerria: +639153208083

Mishpacat Torah Community
Quezon City
Contact: Ian Asuncion: +639185736838

Norzagaray Torah Community
Shabbat Service 9:00 AM
Contact: Ray Mendoza: +639175161771,
+639323514340, Sharie Ramos:
+639323514340

Solid Torah Community
Shabbat Service 9:30AM
Makati City
Contact: Maricar Gonzales: +639222188003

Tagaytay Torah Community
Shabbat Service 10:30 AM
Contact: Ning +639199840878,
+639236472125

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